

FADE IN:

EXT. MOTORCYCLE TRACK - BRIGHT SUNNY DAY

TITLE OVER

-- SOUTH CAROLINA, USA EARLY IN THIS CENTURY --

ROW AFTER ROW OF LIGHT WEIGHT CANOPIES SERVE AS MAKE SHIFT
OUTDOOR MOTORCYCLE GARAGES.

There are HUNDREDS OF CANOPIES. Each Canopy Garage Has GROUPS
OF MEN AND WOMEN in Various Roles.

There Are Mechanics And Riders and Spectators Within Each
Canopy.

Some Canopies are Crowded While Others Have But One Or Two
People.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)
(from mounted speakers)
Attention on the Paddock this is the
third and final call for race number
nine.

EXT. MOTORCYCLE TRACK - CONTINUOUS

THIRTY MOTORCYCLES ARE LINED UP FOUR ABREAST IN EIGHT ROWS
AT THE START FINISH LINE.

A CHECKERED FLAG IS WAVED FROM A PODIUM.

ANNOUNCER
And they are off.

MOTORCYCLE after MOTORCYCLE SCREAMS OUT OF THE STARTING AREA.

EXT. MOTORCYCLE TRACK - MOMENTS LATER

The Bikes Traverse a TWO MILE TRACK at Great Speed.

There Are SEVEN TURNS ON THE TRACK OF VARYING DEGREES.

EXT. MOTORCYCLE TRACK - CONTINUOUS

The Bikes ACCELERATE Down A Strait Away and Then Decelerate
To Take A Thirty Degree Turn.

Each Rider LEANS LOW ALMOST TOUCHING THE TRACK AS THEY TURN.

EXT. MOTORCYCLE TRACK - CONTINUOUS

ONE PARTICULAR MOTORCYCLE AND RIDER LEANS INTO THE TURN AND IN AN INSTANT THE BIKE AND THE DRIVER SLIDE ACROSS THE TRACK ONTO A GRASS INFIELD.

The CYCLE and DRIVER HURDLE OVER A GUARD RAIL.

The Driver is TOSSED ABOUT like a Rag Doll.

The Driver Comes To Rest Lifelessly.

COMMOTION as Other DRIVERS and BYSTANDERS Desperately REACH and ATTEND to the Crashed Driver.

FADE TO:

EXT. COLLEGE CAMPUS - EVENING

TITLE OVER

Also in The United States -- Around The Same Time
A Snowstorm Blankets the Campus as Students Scurry About.

CUT TO:

INT. UNIVERSITY CLASSROOM - SAME MOMENT

A YOUNG WOMAN Sits in a Sparsely filled Lecture Hall.

The Young Woman SMILES as GORDANA, A BEAUTIFUL YOUNG SLIGHT WOMAN Enters and Approaches Her.

Gordana Reaches Her Friend.

Gordana DROPS some Books Next to the Young Woman Then Takes Off Gloves a Heavy Coat a Scarf and Hat.

Gordana Shoves Them All Into A Nearby Seat and Collapses Next To Her Friend.

GORDANA
(thick Serbian accent)
How are you?
(doesn't wait for a
response)
I don't know how much more of this I
can take. The snow it does not stop.
Then the classes, repeating so many
classes. I have the degree. I should
be teaching this class. No offense.
(MORE)

GORDANA (CONT'D)
(looks up and motions
to a professor who's
not present)
Worst of all, worst thing,
(very serious)
Last night on Love Connection...they
made the connection. He was clearly
wrong for her and yet, she
settled...They always settle.
(draws a deep breath
then exhales)
How are you?

YOUNG WOMAN
(mouth open smiling)
You watch that show for the wrong
reasons, Gordana. You're not supposed
to be rooting against a love
connection. You're coming with me
for spring break.

GORDANA
Where do we go?

YOUNG WOMAN
Some place warm.

FADE TO:

EXT. A TROPICAL ISLAND - GORGEOUS DAY

Gordana and her Friend Walk Along a Beach.

YOUNG WOMAN
(pointing to a man)
How about that one?

GORDANA
That one?
(shakes her head)
No, not that one.

YOUNG WOMAN
Why not?

GORDANA
I could braid the hair on his back
then use it as toupee for his bald
head. Does that turn you on?

YOUNG WOMAN
Men have hair Gordana...and yes men
do go bald. These are biological
facts.

GORDANA

Biology be damned! Is it too much to ask for a perfect man?

YOUNG WOMAN

No of course not but we're running out of men on this island. Gordana, we leave tomorrow. Look, I am not giving up on you. But I think I need to hand you over to a higher power.

GORDANA

Pat Bullard?

YOUNG WOMAN

Who is Pat Bullard?

GORDANA

He's taking over for Chuck Woolery on Love Connection next season.

YOUNG WOMAN

(amused)

No, not Pat Bullard...Madam Alayna!

CUT TO:

EXT. RURAL ISLAND BUILDING - LATER

Gordana and Friend Drive Up IN AN OPEN JEEP and park in front of the Building.

The Women READ the sign on the Building.

MADAM ALAYNA

Medium-Mind Reader-Oracle-Palm Reader-Palmist-Predictor-Prophet-Psychic-Seer-SoothSayer-Spiritualist-Tarot Reader-Tea Leaf Reader-Consultant To The Saints

GORDANA

Wow, she does it all.

YOUNG WOMAN

(profoundly serious)

Yeah, she's good.

CUT TO:

INT. SEANCE ROOM - DIMLY LIT

Gordana and Friend Sit next to each other on a Wooden Bench.

MADAM ALAYNA, Her back to the Women, WAVES INCENSE in front of a wall with Small Statuettes of Different Saints.

Madam Alayna Abruptly Stops and Turns to Face the Women.

Alayna SPEAKS past them Trance Like.

Gordana answers to Herself.

MADAM ALAYNA

There *is* a perfect man for you.

GORDANA

No man is perfect.

MADAM ALAYNA

He lives above you.

GORDANA

I'm on the top floor.

MADAM ALAYNA

This man is your soul mate. You will sleep on the right side and he will sleep on the left.

GORDANA

I have a twin bed.

MADAM ALAYNA

Your happiness will not know an end, it will last forever. This is your destiny!

GORDANA

That's promising.

MADAM ALAYNA

There is one thing...An obstacle you two must overcome. The man you are destined to be with....is...
(stares off)

GORDANA

Is What!

Alayna comes out of her Trance and looks down to Gordana.

MADAM ALAYNA

....Your husband, your ideal man, your soul mate...Is currently not on this earth.

GORDANA

He's in outer space?

MADAM ALAYNA

He's dead.

The Women Look at Each Other perplexed.

GORDANA

Dead?

MADAM ALAYNA

Dead,

GORDANA

Like, dead? Like, dead dead? Or an emotionless black soul that I must nurture and bring light into his darkness? So my perfect man, is all men?

MADAM ALAYNA

(very serious)

That was not made clear to me. But the Saints definitely indicated...The love of your life the man intended for you at the time of creation...Is currently not living. And my dear young lady, the Saints have never lied to me.

YOUNG WOMAN

That's kind of creepy.

GORDANA

(looking at Madam Alayna)

You know what?

(turns to her friend)

I believe her.

FADE TO:

INT. A VERY BRIGHT ROOM - DAY

A Single Cafe Table With One Chair Sits Surrounded By Nothing.

HELMi sits on the chair staring fondly at the brightest wall of the room.

A MAN who almost blends in with the room appears holding a serving tray with a coffee cup. The Man SETS the Cup on the Table.

MAN

Would you enjoy a cappuccino?

HELMI
(thick Swiss Accent)
Oh Yes, thank you.
(the man turns to
leave)
Excuse me?

MAN
(turns back with a
soft smile)
Yes?

HELMI
Is that heaven?

MAN
Yes.
(turns to leave)

HELMI
Excuse me?

MAN
(turns back with a
soft smile)
Yes?

HELMI
May I go in?

MAN
Not just yet. You have unfinished
business. You must go back.
(turns to leave)

HELMI
Excuse me?

MAN
(turns back and clears
his throat with no
smile)
Yes?

HELMI
But I do not wish to go back.

MAN
(smiles again)
We shall see.

The Man Turns and disappears.

Helmi Sips his drink and stares longingly at the brightness.

HELMi V.O.

It's not that I didn't have a lot to go back to, I did. I had a great life going. A life anyone would have wanted to go back to, but what I'd heard about near death experiences is exactly what happened to me. Where I went, I didn't want to go back. It was beautiful it was serene it was calm peaceful and I had a sense I was where I wanted to be. I did not want to leave this place. True story...My life didn't flash before my eyes, but I did remember certain things.

TITLE OVER

The Municipality of Oberrieden in the district of Horgen in
The Canton of Zurich Switzerland - Spring 1974

EXT. SWISS COUNTRYSIDE - BRIGHT DAY

A YOUNG BOY-LITTLE HELMI Stands next to His FATHER TALKING
to a CIRCUS GYPSY MAN.

ADULT HELMI V.O.

I remembered when I was a young boy a circus would travel to our town each year and my father would let them camp and sleep on some of our land. My father is a good man and always willing to help. This season the circus had two problems they asked my father for help with. First, one of their troupe had passed just as they got into town. It wasn't unexpected but it was sudden. His hometown was the next stop on the tour so they decided to wait to drop him there. They JUST needed a place to keep him until they left so my father lent them our barn.

CUT TO:

EXT. SWISS COUNTRYSIDE - MORNING

Little Helmi Stands Outside a Barn with a line of BOYS nearby.
One BOY Exits the Barn.

The Next BOY in line HANDS Helmi a Coin and Enters the Barn.

HELMi V.O.

I didn't see the harm in letting my friends see the corpse, and it turns out they were willing to pay me.

INT. CAR - MOVING - DAY

The Boy and His Father Drive along a Country Road Pulling a Horse Trailer with a Baby Elephant Inside.

HELMi

The second favor I couldn't make money on, actually it ended up getting me in trouble at school. The Man had asked my father to go to France and pick up a new elephant the man needed for his show. The man could not go he'd had some trouble in France. My father was an outstanding citizen and was very welcome in France. And like I said, my father is the kind of man that will go out of his way to help people. Which apparently includes picking up an elephant in France for a Gypsy circus.

CUT TO:

INT. CLASSROOM - MORNING

Little Helmi sits in Class with the other STUDENTS.

The TEACHER SPEAKS.

HELMi V.O.

Every Monday in school our teacher asked us to write down what we had done the weekend before. So, on this Monday, I wrote.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

The Teacher DRAGS Little Helmi down the hallway.

HELMi V.O.

Sometimes, just sometimes, I did not actually do the things I wrote down on Mondays. My teacher had warned me several times I should not fib. But on this Monday I did not protest because I knew as soon as they talked to my father I would be vindicated.

(MORE)

HELMI V.O. (CONT'D)

I think I remembered this memory
because it brought me so much joy.

As Helmi is Dragged along, He stare's up at His teacher with
a BIG SMILE.

She Stops for a moment and SWATS His Bottom. Then She
Continues Dragging Little Laughing Helmi.

INT. OUTER ROOM OF A SMALL APT - DAY

Little Helmi sits on a chair Starring out an open window on
a sweltering day. Sweat BEADS up on his forehead. An
unplugged FAN sits on a table next to Little Helmi.

HELMI V.O.

European men in unhappy unfulfilled
marriages often times find themselves
in the arms of women who are not
their wife. And some times their
young sons are brought along. My
father was not a bad man but he did
have a distorted sense of fidelity.
I came to believe men and women were
like the power outlet and the plug.
The plug is nothing until it's powered
up by the outlet.

Little Helmi REACHES Down and Plugs in the Fan. The Fan
turns On and Immediately BLOWS Cool Air onto Little Helmi
giving him relief from the heat.

A DOOR OPENS and His Father Exits a Bedroom smiling and
blowing KISSES back into the room.

His Father puts his sport coat on and MOTIONS for Little
Helmi to leave with him.

HELMI V.O. (CONT'D)

I grew up loving and respecting all
women while watching my father and
other men betraying and using women.
As far as I was concerned all women
were special. The last thing I wanted
to do was betray or use a woman. I
just couldn't see myself doing that.
My plan from an early age was to
marry all women and then again marry
no woman. It was a sound plan created
by an impressionable young boy. I
think I had this memory because it
caused me so much pain.

FADE TO:

EXT. TRAIN TRACKS - DAY

Little Helmi and a FRIEND are ASSEMBLING Firewood between the tracks like a camp fire.

HELMI V.O.

Every school aged boy and girl in Europe learns about the history of trains. Everybody travels by train everywhere they go. An exaggeration to be sure but not far from the truth. There have been mechanized trains running in Switzerland since 1847. Not long after we started digging tunnels through the Alps. We were taught if only one train route were to go down it would stop train travel all over Europe. So one day my friend and I decide to test this theory.

The Boys LIGHT Kindling under the Logs with Matches and soon the camp fire is Ablaze.

As A TRAIN APPROACHES the Boys THROW the rest of the Matches into the fire and RUN AWAY.

INT. POLICE STATION - LATER

Little Helmi and His Friend SIT with Heads down LISTENING to YELLING Coming From the Next Room.

HELMI V.O.

It turns out our stunt didn't stop all train travel in Europe just in Switzerland. They thought it might be a terrorist attack so they shut it all down. We made the news. For the wrong reason. The matches blew out of the fire and were found nearby. A few inquiries in town and my friend and I were actually made to account fairly quickly.

Helmi's Father and another MAN EXIT a Room and Each Grabs Their Son off the Bench and goes in different directions.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. LARGE BUILDING NEAR A CHURCH - DAY

A Car PULLS up and Stops.

Little Helmi gets out of the back seat.

Helmi's Father GETS a Suitcase out of the Trunk while Helmi's MOTHER KISSES and HUGS Little Helmi.

A MONK DRESSED in A ROBE with A ROPE EXITS the Building and Descends some Stairs.

The Monk Takes the Suitcase and Little Helmi Follows the Monk into the Building. Little Helmi's Mother is Crying while His Father Ushers Her back into the Car and SPEEDS OFF.

HELMI V.O.

I didn't see my friends or my parents
again for quite some time.

INT. BOYS DORMITORY - EVENING

Little Helmi SITS on the bottom Step of a Grand StairCase Along Side Two Other BOYS.

Next to Helmi is an Outlet with a Plug in it.

The Plug is attached to a long Cord.

The Cord is Attached to a Vacuum Being Slowly Run Over Some Carpet By A VERY OLD MONK.

The Monk Has a Hearing Aid Hanging From His Ear and His Back to The Boys as he Vacuums.

HELMI V.O.

My counselor said I acted out because
I was unhappy. Everybody believed
some good catholic school structure
would be in my best interest. I
thought I was the same person I'd
always been. I didn't feel unhappy.
Either way the next couple of years
were tough. You would receive points
for good behavior to spend at the
school. I earned less and spent
more points than all the other boys.
All the Brother's were very good to
me, especially Brother Tobias who
just happened to be deaf.

Little Helmi Reaches Down and Gently Un Plugs The Vacuum and it Turns Off.

The Old Monk Continues to Vacuum.

The Other Boys Can Hardly Contain Their Laughter As They Watch the Old Monk Run a Vacuum that Is Not On.

Little Helmi Sits Sadly with Head down, Unmoved.

HELMI V.O. (CONT'D)
It took me a long while to find my
smile again.

FADE TO:

INT. MIDDLE CLASS SERBIAN HOME - EVENING

A TWELVE YEAR OLD GORDANA sits next to Her FATHER BOTH eating
ice cream from bowls.

GORDANA V.O.
Long before a fortune teller told me
my ideal man was dead I was a
communist. That is to say, if a
child can truly be a communist? I
mean I grew up in a communist country.
Everything bad you've heard about
communism is true. It's a failed
philosophy that sucks the life from
everyone who lives under it. It
always has and it always will. With
that said, I was lucky enough to be
born and raised in Serbia. Serbia
is a country that can be defined by
one word, Tito. Tito was a remarkable
human being. I know different people
have different thoughts on what made
Tito remarkable but all I can tell
you is my experience.

CUT TO:

EXT. RUSSIAN PARK -- DAY

Twelve Year Old Gordana is BENT OVER VOMITING.

GORDANA V.O.
When I was in grade school my class
took a trip to Russia and I became
aware immediately of the different
approaches Russia and Serbia took to
communism. The food they served us
in Russia was gruel. It was this
soupy red swill I'd never seen before
and pray God I never see again.

A WOMAN APPROACHES Twelve Year Old Gordana and Hands Her an
Orange.

Gordana Takes the Orange and Begins Frantically Peeling.

GORDANA V.O. (CONT'D)

A German Tourist who had brought fresh fruit with her saw me and took pity. That was the only thing I had to eat for two days. When we got back to Serbia our teacher asked us to write about all the wonderful things we'd seen in Russia.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE SERBIAN CLASSROOM -- DAY

A Group of TEACHERS Nervously Pass Around a Piece of Paper Reading it.

GORDANA V.O.

I wrote the truth. I wrote what my experience was. I wrote how miserable everyone looked. How awful the food was. How unlivable the conditions were where we stayed. I didn't see the problem. Serbians lived in paradise compared to how the Russians lived. And the reason turned out to be, Tito. Tito was a communist to be sure but when world war two was over and the Soviet Union wanted to control every country around it, Tito told Stalin, not so fast. In fact, after a few attempts on Tito's life Tito sent a letter to Stalin saying, if you send one more person to try and kill me I'm going to send someone to kill you, and they will not fail.

CUT TO:

INT. MIDDLE CLASS SERBIAN HOME - EVENING

Twelve Year Old Gordana still sits next to Her Father as they continue eating ice cream. Her Father Speaks to Her.

GORDANA'S FATHER

(in Serbian)

What you saw in Russia was true. We do live much better. Because even though Tito was a communist when it came right down to it he was a practical man who understood how to play both sides. So our country got support from Russia but also from America.

(MORE)

GORDANA'S FATHER (CONT'D)

(in Serbian)

Like sometimes you ask me for what you want and sometimes you ask your mom. So you always get what you want.

Gordana SMILES at Her father.

GORDANA'S FATHER (CONT'D)

(in Serbian)

Rewrite your paper please. Don't lie, just, use words, that aren't so, *definite*. You'll know the truth. That's all that matters. If you want to *really* be in control of your life you must do one thing. It's really not that complicated. The people who have the money have the control. Instead of hating people or money or both you should educate your mind to learn how you can do what they did. You should always be honest but never never believe the only way to achieve power is to defile it.

GORDANA V.O.

The people who have the money have the control. It made perfect sense. I wasn't going to leave my future-all the decisions that would be made on my behalf-from that point forward, if I could help it, to someone other than myself. I made a decision right that moment. I lived in the east so if I was going to play both sides like Tito I needed to get to the west.

CUT TO:

INT. HELMI'S PARENTS HOUSE - SWITZERLAND - DAY

EIGHTEEN YEAR OLD HELMI is with TWO OF HIS FRIENDS.

One Friend Is Going Thru a News Paper.

The Other Friend Is Gluing a Pair of Plastic Playboy Bunny Ears to a Baseball Cap.

Helmi Is Speaking on a Rotary Telephone Taking Notes.

A Camera is Set Up In a Corner Facing A Paper Back Drop.

Helmi Hangs Up The Phone and Finishes the Note.

INT. HELMI'S PARENTS HOUSE - SWITZERLAND - CONTINUOUS

HELMI
(whispering in Swiss
German)
Alright listen, we have to be very
quiet. My mom is hosting her bible
study upstairs. I told the woman to
park on the side and come in that
door.

The Boys are Giddy in Anticipation.

HELMI V.O.
When I got back from Catholic School
I wasn't a different person. I was
never really a bad kid. Yes we
shouldn't have started that fire,
lesson learned. So my interests
became more sophisticated more
intricate. My friends and I put an
add in the local paper. We claimed
Playboy was in town looking for Swiss
Models. I'm proud to say despite
all the candidates we lost when my
mom answered the phone and the women
that never called because our add
was small and cheesy, we actually
got one woman to show up and take a
few pictures.

Helmi's Friend Is Sufficiently Satisfied the Plastic Playboy
Bunny Has Adhered Itself to His Hat and Puts The Hat On.

CUT TO:

INT. THE BASEMENT - LATER

One Friend Sits WATCHING as Helmi Positions A WOMAN Standing
In Front of The Back Drop.

The Woman is Not Totally Convinced What's Happening.

As Helmi Moves Away The Other Friend Begins SNAPPING PICTURES.

HELMI V.O.
Everything was going great, we were
actually getting away with it.

Suddenly the Plastic Bunny Ears Fall Off The Photographers
Cap.

Helmi and The Photographer Try to Ignore It.

The Woman Stares at The Ears on the Floor. Then She Scans Each Boy in The Room.

The Woman Longs for The Stairs Leading Out Then Briskly Walks Past Helmi and The Photographer Up The Stairs.

HELMi V.O. (CONT'D)

Everything was going great. And it was all happening right in the basement under my mom's Bible study. Just as we were about to ask her to put on a bikini the plastic bunny ears fell off my friends cap.

The Three Boys Stare at the Stairs and HEAR the Door Slam.

HELMi V.O. (CONT'D)

The only woman in Switzerland naive enough to fall for this stunt, finally got wise and left. I've always felt like I needed to push the envelope. I've never wanted to hurt anyone. But I haven't been against risking my own life.

EXT. SWISS MOUNTAINSIDE -- DAY

A LONE SKIER DARTS Down the Mountainside at Break Neck Speed.

HELMi V.O.

I love speed. I've always loved going fast. There's a freedom you feel. It's an exhilaration that probably scares most people but I really cant get enough of it. And if you like to ski fast down the sides of mountains, Switzerland is where you want to be. I competed in my first skiing competition when I was a kid. I started riding motorcycles about the same time. Through my father I was able to meet many professional motorcyclists. The greatest I believe was Luigi Taveri. Over his career Taveri had 30 victories and 89 podiums. I knew I would never be as great as him but being around a fellow Swiss who had achieved such greatness was inspiring to me. Surround yourself with failures and you will fail. Surround yourself with winners and you will win.

FADE TO:

EXT. BUS STOP - DREARY SERBIAN DAY

TITLE OVER

Vrbas, Serbia -- Late in The Last Century

ADULT GORDANA Stands Holding BOOKS with a BIG SMILE.

GORDANA V.O.

I'm in love. I know we just met. I know he's supposed to only be visiting but he's going to transfer here. We're getting a place near our friends who live in the city. Isn't it wonderful I won't have to take a two hour bus ride every day and I'm in love! A Love story can start anywhere. Once there was a man and once there was a woman. They fall in love. It happens almost every day.

A HANDSOME MAN comes into frame and stands menacingly CLOSE to Gordana.

GORDANA V.O. (CONT'D)

My mother had given me five dollars to get a loaf of bread. She told me I should get the bread before I go to University. I told her I would. It didn't make any sense. Why would I carry bread with me to five classes for nine hours? So I'll get the bread tonight when I get home.

MAN

(leaning even closer
honestly complimenting
in Serbian)

You're very pretty.

Gordana quickly grabs her lapel and WHISPERS into it.

GORDANA

(in serbian)

Yes he's here. Yes I'm sure it's him.

The Man Looks around Nervously then abruptly Walks Away.

GORDANA V.O.

In communist countries, even successful communist countries that's a bluff people won't risk. My father taught me that one.

The Bus Comes and Gordana gets On.

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

Gordana LOUNGES in her Friends APT. Her Best GIRLFRIEND Sits Nearby as they Chat.

GORDANA

(in Serbian)

Au Pair means equal in French. We're not going to be anybody's servant. We get room and board and we make a wage.

GIRLFRIEND

(in Serbian)

But we know very little English. I heard they want you to know English.

GORDANA

(in Serbian)

We'll pick it up. Besides you know more than me. It's not going to hurt to apply. The process takes time and we can always reapply if we're not accepted at first. And we continue to learn English.

GIRLFRIEND

(in Serbian)

I wish I had your confidence.

GORDANA

(in Serbian)

I wish you did too.

GIRLFRIEND

(in Serbian)

I wish I was as beautiful as you are.

GORDANA

(in Serbian)

You are beautiful. You're very beautiful.

GIRLFRIEND

(in Serbian)

I'm not as pretty as you Gordana. Promise me, if you get accepted and I don't neither of us will go? Promise me that?

GORDANA
 (in Serbian)
 I will promise you that because we
 both are going to be accepted.

The Door OPENS A YOUNG MAN ENTERS. Gordana and Her Girlfriend
 Giggle at each other.

 GIRLFRIEND
 (in Serbian getting
 up)
 I'll leave you two alone.

The Girlfriend Exits to a Room and Closes the Door.

Gordana Rises and EMBRACES The Young Man. He is Cold and
 Distant. Gordana Senses and Backs Off.

 GORDANA
 (in Serbian)
 What's wrong?

 YOUNG MAN
 (in Serbian)
 I've changed my mind. I'm not going
 to transfer here after all. I'm
 going back this weekend as scheduled.

 GORDANA
 (in Serbian)
 I don't understand...We're in
 love..you told me...just before...Oh,
 oh, it was the sex. All you wanted
 was the sex. I see...You lied.

 YOUNG MAN
 (in Serbian looking
 down ashamed)
 I didn't lie. I changed my mind.

Gordana Stares Strongly into His Eyes.

 GORDANA
 (in Serbian)
 You didn't lie. I lied. I never
 loved you. I used you. And now I
 no longer have need for you. You
 can go now.

The young Man SHEEPISHLY Retreats Out The Door He Came In.

INT. APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Gordana's Girl Friend ReEnters the Room.

GIRLFRIEND
(in Serbian)
I'm so sorry Gordana.

GORDANA
(in Serbian distraught)
I have to go!

CUT TO:

INT. BUS - MOVING - NIGHT

Gordana Sits Alone Staring out the bus window.

GORDANA V.O.
Men and Women break up. It happens almost every day. I know today some in the world are questioning whether there really are men and women. Or whether we're all the same? I can tell you, in this story, I am the woman. I am not the man. And I know that because I'm from Serbia. To be from Serbia is to understand Men are different from women. Men have been at war in the Balkans since the beginning of time. I am not a man. I am a Woman.

CUT TO:

EXT. BUS STOP - NIGHT

The Bus Stops and Gordana Exits. Gordana Walks toward a Small Store. In the Distance SHELLING CAN BE HEARD. PEOPLE CASUALLY RUN FOR COVER as Gordana Strides Resolutely to the Store.

GORDANA V.O.
Getting off a bus from a long day at university, radio towers are being destroyed near me by warring factions. It's almost the twenty-first century and war is happening right now. It's happening all around me and it's happening in my heart. All of it created by men.

CUT TO:

INT. STORE - CONTINUOUS

Gordana Approaches the Counter. A MAN Stands Behind the Counter.

GORDANA
 (in Serbian)
 One loaf of bread please.

The Man Takes a Loaf from a Shelf Behind Him.

MAN
 (in Serbian)
 Fifty.

GORDANA
 (in Serbian)
 It's five. I saw the sign on the
 outside. It says five. All I have
 is five.

MAN
 (in Serbian putting
 the bread back)
 That was this morning. Look at the
 sign now.

EXT. STORE - CONTINUOUS

Gordana EXITS the Store and Stares at A Sign. The Sign READS:
 Bread Fifty in Serbian.

GORDANA
 (in Serbian)
 Son of a Bitch!
 (Gordana stands
 frustrated)

GORDANA V.O.
 That is called hyper inflation. I
 learned about it suddenly that
 evening. Your mother gives you five
 dollars to buy bread in the morning
 and makes you promise you'll get it
 before you go to school. You promise
 you will but break your promise
 because you don't see the wisdom in
 carrying around a loaf of bread all
 day. Then in the evening when you
 go to buy the bread and it literally
 costs ten times more than in the
 morning you suddenly realize why
 your mother made you promise to get
 the bread in the morning. This too
 is a real thing in a communist state.

INT. INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - DAY

Throngs of PEOPLE Mill About. Helmi Sits Next to A Beautiful
 Woman.

HELMi V.O.

It's much easier being a man in Europe than it is being a Woman. That means East and West. In eastern Europe the Women do everything. They go to work, they take care of the home, they shop, they even do the yard work. They walk behind the men when they're out. It's a pretty interesting phenomena. What do the men do? They talk to other men. They socialize. They pretend they're solving the worlds problems when really all the men are doing is smoking cigarettes and drinking wine. In western Europe like where I'm from woman are more liberated but they still put up with some bad behavior by the men. As men we pitch in with the work but we take it back by fooling around on the side. Like I said before, I never wanted to do what my father did. I never wanted to betray a woman I had made a commitment to. So the solution was easy. Never make a commitment.

BEAUTIFUL WOMAN

(in Russian to Helmi)

Are you going to America.

HELMi

(broken Russian)

Yes, Wisconsin America. I'm going to learn English.

BEAUTIFUL WOMAN

(in Russian)

I want to go to America. I don't care about learning English. You speak Russian?

HELMi

(in Russian)

A little.

HELMi V.O.

Language is interesting in Europe. In Switzerland where I'm from we have four official languages. There is Swiss German Swiss French and Swiss Italian and one Canton which speaks a Romance Language. A version of Latin.

(MORE)

HELMI V.O. (CONT'D)

So right out of the gate I'm
bilingual, you throw in the skiers
body and a classical face and I never
have to worry about a date on Saturday
night.

HELMI

(in Russian)

Why don't you want to learn English?

BEAUTIFUL WOMAN

(in Russian)

With this body and this face, I don't
have to learn English.

HELMI

(in Russian)

Would you like to get a drink before
your flight?

BEAUTIFUL WOMAN

(in Russian)

Sure.

Helmi and The Woman Get Up and Walk to A Bar in the Airport.

CUT TO:

EXT. AIRPORT WAITING AREA - DAY - BLIZZARD

Helmi Stands Shivering holding a SuitCase.

A TRUCK PULLS UP NEXT TO HIM.

The Passenger Window Rolls Down.

A BURLY MAN LEANS OVER FROM THE DRIVERS SEAT.

BURLY MAN

Helmut? Are you Helmut?

Helmi Stares in the Window Half Frozen.

BURLY MAN (CONT'D)

Well! Is you Helmut or not?

HELMI

(breaks from his trance)

Helmut? I am Helmut!

(slapping his chest)

BURLY MAN

Then get in Son! You're going to
freeze to death out there.

Helmi Enters the Vehicle and They Drive Off.

CUT TO:

INT. INSIDE THE TRUCK - MOVING - CONTINUOUS

HELMI V.O.

Language can be a great liaison between human beings when the language is shared. It can also be a great difficulty when the language is not shared. After University and before I served a compulsory hitch in the army which every Swiss Citizen is compelled to do, my father set me up with a job on a Wisconsin Dairy Farm. It was my first time in the United States and the purpose was to pick up a little money and start learning English.

BURLY MAN

Helmut? That's a weird name.

Helmi Stares at the Man NODDING with a Child Like Grin.

BURLY MAN (CONT'D)

Course I think my wife's great grandfathers was named Helmut. So I guess it's not that weird. You don't look to bright, son, I don't mind telling you.

HELMI V.O.

My father advised me, when people are addressing you and you don't know what they're saying, just smile and nod.

Helmi Stares at the Man NODDING with a Child Like Grin.

CUT TO:

INT. FARMHOUSE BEDROOM - MORNING

Helmi Lays Asleep. A Gentle KNOCK Wakes Him. A PRETTY YOUNG WOMAN ENTERS.

PRETTY YOUNG WOMAN

Well good morning. I know it's early but the cows have to be milked.

HELMI V.O.

It turns out the farmer had a daughter. So, it wasn't going to be all bad.

CUT TO:

INT. BARN - MOMENTS LATER

Stalls Line The Barn.

Cow's Fill The Stall's.

The Burly Man Stands Next to Helmi.

BURLY MAN

Alright, get every cow hooked up to the milking gear. And let's start getting them milked before they explode.

The Man Slaps Helmi on the Back and The Two Men Exchange Smiles.

The Man Walks Away Briskly.

Helmi Looks Around Curiously.

He Bends Down and Picks Up One of The Milking Apparatus'. Helmi Stares Intently at The Apparatus Then at The Cows.

Helmi Sits on A Stool Nearby. Helmi Stares At The Cows Again Then At The Milking Apparatus Then Back To The Cows.

SUDDENLY The Man Comes Back Into The Barn.

BURLY MAN (CONT'D)

Listen I forgot to tell you, what the hell are you doing! Are you going to hook the teat cups up to the teats or not? These cows need to be milked!

Helmi SMILES BIG at The Man Showing Him the Milking Apparatus

The Man GRABS the Apparatus From Helmi.

BURLY MAN (CONT'D)

Yeah! This needs to get hooked up.

(to himself)

I do believe they've sent me a retard.

(in German)

Idiot

HELMI

(in German)

Did you just call me an idiot?

BURLY MAN

(in German)

You speak German?

HELMI

(in German)

Yes, and French and Italian, and a little Russian.

BURLY MAN

(in German)

I thought you were from Switzerland?

HELMI

(in German)

I am from Switzerland.

BURLY MAN

(in German)

Then why do you speak German?
Shouldn't you be
speaking...Switzerland?

HELMI

(in French to himself)

Yeah, I'm the idiot?

BURLY MAN

(in German)

They told me you was from Switzerland
and could manage a dairy farm. Ain't
Switzerland covered with cows?

HELMI

(in German)

Switzerland *is* teaming with cows.
We use their milk to make chocolate
and cheese and unlike the nation of
India we eat them as well. But I
don't know anything about cows,
nothing!

BURLY MAN

(in German)

Nothing!?

HELMI

(in German)

Nothing!

BURLY MAN
That son of a bitch lied to me.

HELMI
(in German)
I came here to learn English.

The Two Men Stare at each other.

HELMI V.O.
My dad's friend told my dad it was a casual position with a chance to learn English and make a little money. That same guy told this farmer he could provide him with an experienced hands on manager to run his dairy Farm.

BURLY MAN
(in German)
Alright well, it ain't too hard what I need you to do, and I suppose my daughter can help you with the English. Would you stay and work?

HELMI
(in German)
I will. I can stay for four months.

The Two Men Shake Hands.

HELMI V.O.
And that was my first time in America, how I learned English, and how I learned to milk cows, and create a lot of farmer's daughter stories.

FADE TO:

EXT. GORDANA'S PARENT'S YARD - AFTERNOON

A Celebration is Taking Place.

A HOMEMADE Sign READS in Serbian - Congratulation Gordana on Your graduation.

A Jubilant CROWD Drinks Toasts Eats and Interacts.

Gordana Stands Holding a Manilla Envelope.

Her Father Approaches Her.

GORDANA'S FATHER
 (in Serbian)
 I'm very proud of you. I know you
 will be successful in anything you
 do.

GORDANA
 (in Serbian)
 Thank you.

GORDANA'S FATHER
 (in Serbian)
 Now what are you going to do?

Gordana Holds up the Envelope to Show Her father.

GORDANA'S FATHER (CONT'D)
 (in Serbian)
 Attention, Attention everyone.
 Gordana is going to make an
 announcement!

The Crowd Quiets as Gordana prepares to Speak.

GORDANA
 (in Serbian)
 I have been accepted into the Au
 Pair program and will be leaving for
 the Untied States very soon.

The Crowd ERUPTS in Cheers.

Gordana's Father Hugs Her.

Everyone Else Files past with Congratulations.

Gordana NOTICES Her Girlfriend SLINK Away Head Down Into the
 House.

CUT TO:

INT. GORDANA'S PARENT'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Gordana Enters and SEES Her Friend Sitting With A Very Sad
 Look. Gordana GOES to Her and Sits next To Her.

GORDANA
 (in Serbian)
 What's wrong?

GIRLFRIEND
 (in Serbian)
 I was not selected.

GORDANA
 (in Serbian Hugging
 Her Friend)
 It's ok. You will apply again. And
 in the mean time you will come visit
 me.

GIRLFRIEND
 (in Serbian)
 I can't come visit you. You're not
 going to go. You promised me we
 would only go together.

Gordana Releases Her from the Hug and Sits Contemplatively.

GORDANA
 (in Serbian)
 ...I did promise you that. I just
 assumed you would be selected as
 well. You really don't think I should
 go?

GIRLFRIEND
 (in Serbian)
 You know the only reason they selected
 you? Because you're pretty. You're
 beautiful. You can't speak English.
 Mine is better than yours but I'm
 not selected because I'm ugly. I'm
 plain. Is this how you want to
 achieve in your life. Getting by
 with your looks?

GORDANA
 (in Serbian)
 I have a degree you know. I don't
 think I'm pretty and I don't think
 you're ugly. I don't think I was
 chosen for anything other than my
 accomplishments and one of those is
 my personality. I'm
 positive....You're negative, and I
 think they held that against you.

GIRLFRIEND
 (in Serbian)
 Gordana, our life is here. There's
 nothing for us out there. If you
 leave you will fail. You'll end up
 back here anyway.

GORDANA
 (in Serbian)
 I don't think that's true.
 (MORE)

CORDANA (CONT'D)

I've always believed my destiny lied beyond Serbia. Serbia is great. I love Serbia. I'll always come back. But I have to go. And I will succeed. I know that in my heart.

Girlfriend Slowly SHAKES Her Head NO. Cordana Gently Pets Her Girlfriend's Hand and Smiles at Her.

CUT TO:

INT. PLANE - DAY

Cordana Sits in a Window Seat Staring Out to The New York Sky Line.

CORDANA V.O.

I came to America with a University degree, two hundred dollars, and the will to succeed. I tell every young woman I meet, how you look will not determine where you go in this life. How you act determines where you go. If you do not have a dream how can you follow it? You must first decide what you want. Then you can determine how to get it. If you act successful you will be successful. I love my friend and I visit with her every time I go to Serbia. Through all the years she has not changed. I hope she's happy. I hope she's where she wants to be.

CUT TO:

EXT. SWISS MOUNTAINSIDE - DAY

Helmi Skis Down The Mountain.

HELMI V.O.

Every Swiss male must serve in the military. Females are exempt and if you're a male and have a physical malady the government works to put you where you will be most helpful. Switzerland prides itself on our neutrality. It's an interesting story. Swiss Men going back five-hundred years have been highly accomplished soldiers. Swiss Men served in the French Spanish Dutch and British armies among others.

(MORE)

HELMI V.O. (CONT'D)

Our soldiers were even paid more than the home soldiers. Then, it got to a point where two non Swiss countries were at war and Swiss fathers were literally fighting and killing Swiss sons. So the powers that be declared fighting for anyone other than Switzerland would not be allowed. We are allowed to be on security details abroad, but that's it. Because we've largely staid neutral we've staid out of most of the modern wars. When you have mountains as a natural barrier there's only one thing you can do.

Helmi SKIDS to a Stop at the Bottom of The Mountain. He Lifts His Goggles and Has A Big Smile.

HELMI

Ski! I was born in paradise, Switzerland. Why would one ever want to leave paradise. I got my degree, I learned English, and I got a job. What more does one need. When they asked me if I would travel to America for work, I said sure. Not the wrong answer but really what they were asking me was, after traveling to America and setting up a home would I then travel to Japan and Korea and The Philippines and Vietnam and China and the entire Pacific Rim. I guess they figured no wife no kids no problem, for me traveling. And they mostly weren't wrong. I had a very good life for a very long time, circumnavigating the globe, working, and meeting exotic women.

CUT TO:

INT. UPSCALE HOME - UNITED STATES - MORNING

Gordana Chases a TWO YEAR OLD hoping to get Them Dressed.

TWO OLDER CHILDREN ENTER with Back Packs Ready For School.

Gordana LOOKS These Two Over, KISSES Them Both on Their Forehead and Ushers Them Out The Door For School.

Gordana Stands For a Minute To catch Her Breath and Then Hears Something Fall From Another Room.

Gordana Runs Towards the Noise.

GORDANA V.O.

My plan was to fulfill my Au Pair contract and then use my degree to start working as an accountant.

CUT TO:

INT. GORDANA'S BEDROOM AT HER HOST FAMILIES HOUSE - MORNING

Gordana is Dressed as if She's going to an Important Business Meeting. She Stands in Front of a Mirror Applying Makeup.

GORDANA

(speaking to the mirror)

So I settled in to fulfill my first obligation in America. I continued to perfect my English and as you can hear I've gotten pretty good at it. As time went on I slowly discovered the subtle differences between America and eastern Europe. For example, I'm getting ready to go pick up some milk for the family right now. When the host family mother goes shopping she'll wear sweats and a t-shirt. That's not how we do things in eastern Europe. How you present yourself tells the people around you how well you're doing. If people in Serbia saw my host mother out and about they would think she was homeless. Instead of a wealthy Woman. Which is what she is. What I learned is, here, if you look homeless, you might be very wealthy. In Serbia if you look homeless you are homeless. I also noticed people age differently in the west. In the east when you're fifty you're worn out you look seventy. In the west you could be seventy and look fifty. But one of the biggest cultural differences I discovered was the first time my host family tried to give me a bonus during the holidays.

CUT TO:

INT. UPSCALE HOME - UNITED STATES - EVENING

Non denominational LIGHTS Adorn a Room.

A Menorah Sits On A Mantle.

A Fire Roars In The Fire Place.

Gordana Enters and Begins Straitening Up an Already Pristine Room.

A WOMAN ENTERS.

WOMAN

Gordana, we just want you to know
how much we appreciate you and how
well we think this is working out.

The Woman Hands Gordana an Envelope. Gordana Stares at the Envelope and Hands it Back to the Woman.

GORDANA

I'm sorry but I cannot accept this.
I do my job. That's enough.

The Woman is Devastated. She Feels Awful.

GORDANA V.O.

In my country you would never take
something from someone the first
time they offer it. They ask you to
take something, you politely refuse,
then they ask you again to take it,
you politely refuse again, then the
third time they offer you, you
reluctantly take it. It's a pretty
good system for us. Everybody knows
how it works and everybody walks
away a winner.

WOMAN

I am so sorry Gordana! I did not
mean to offend you! Please accept
my apology.

The Woman Takes the Envelope and exits the Room Feeling Sad.

Gordana's Jaw Drops.

GORDANA V.O.

That's not how that was supposed to
go. I was devastated. I had been
told just what a great bonus this
host family gave and I screwed myself
out of it. The next year, with
another family.

CUT TO:

INT. UPSCALE HOME - UNITED STATES - AFTERNOON

Gordana Dusts A China Cabinet in a Different Home. The NEW HOST FAMILY MOTHER ENTER with an Envelope.

NEW WOMAN

Gordana we're so glad you were placed with us. You've just been a delight and we want you to have this as a thank you.

The Woman Hands Gordana an Envelope.

Gordana Graciously BUT FIRMLY Takes The Envelope and Puts It Right Away in Her Pocket.

GORDANA

You're very kind and you're very welcome. Thank you.

GORDANA V.O.

And that's how we do it in America.

FADE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Helmi Sits on the Floor of a Nicely Furnished Living Room.

Helmi Plays With HIS TWO YOUNG DAUGHTERS. One Speaks English, The Other Is Too Young To Speak.

DAUGHTER

Dad, I don't want you to go.

HELMI

I have to go, It's my job. How do you think I get all the money to buy your toys?

DAUGHTER

We can take the toys back.

Helmi SMILES at Them Both and Kisses Their Heads.

Helmi Gets Off The Floor.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Helmi ENTERS The Hall HIS BEAUTIFUL WIFE STANDS SILENTLY HOLDING HIS COAT AND SUITCASE.

Helmi Takes The Coat and Puts It On.

HELMU
(in German)
You're not going to say goodbye.

WIFE
(in German)
I'm not sure how much longer I can
do this, Helmut.

HELMU V.O.
It's very hard to have fidelity to
your family and fidelity to your
profession. Especially if your
profession has you traveling three
weeks out of the month. You can't
serve two masters. One will always
suffer. When this trip was over I
still had my job but I no longer had
my family, true story.

INT. NIGHT CLUB - NIGHT

Gordana is DANCING WITH FRIENDS. She Seems Very Happy.

GORDANA V.O.
You're looking at a woman carrying
the weight of the world on her
shoulders. The west was bombing my
old home land trying to get rid of
Milosevic. I didn't want to go back
to war. My Au Pair visa had expired
so I applied for and got a visitors
visa and that was getting ready to
expire. Everyone said I should get
married but I was not going to do
that. That's not who I am. Believe
me I could have. Not to toot my own
horn but there were American men who
would have paid *me* to marry *them*.

A MAN DANCING NEAR GORDANA GRABS HIS CHEST AND BEGINS
BREATHING HARD.

Gordana SEES This And Helps The Man Off The Dance Floor To A
Chair.

Gordana Slips Away.

GORDANA V.O. (CONT'D)
Maybe it was my maternal instinct or
my time as an Au Pair but when I met
him I felt like I Had to take care
of him.

Gordana Returns With Some Water.

GORDANA V.O. (CONT'D)
Out of all the offers I had this was
the most unlikely.

Gordana Puts A Compress on His Forehead and Helps Him Drink.

GORDANA V.O. (CONT'D)
Maybe it was because he was an
immigrant too. He came here as a
young child.

Gordana Helps Him Up and They Walk Out Of The Club.

GORDANA V.O. (CONT'D)
Whatever the reason I felt a strong
connection with this man. So when
he asked me we got married.

EXT. PARKING LOT NEAR CLUB - CONTINUOUS

Gordana and the Man Walk Slowly to A Car.

GORDANA V.O.
The marriage lasted four years and
I'm sad to say it ended because it
turns out I'm not maternal and being
a care giver took a toll on me. So
four years later I was right back
where I started. Looking for a visa
to keep me in the land I had come to
love.

Gordana Helps The Man Get Into His Car Then Turns Away and
Speaks.

GORDANA
But don't you worry about me. I'm a
hard worker. I never gave up and I
got a work visa. You should never
bet against someone who understands,
opportunity is only half of the
equation. You must also have the
will and desire to succeed.

EXT. PARKING LOT NEAR AN OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

Gordana Sits behind the Steering Wheel of A Car. She Stares
Into the Rear View Mirror at Herself, Desperately.

GORDANA V.O.
Still there were more mountains to
climb. I was divorced and on my own
and actively legally seeking
employment as an accountant AND
(MORE)

GORDANA V.O. (CONT'D)
working towards becoming an American
citizen when my life ground to a
halt. I couldn't get a job. No one
would hire me. At that point I got
desperate and I decided to go out on
a limb....I decided to start asking,
why?

INT. HIRING MANAGERS OFFICE - LATER

Gordana Stares Intently at The HIRING MANAGER Who is LOOKING
Through Her Paperwork.

 HIRING MANAGER
I'm sorry Gordana but we're going to
pass.

 GORDANA
WHY!
 (Hiring Manger is
 startled)
What I mean to say is, you're the
tenth company that's passed on me.
No one has told me, why?

 HIRING MANAGER
Well, I can't speak for anyone else
but for our hiring committee
ultimately it came down to your
degree. I'm sure your home university
is a fine institution but quite
frankly it sounds made up. And when
we made local inquiries no one really
seemed to know much about it. So we
had to pass.

Gordana RISES and Walks to the Door. Gordana TURNS to the
Hiring manager.

 GORDANA
If you were me, what would you do?

 HIRING MANAGER
If I were you? I would transfer all
the credits I could to an American
University, preferably one companies
would instantly recognize, and get a
new degree.

 GORDANA V.O.
 (staring at the Hiring
 Manager)
So that's what I did.
 (MORE)

GORDANA V.O. (CONT'D)
I transferred all the credits they
would take and I started toward an
American university degree. And I
got it. Go Blue.

FADE TO:

EXT. UPSCALE APARTMENT COMPLEX - AFTERNOON

Gordana Pulls Up In a Shiny New Car and Parks. She Exits
the Car With her Briefcase and Heads Toward A Door in The
Complex.

As She Puts Her Key In A Door Nearby DOOR OPENS and A JAPANESE
FAMILY BOUNDS OUT SMILING. A YOUNG HUSBAND, WIFE, AND FIVE
YEAR OLD.

Everyone Exchanges Pleasantries as Gordana Rustles The Hair
on The Child.

The Family Goes For a Walk and Gordana Enters her Town Home.

CUT TO:

INT. GORDANA'S TOWN HOME - MOMENTS LATER

Gordana Collapses In A chair with A Huge Smile on Her Face.

CUT TO:

INT. GORDANA'S TOWN HOME - LATER

Gordana is Curled Up in More Comfortable Clothes and a Glass
of Wine Sits Nearby. With Reading Glasses On She's Intently
Reading Then Turns A Page in Her Book.

 GORDANA V.O.
I did everything I set out to do in
America. It took some time and a
lot of effort but every goal I set
for myself I achieved. The plain
truth I came to learn about America,
if you work hard, you can achieve
your goals. There will be setbacks
and people may treat you unfairly
but at the end of the day if you are
fulfilled by hard work the west is
where you want to be. In communism
hard work is irrelevant. You only
get ahead by joining the party and
doing as you're told. The truth
about everything is up to the party.
 (MORE)

GORDANA V.O. (CONT'D)

What you know to be true, much like hard work, is irrelevant. I'm only one person and my life is anecdotal, take it for what its worth....I have a great job with great pay and great benefits. I have a wonderful place to live. And I didn't need to ask anyone's permission to succeed. I have friends and I also go back to Serbia and visit friends and family and they even comes to visit me. It's settled down over there and it seems as if my life is perfect. I'm sure it is. I'm sure my life is perfect. I'm sure there's absolutely nothing missing.

FADE TO:

INT. GORDANA'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Gordana Lays on Her Back Eyes Open Looking Up at The Ceiling. She's Anticipating.

Suddenly There's a PLOP on the Ceiling Above Her. Then LOUD STOMPING From a Child's Feet.

The Stomping Grows Lighter as The Feet Run AWAY From Where they Started. Until Finally The NOISE Becomes Faint and Then Is Gone.

Gordana's Expression does not change.

WITHIN A MOMENT The NOISE BECOMES Faint Again and Builds and Builds Until It Is Right On Top Of Her Again, LOUD as Before.

Then The Cycle Repeats.

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT ABOVE GORDANA - CONTINUOUS

The Japanese Couple Lay In Bed Asleep. Suddenly The Five Year Old Child Jumps On Their Bed and Their Eyes OPEN.

The Child JUMPS Off The Bed. The Parents Eyes Close Again.

The Child RUNS WITH GREAT EXCITEMENT THROUGH THE APARTMENT BACK TO WHERE THEY STARTED.

The Child Jumps Up On Their Own Bed. Jumps Up and Down a Few Times Then Jumps Off and Runs with great excitement back through The Apartment.

CUT TO:

INT. GORDANA'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Gordana's expression has not changed. She Watches The Noisy Running Above Her.

GORDANA

What is the point of having a job
where you work bankers hours if you
have to get up at
 (turns and looks at
 the clock which reads
 5:07 am)
five o'clock every morning?

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT MANAGERS OFFICE - EVENING

A Very CHESTY WOMEN IN A TIGHT DRESS Sits Behind a Desk.
Gordana Sits Across From Her.

GORDANA

Where I come from, my home country,
people tell on their neighbors all
the time. It's the natural state of
things. Everyone's a spy. But I
don't want to live like that. God
knows I am not a spy. Nor am I a
complainer. With all that said, I'm
just wondering if there's something
that can be done? What can be done?

CHESTY WOMAN

Gordana, you pay good money to stay
in that town home. It's my job to
make sure you are comfortable and
happy with your purchase. Now it's
true the Asatani's pay good money as
well but that does not give them the
right to encroach on your peace and
quiet. I think I have a solution.
There's a man who lives elsewhere in
the complex on a ground floor unit.
He travels a lot. I'll see if the
Asatani's mind switching with him.
I don't think he'll mind. We actually
have a very good relationship. I
think he wants to ask me out.

(MORE)

CHESTY WOMAN (CONT'D)
This will give him another reason to
talk to me.

(she begins fanning
herself)
....Don't you worry about a thing
Gordana. I'll take care of
everything.

GORDANA
Thank you! Thank you so much!

CUT TO:

EXT. GORDANA'S TOWN HOME - AFTERNOON

Gordana WATCHES as MOVERS Come and Go From her Neighbors
Door.

MR. & MRS. ASATANI EMERGE From Their Home and Approach
Gordana. They Both Speak Fluent English and Have Mid-West
Accents.

MR. ASATANI
We are so sorry.

MRS. ASATANI
I wanted to chain the *Beast* up so
they couldn't get out of bed in the
morning but this one has a different
parenting philosophy.

MR. ASATANI
You don't want to thwart creativity.
It's important.

MRS. ASATANI
Yeah, so is a full nights sleep.

GORDANA
I really do feel bad.

MRS. ASATANI
No Gordana don't. You've been a
lovely neighbor and you put up with
us far too long. Now since we're on
the ground floor the only one who'll
be getting up at five o'clock in the
morning is the *Beast*....And of course,
us.

(stares at her husband)

MR. ASATANI
Creativity!

Mrs. Asatani SHAKES Her Head and Walks Away.

FADE TO:

EXT. GORDANA'S TOWN HOME - AFTERNOON

Gordana Exits Her Car. With briefcase in Hand and a Content Look She Enters Her Home.

Within a Moment Gordana's Door Reopens and Gordana Emerges Without Her Briefcase. She Looks Suspicious But There's No One Around to Look Suspicious To.

Gordana Picks Up a Water Can and Begins Watering Flowers Near Her Home. She Continues To Look Around Nervously.

Gordana Sets The watering Can Down.

Slowly Gordana Makes Her Way To Two Mail Boxes. She Opens Hers and Takes Out a Couple Envelopes. Then With A Look Around For The Coast To be Clear Gordana Opens Her Neighbors Mail Box.

The Box is Empty.

Gordana Closes the Box Disappointed.

Now Without Hesitation She Goes Back to Her Watering Can and Begins Watering Again.

INT. GORDANA'S OFFICE CUBICLE - DAY

Gordana TYPES on her Computer While A FEMALE Co-WORKER STANDS AT THE DOOR. Gordana Finishes and Looks Up.

CO-WORKER

You should be scared. You're a single woman all alone.

GORDANA

Someone was supposed to move in but it's been months now. Sometimes I think I hear someone but then it stops. I don't know if anyone is there or not. On the plus side I'm not up at five a.m. every morning now.

CO-WORKER

Look, you know my brother is a police officer, right. I could have him come over and check your place out. Make sure it's secure and give you tips on how to stay safe.

(MORE)

CO-WORKER (CONT'D)

I'm mean you live in a great neighborhood but so did a lot of the people on forensic files. You can never be to sure.

CUT TO:

INT. GORDANA'S TOWN HOME - EVENING

Gordana Sits Relaxed as A POLICE OFFICER Walks Around. He Checks Windows and Doors and Generally Assesses the Home.

POLICE MAN

Everything looks good Gordana. The key to a safe neighborhood is being aware of your surroundings. Looking for things out of the ordinary. People or cars you don't usually see. Not just passing by but hanging out.

GORDANA

Thank you so much. I don't want to relive what happens where I came from. Everybody is suspicious of everyone else. It creates a climate of fear. No one trusts anyone. Everyone wonders what everyone is up to. I don't want to bring that to America.

POLICE MAN

Oh we already have it. It's called a neighborhood watch. As a matter of fact there's some tools you could get that could be very helpful while you watch your neighborhood. Get yourself a very nice set of binoculars. You'll be able to read license plates from far away and get a really good look at strangers faces you don't recognize.

GORDANA

(the possibilities
begin running thru
Gordana's head)
Binoculars? Huh?

POLICE MAN

We don't want you to call with every out of the ordinary thing you see. Just keep notes. Write things down.

(MORE)

POLICE MAN (CONT'D)
They may or may not be helpful in
the future.

Gordana Has Stopped Listening as She Contemplates Her Role
in the Neighborhood Watch.

FADE TO:

INT. GORDANA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Gordana Sleeps Soundly Then Suddenly a LOUD NOISE ERUPTS IN
THE APARTMENT ABOVE HER. IT'S MUSIC.

Gordana is Shaken AWAKE. She Jumps Up in Bed Looking Around
Then Up to The Ceiling Then Over To The Clock.

The Clock Reads 3:00 a.m.

GORDANA
What the Fuck!

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE CUBICLE - DAY

Gordana STANDS at The Opening of Her Co-Workers Cubicle.
Her Co-Worker Sits at Her Own Desk.

GORDANA
I don't want to be a snitch but this
is worse than the child running around
at five a.m.

CO-WORKER
Maybe he doesn't understand how much
noise he's making. I mean you've
never seen him so he obviously comes
home late. He probably works noon
to midnight and when he gets home he
just wants to unwind. You know what
I would do? I would leave a note on
his door.

GORDANA
Saying what?

CO-WORKER
Let him know he's making too much
noise.

GORDANA
I guess.

CUT TO:

EXT. GORDANA'S TOWN HOME - MORNING

Gordana Leaves her Home With Her Briefcase and Walks to her Car.

AN OLD LADY, A Neighbor, From Across The Street Meets Gordana At Her Car.

OLD LADY

Good morning Honey. I'm going away this weekend. Would mind feeding my cat? The key's under the door matt.

GORDANA

I would be happy to.

They Smile at Each Other and Gordana Drives Off.

EXT. GORDANA'S TOWN HOME - DAY

Gordana Exits Her Home With an Envelope. She takes the Envelope to The Door Next to Hers and Tapes it to The Door.

Gordana KNOCKS on the Door Then Briskly Walks back Inside Her Home.

Within A Moment Gordana Pulls The Curtain back From Her Window to See if the Envelope is Gone.

The Envelope has not moved.

Gordana Releases the Curtain.

Within a Moment The Curtain Reveals Gordana Looking Toward the Envelope Again.

This Time Gordana Briskly Closes the Curtain.

CUT TO:

EXT. GORDANA'S TOWN HOME - EVENING

Gordana Has Exited Her Car and Is Walking to Her Door.

She Stares Intently at Her Neighbor's Door.

The Door Still Has The Envelope Taped to It.

Gordana Walks Right to The Mail Boxes and Without Hesitation LOOKS in Her Neighbors's Box.

It's Empty.

Gordana Slams The Box Closed.

CUT TO:

EXT. GORDANA'S TOWN HOME - EVENING

Gordana Exits Her Home And Walks Across The Street.

Gordana Grabs a key from under the Matt.

CUT TO:

INT. NEIGHBORS TOWN HOME - CONTINUOUS

Gordana Empties Cat Food Into a Dish On the Floor.

She Walks to the Door to leave But Hesitates.

Gordana Opens Her Purse and Pulls Out a Set of Binoculars.

She Stands in The Front Window of The Home and Begins Searching the Windows of The Home Above Her Own Home.

Gordana Darts Back and Forth Until She Stops UPON a WOMAN'S Silhouette.

GORDANA
Well well well, are we the one making
all the noise?

INT. GORDANA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Gordana Lays Asleep. The Clock Nearby Reads 3:00 a.m.

A Quiet Distant Rhythmic Turning Becomes Audible.

Gordana's is Gently Rustled From Her Slumber. She Stares Curiously at Her Ceiling.

GORDANA
Is that the clothes dryer?

Next the Sound of Grinding Coffee becomes Audible.

GORDANA (CONT'D)
That's a coffee maker.

Next a Vacuum Is Turned On. It's Louder Than The previous Noises and Gordana SITS Up In Bed.

GORDANA (CONT'D)
That's a vacuum.

Suddenly There Is LOUD MUSIC Coming From The Apartment Above.

GORDANA (CONT'D)
And that's all I can stand!

Gordana Rips Her Covers Off and Slams Her Slipper On. She
Grabs a Robe and Heads Out Of Her Bedroom.

CUT TO:

EXT. GORDANA'S TOWN HOME - NIGHT

Gordana EXITS Her Door and Deliberately Strides The Few Paces
To Her Neighbors Door.

Standing Outside Her Neighbors Door The Music and Vacuuming
are Even Louder.

Gordana PULLS The Envelope Off The Door.

Gordana Begins BEATING on The Neighbors Door.

Within A Moment All The Noises Cease From Her Neighbors Apt.

Gordana Takes a Breath and Then Begins BEATING on the Door
Again.

Within A Moment The Door Opens and The Beautiful Russian
Woman STANDS Inside Wearing a Negligee.

GORDANA
Excuse me! But it's very loud.

The Russian Woman Stares at Gordana not Understanding.

GORDANA (CONT'D)
You don't speak English I imagine,
ok.
(in Serbian)
Do you speak Serbian by chance?

The Russian Woman Again Appears to have no Understanding.

GORDANA (CONT'D)
(in French)
Do you speak French?

The Russian Woman Again Appears to have no Understanding.

GORDANA (CONT'D)
(in German)
Do you speak German?

The Russian Woman Again Appears to have no Understanding.

GORDANA (CONT'D)
 Alright one more shot.
 (in Russian)
 Do you speak Russian?

The Russian Woman Again Appears to have no Understanding.

GORDANA (CONT'D)
 (in Russian)
 I'm out of languages.
 (in English)
 Quiet! Quiet! Quiet! Please!

The Russian Woman's Expression has not changed.

The Russian Woman Slowly Closes The Door.

Gordana Stands In Awe For A Moment Then Realizes She's Still Holding The Envelope.

Gordana Re-Tapes The Envelope To Her Neighbors Door.

Then returns to Her Own Door.

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE CUBICLE - DAY

Gordana Stands At The Opening of Her Co-Workers Cubicle.

CO-WORKER
 I thought you said it was a man who moved in?

GORDANA
 That's what the manager said but that was six months ago. Maybe he moved out and this whack job moved in.

CO-WORKER
 Well, Gordana you have to talk to the manager now. You tell the manager if she does this again at three in the morning you're going to call the police. She's disturbing the peace! She's disturbing you peace.

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT MANAGERS OFFICE - EVENING

The Chesty Apartment Manager Speaks on The Phone.

GORDANA (O.S.)
I don't want to get anyone in trouble.

CHESTY WOMAN
You did nothing wrong Gordana. There is only one name on the lease and it is not a woman. I will take care of this. I promise you.

The Chesty Woman Hangs Up.

She Begins Going Thru a Rolodex.

She Stops On A Card and Pulls It Out.

She Dials The Phone and Hears Ringing.

HELMI (O.S.)
Hello.

CHESTY WOMAN
Hello Helmut, this is Diane.

HELMI (O.S.)
Who?

CHESTY WOMAN
From your town home.

HELMI
Oh yes, what can I do for you?

CHESTY WOMAN
I have a very urgent matter I need to discuss with you. When can you come to my office?

HELMI (O.S.)
I'm actually out of state right now. Is this something we can resolve over the phone.

CHESTY WOMAN
Oh no, I must insist that you come in.

HELMI (O.S.)
Well, o.k., I'll stop by as soon as I get back into town.

Helmi Hangs Up.

The Chesty Woman SIGHS Longingly.

CUT TO:

EXT. MOTORCYCLE TRACK - DAY

HELMI HANGS UP HIS CELL WHILE WORKING UNDER A CANOPY IN A VERY WELL FUNDED MOTORCYCLE RACE OPERATION.

PULLING BACK WE SEE ALL THE RACE AND PER RACE ACTIVITY IN ANOTHER VERY CROWDED VENUE.

HELMI V.O.

I still Ski whenever I can but most of the year with the traveling I would need to do to get to a challenging hill I started to focus on Riding Motorcycles. I'm alone now, mostly and this takes my mind off my girls for a minute. It is a dangerous sport but you can't live in fear. You can be afraid but you cannot let it consume you. You must consume the fear.

FADE TO:

EXT. HELMI AND GORDANA'S TOWN HOMES - AFTERNOON

Helmi is Dropped Off by a Cab as Gordana Pulls up and Parks. They STRIDE Side by Side. Each Up to Their Respective Door. In Slow Motion Helmi Looks Forward as Gordana TURNS HER HEAD and Stares at Him.

Then as if Choreographed, Gordana Turns Her Eyes Front as Helmi Turns and Stares at Her.

This Occurs AGAIN and then Each is At Their Own Door.

Both Have Eyes Front and They Enter Their Homes.

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT MANAGERS OFFICE - EVENING

Helmi Sits In a Chair In Front of The Chesty Woman's Desk.

The Chesty Woman Sits at Her Desk. Her Dress is Tighter Than Ever and Her Chest is as Prominent as Ever.

HELMI

So what's this all about? What can I do for you?

CHESTY WOMAN

Your downstairs neighbor tells me
you have someone living with you who
is not on the lease.

HELMİ

Oh, that, no she's not living with
me. She's just a friend from Europe.
She'll be going home in a few weeks.
Sooner if I can swing it.

The Chesty Woman Springs Up and Walks Around Her Desk and
Sits in the open Chair next to Helmi.

CHESTY WOMAN

Oh, then, there's no problem.

The Chesty Woman Scoots Her Chair Closer To Helmi.

CHESTY WOMAN (CONT'D)

What I wanted to talk to you about
was, my daughter is going to be going
to school in Italy and I want to
visit her there but I know nothing
about Italian wines and I really
need to learn.

HELMİ

I'm Swiss.

CHESTY WOMAN

I know silly. But there are some
wine tasting festivals in Traverse
City I thought you could accompany
me to. Sort of help me out.

The Chesty Woman Continues Speaking, Pushing Her Chest Closer
to Helmi.

Helmi Stares Respectfully but He's In Another World.

HELMİ V.O.

I don't want to sound like I'm
boasting but women have thrown
themselves at me for as long back as
I can remember. And Some I've taken
out but most I've tried to avoid.
And it's not that there's been
anything wrong with the women it's
my aversion to making another
commitment.

CUT TO:

EXT. HELMI'S TOWN HOME - AFTERNOON

Helmi Wears a Tank Top and Shorts as he Works on His Jeep Out Front.

HELMI V.O.

And you can tell when a woman is looking for a relationship and not just a hook up. Even though the behavior is similar you can tell when a woman is putting herself out there for something more than just a one night stand. There's a vulnerability that surrounds the flirtation. Like the day one of the women from my complex called me up and asked me if I would let her know if she looked o.k. to visit her grandmother in the nursing home. We had spoken for months before this with no hint of sexuality from her part, then one day,

A WOMAN PULLS UP Behind Helmi's Car and Parks.

The Woman gets Out and Approaches Helmi.

The Middle Aged Woman Wears a Tight Dress. Her Makeup and Hair Are Done As If By A Professional.

Helmi Stands Impressed. The Contrast Between the Two Is Unmistakable.

Helmi Dressed as a Beach Bum Covered in Grease and His Neighbor Like A Super Model.

MIDDLE AGED NEIGHBOR

What do you think?

HELMI

Very nice.

MIDDLE AGED NEIGHBOR

Do you think my grandmother will approve?

HELMI

I think so.

MIDDLE AGED NEIGHBOR

What about you? Do you approve?

HELMI

....I don't really have a pony in this show.

MIDDLE AGED NEIGHBOR
What?! Who's a pony. What!

HELMİ
I think you look fine. I think your
grandmother will be happy to see
you.

MIDDLE AGED NEIGHBOR
Screw You!

The Woman STOMPS BACK to Her Car and SQUEALS HER TIRES AS
SHE DRIVES AWAY. Helmi Stands Unaffected.

HELMİ V.O.
Now unless I'm wrong this woman was
dressed to see me not her grandmother.
And unless I'm wrong I could have
asked her up to my place that very
moment to have sex.

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT MANAGERS OFFICE - LATER

Back in The Office The Chesty Apartment Manager Continues
PITCHING a Get Away Weekend to Helmi.

HELMİ V.O.
And, if I had taken that woman up on
her offer or take this woman up on
her offer I'm sure they both are
looking for a relationship and that
is something I'm not interested in
any more.

The Chesty Woman Stops Talking, Takes A Breath, Then Smiles.

CHESTY WOMAN
So, what do you think?

HELMİ
I don't think so, Diane.

CHESTY WOMAN
You don't think so, what, Helmi?

HELMİ
I don't have time for wine tasting
in my life right now. As a matter
of fact, dating, is at the end of
two very long lists of projects I'm
committed to right now.

CHESTY WOMAN

(smile fades)

If that woman stays longer than a month you're going to need to put her on the lease. Good day.

The Chesty Woman Gets Up and Goes back to Her Desk Chair.

CHESTY WOMAN (CONT'D)

I said good day.

FADE TO:

EXT. GORDANA'S TOWN HOME - AFTERNOON

Helmi and the Russian Woman Stand In Front of Gordana's Door.
Helmi Holds a Bottle Of Wine.

HELMI

(in Russian)

Just be nice please. I'll bump you up to first class for your trip home.

The Russian Woman Stares at Helmi With Contempt. Helmi Knocks on Gordana's Door.

Gordana Answers and Is Surprised to see Them But Gordana is Cordial.

GORDANA

Good afternoon.

HELMI

Good afternoon. My name is Helmut and I'm your upstairs neighbor. I know I've been here for over a year and we've never met. I travel quite a bit. At any rate, I'm told there's been excessive noise lately and I just want to apologize and give you this bottle of wine for your trouble.

GORDANA

Thank You but it was no trouble and I don't drink wine.

RUSSIAN WOMAN

(in Russian)

Yes you do. You drink it by the case. I've seen so much wine come into this apartment. Carried by all the men.

GORDANA
 (in Russian)
...Oh, so you can speak and look at
that you speak Russian.

 RUSSIAN WOMAN
 (in Russian)
And **you** drink wine. I guess it's
true what I've heard about Serbian
woman.

 GORDANA
 (in Russian)
And just what have you heard about
Serbian women?

 RUSSIAN WOMAN
 (in Russian)
You're all prostitutes.

Helmi Slowly Raises His Hand to His Forehead Looking Away.

 GORDANA
 (in Russian)
And it appears to be true what I've
heard about Russian women.

 RUSSIAN WOMAN
 (in Russian)
What's that?

 GORDANA
 (in Russian)
You're all too stupid to be
prostitutes. You don't realize your
bodies have value so you're all
whores, you just give it away.

Helmi Turns Away.

 HELMI
Oh Boy.

 RUSSIAN WOMAN
 (in Russian)
I'll be upstairs.

The Russian Woman Leaves. She Enters The Door Nearby.

 HELMI
Anyway, please accept this wine. I
am so sorry. I promise you there
will be no more noise.

GORDANA
I told you I don't drink wine.

HELMİ
(coyly smiling he
gently hands the
bottle to her)
Perhaps a guest you have in the future
may.

Gordana Takes The Bottle.

Helmi Disappears Into His Own Door.

Gordana Stands Intrigued.

Gordana STEPS Out Of Her Door and Stares at the now Closed
adjoining Door of her Neighbor.

Gordana LINES the HEEL of Her Left Foot with the End of Her
Door Closest to Her Neighbors.

Gordana Takes A Step Toward Her Neighbors Door.

Gordana's Right Foot Lands and SHE BRINGS Her Left Foot Even.

Gordana PIVOTS and is now Standing In Front Of and Facing
Her Neighbors Door.

Gordana Stares at The Door Wondering.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

TITLE OVER A BLACK SCREEN

THREE YEARS LATER

INT. GORDANA'S TOWN HOME - KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

Gordana And Her Work Friend are Preparing a Meal.

CO-WORKER
I don't want to pull from your garden,
Gordana.

GORDANA
It's been three years, he's had ample
opportunity to ask me out. He's not
interested in me. You might as well
have a chance to look him over you've
been hearing about him for so long.

CO-WORKER
What about his friend?

GORDANA
He's bringing a friend, that's all I know. I've seen the guy. I've seen them working on cars out front. Take your pick. I'm not attracted to either one.

The DOOR BELL RINGS.

GORDANA (CONT'D)
I'll get it.

Gordana Exits.

INT. GORDANA'S TOWN HOME - CONTINUOUS

Gordana OPENS the Front Door.

Helmi and a SIMILAR LOOKING MAN Stand on the Other Side. Helmi Holds a Bottle Of Wine. Both Men are Dressed in SKIN TIGHT WHITE JEANS AND SKIN TIGHT WHITE SHIRTS. They Both Smile Exuberantly.

Gordana Holds Back Laughter Under a Huge Smile.

GORDANA
Come in. Come in. Please come in.

INT. GORDANA'S TOWN HOME - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Gordana Enters Setting the Bottle of Wine Down then Picks Up a Hand Towel and Tosses it at her Friend.

GORDANA
Forget about it! They're gay.

CO-WORKER
What!?

GORDANA
All the live long day.

EXT. GORDANA'S TOWN HOME - PATIO - LATE AFTERNOON

The Four Sit Pushed Back From a Patio Table With An Umbrella. Empty Plates adorn the Table. Each Sip From Their Wine Glass.

Gordana's Friend And Helmi's Friend MAKE PROLONGED EYE CONTACT as Helmi and Gordana Avoid Eye Contact at all cost.

HELMI'S FRIEND
(to Gordana's friend)
It's a beautiful sunset would like
to go for a walk?

CO-WORKER
(getting up taking
his hand before she
answers)
Yes.

Helmi Watches the TWO Walk a Short distance to a Love Seat
in the Courtyard. They Sit Down and Immediately Start
Kissing.

Gordana's Back is to the Couple.

HELMI
Wow, that was a short walk.

GORDANA
(turns to look)
Oh my god.
(back to Helmi)
I thought your friend was gay.

HELMI
Why would you think that?

GORDANA
Did you get a look at his outfit?

Helmi LOOKS Down at His Own Clothes.

HELMI
I'm wearing the same outfit. Do you
think I'm gay?

Gordana Looks into the distance beyond Helmi.

HELMI (CONT'D)
You think I'm gay?

GORDANA
What would be wrong if I did think
you were gay?

HELMI
Nothing! But why do you think I'm
gay.

GORDANA

(reciting a list)

You've never asked me out in the
four years you've lived above me.
Except for one crazy Russian woman
three years ago I've never seen
another woman come to your house.
The nine days a month you are home
you spend almost all of them out
front in a tank top and cut off shorts
working on old cars with him. And
from what I've seen neither of you
have any idea how to fix cars. And
when you're not Homo erotically
covered in grease you're always
immaculately dressed and groomed.
There's my case for gay, rebuttal?

Helmi begins Laughing. At That Moment Their Two Friends
Appear.

HELMI'S FRIEND

(to Helmi)

We're we're going to go for another
walk..up to your condo.

The Two Walk Briskly Away.

HELMI

(reciting rebuttal)

I've never asked you out because I
don't date my neighbors. I stopped
bringing women here out of an
abundance of caution because of what
happened with Svetlana. You keep
track of the days I'm home each month?
We're not experts in cars because we
race motor cycles. I can take a
motor cycle completely apart and put
it back together in sixty minutes.
And I don't apologize for my grooming
habits.

GORDANA

Svetlana? Her name is *Svetlana*?

Helmi Laughs.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. COURTYARD - DUSK - CONTINUOUS

Helmi and Gordana Sit Next To each Other on the Love Seat.

Both are Relaxed Now. They Chat as Old Friends.

GORDANA

I'm not asking you to ask me out I just don't see what the big deal is about dating a neighbor?

HELMİ

I'm a bachelor. When I'm not a bachelor it doesn't end well. And even when I'm not in a relationship women tend to end up hating me. I never went out on a date with Diane in the office and she hates me. I'm cursed with women. I can't have a healthy long term relationship with a woman because, well for a lot of reasons. And the last thing I wanted was for the nine days a month we could possibly see each other, on those days, for you to look at me, like you hated me.

GORDANA

I wasn't asking about moving in with you or for you to have proposed to me. I just thought after that afternoon you came to my door and apologized to me and handed me that wine, which I still have by the way, you implied you'd be back to drink it, so I kept it, I just thought, you'd have one night since to spend a little time with me, you know, at some point. Then three years go by and the minute I tell you I have a friend you might want to meet you jump at the chance. I've thought about you, why haven't you thought about me? I just can't figure you out.

HELMİ

Every time my plane touches down in America I immediately think about you. I wonder if you'll be out when I pull up. On the nine days a month when I am home I listen for you to leave so I can run in to you. I know when you water your flowers and I wonder what you'll be wearing. And when you return from work haven't you noticed I'm always out front? I've done nothing but think about you for three years, Gordana.

(MORE)

HELMi (CONT'D)

And when you invited me to meet your friend, I didn't accept to meet her, I came to spend time with you.

GORDANA

Then, ask me out?

HELMi

I'm waiting for the right time.

GORDANA

So?

HELMi

So, what?

GORDANA

So when is the right time going to be?

HELMi

Would you like to come and watch me race motorcycles?

GORDANA

(pulls out her phone)

When?

HELMi

Saturday, July fifteenth.

GORDANA

(scrolls thru the phone)

Yes, I'm free.

(begins typing)

It's a date.

Helmi Stares as Gordana ADDS to Her Calendar.

Suddenly Helmi Pulls Out His Phone and Starts The Same Process.

CUT TO:

EXT. MOTORCYCLE TRACK - DAY

Motorcycles WHIP AROUND THE TRACK AT GREAT SPEED.

Gordana Is in the Stands Surrounded by OTHER SPECTATORS.

Gordana has Her Hand Pressed to her ForeHead as if to Shield Her From The Sun.

As The Motorcycles Come back Around To In Front of The Stands
Gordana Brings Her Hand Down To Cover her Eyes.

After The Cycles Have Roared Past Gordana Lifts Her Hand
Back Up To See Again.

CUT TO:

EXT. MOTORCYCLE TRACK - MOMENTS LATER

The Race is Over. Helmi STANDS on The Winners Podium Over
The Number Two.

A PHOTOGRAPHER SNAPS a Photo and the THREE RACERS STEP DOWN
Shake Hands and Walk Away.

EXT. MOTORCYCLE TRACK - CONTINUOUS

Gordana RUNS to Helmi with Her Hands COVERING Her Mouth and
Nose.

Helmi Smiles Big.

Helmi Sets His Helmet Down and Gordana is upon Him.

Gordana JUMPS Into Helmi's ARMS and KISSES Him on the Lips.

Helmi Kisses Gordana Back and Sets Her Down.

CORDANA

I was so scared for you.

HELMI

I tried to win for you but I got a
podium and being a novice of the
sport you should know that's a big
deal. Do you want to go for a ride?

CORDANA

..O.K. but not fast.
(darts behind Helmi
and Grabs him around
the waist snugly)
Because if I fly off
(tightens her grip)
You fly off.

EXT. MOTORCYCLE TRACK - MOMENTS LATER

Helmi RIDES Gordana Around the Track.

Helmi THROTTLES UP for the Straightaway.

Gordana TIGHTENS Her Hold as the Ride Becomes Faster.

Helmi Slows Down for The Turn.

Gordana LOOSENS Her Hold.

Coming Out Of The Turn Helmi THROTTLES UP AGAIN.

Gordana TIGHTENS Her Hold.

The TWO Disappear Becoming A Dot In The Distance.

EXT. SANDY BEACH - MORNING

Helmi and Gordana Walk Together. Helmi Has Shoes On. Gordana Is In Her Bare Feet. Helmi Holds Her Shoes.

Gordana KICKS WATER From The Shore Onto Helmi.

Helmi Doesn't Rattle. He Allows The Water to Dampen Him.

HELMI

I race motorcycles. I'm not afraid
of a little water.

Gordana BENDS DOWN AND USES HER HANDS TO SCOOP OCEANS OF
WATER ONTO Helmi.

Helmi BACKS UP QUICKLY.

Gordana Laughs. Helmi Laughs.

Gordana Puts Her Hands In Front Of Her As Holding the Handle
Bars of a Motorcycle. Gordana REVS Up The Imaginary Bike
with Both Hands.

GORDANA

Vrrm Vrrm.

INT. GORDANA'S TOWN HOME - EVENING

Helmi Sits on The Couch in the Living Room. Gordana ENTERS
With Two Glasses of Wine.

Gordana Hands a Glass to Helmi and Sits Close to Him.

GORDANA

(turning the tv on)

I found this great show. It's called
ninety day fiancé. It's about couples
who get a K-1 visa. And when the
foreign fiancé gets to America they
follow them for the ninety days they
have to get married or get out.

Gordana Is Finding the Program. Helmi Hasn't Really Heard
Anything She's Said. He's Stares at Her Intensely.

HELMI
 (brushing her hair
 away from her ear)
 Do you know you get more beautiful
 each time I see you.

GORDANA
 (not listening)
 I imagine this could have been us.
 I could have been your ninety day
 fiancé. Here, I'll show you this
 one couple I do not think will make
 it.

Helmi LEANS IN and Begins Kissing Gordana's Neck and Ear.

GORDANA (CONT'D)
 (pulls away)
 Hey, what are you doing?

HELMI
 I'm trying to kiss my fiancé.

GORDANA
 We are not at that point yet.

HELMI
 You kissed me first, at the race
 track!

GORDANA
 That was a congratulatory kiss because
 you didn't kill yourself. That wasn't
 a sexual kiss.

HELMI
 It wasn't?

GORDANA
 No, it wasn't.

HELMI
 But we've been dating for over ninety
 days.

GORDANA
 And after we've dated for ninety
 more I'll re examine our status.
 Until then you may touch me from
 here
 (points to the tip of
 her longest finger)
 to here.
 (points to her wrist
 on the same hand)

HELMI
From here to here?
(points where she
pointed)

GORDANA
Yes. Now would you like to watch
this show with me?

HELMI
Very much.

Gordana Settles In to Helm's Hold and They Begin Watching
T.V.

As Gordana is Focused on the T.V. Helmi Slowly Begins RUBBING
The Back of Gordana's Hand with His Hand.

Helmi Gently Turns Her Hand Over and Begins Sensually Rubbing
Her Palm and Fingers.

Helmi Runs His Fingers Lightly Up and Down Each Of Her Fingers
and Thumb.

Helmi Uses His Entire hand to Circle Sensually Over Gordana's
Hand.

Gordana becomes Flush.

GORDANA
(pulling her hand
away)
What are you doing?

HELMI
(stares intimately in
her eyes)
Just following the rules.

Helmi Leans IN and KISSES Gordana.

Gordana DOES NOT PULL AWAY this time.

Gordana Begins Kissing Helmi Back and They Slowly Collapse
on the couch.

INT. GORDANA'S OFFICE CUBICLE - DAY

Gordana's Co Worker Stands at the Opening of Gordana's
Cubicle.

CO-WORKER
Do you like him?

GORDANA

I do like him. Very much. He's smart he's funny he's daring he's been around the world dozens of times. He's honest. I think I could believe him. I think I could trust him. What about your guy?

CO-WORKER

He's none of those things and I don't trust him....But I'm going to try to make it work.

EXT. GORDANA'S TOWN HOME - EVENING

Gordana and Helmi Exit Their Respective Doors Almost Simultaneously.

Gordana Extends Her Hand to Helmi and He Takes Her Hand.

The Two Hold HANDS and walk to The Car.

EXT. CAR - MOVING - AFTERNOON

Helmi and Gordana Wind Along a Country Road. The Vehicle Is Open and Their Hair Blows.

GORDANA

Why did you come to America?

HELMI

For my job. Why did you come to America.

GORDANA

I came here because I've always believed there was something more to living than pretending to agree with the news every night.

HELMI

Gordana I'm in love with you. I want you to come to Japan with me next week. Then to China then to Korea then to Vietnam then to Switzerland then back here.

GORDANA

That's a lot of stops in a week.

HELMI

Well, we'd be leaving next week. The whole trip will take three weeks.

GORDANA
I can't take three weeks off of work.

HELMİ
You could take one week. You come
to Japan then a week later you come
home.

GORDANA
(stares at Helmi
intently)
...O.k.

INT. PLANE - AFTERNOON

Helmi and Gordana Sit Next to Each Other. Gordana READS a
Nutritional magazine.

Helmi Goes Over Paper Work.

They are Very Calm and at Ease.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. PLANE - NIGHT

A MONTAGE BEGINS Of Helmi and Gordana in Different seats In
Different Planes at Different Times of Night and Day Doing
Different Activities.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. SWISS MOUNTAINSIDE - EVENING

Gordana and Helmi Sit on a Porch Looking Out To A Glorious
Sunset Over the Mountain. They are Very Serene.

GORDANA
I don't think I'll have a job when I
get back.

HELMİ
Maybe your job is with me now.

GORDANA
(definite)
Maybe.

HELMİ
Oh I forgot to tell you, we have one
more stop.

(MORE)

HELMi (CONT'D)

And since you've been gone three weeks a couple more days wont matter, there's a contract my company want's me to pick up in Belgrade.

GORDANA

My parents live only two hours from Belgrade.

HELMi

Really, what a coincidence.

CUT TO:

INT. AIRPORT WAITING AREA - DAY

Helmi and Gordana Walk Thru The Concourse. Each Has A Bag.

HELMi

Maybe we should stay in a hotel. I don't speak Serbian.

GORDANA

My parents would not hear of it. I'll translate.

CUT TO:

EXT. GORDANA'S PARENT'S YARD - AFTERNOON

Gordana's PARENTS Greet Gordana and Helmi. There is a Lot of Brisk Hand Shaking by The Men and Brisk Hugging By the Women.

GORDANA

(in Serbian)

Mom, dad, this is Helmut but as you know I call him Helmi.

GORDANA'S FATHER

(in Serbian)

Welcome to our home.

GORDANA

(to Helmi)

My father said, welcome to their home.

HELMi

Tell your father it is my honor. It's a pleasure and an honor to meet him.

GORDANA
(in Serbian)
Helmi says thank you.

HELMI
What did you say to him?

GORDANA
What you said.

HELMI
No you didn't, you said Helmi says
thank you.

GORDANA
I thought you said you didn't speak
Serbian.

HELMI
I thought you said you would translate
for me?

They Both Laugh.

HELMI (CONT'D)
Now this next part is very important
please try to translate word for
word.

GORDANA
Alright alright.

HELMI
It's my pleasure and honor to meet
you sir.

GORDANA
(in Serbian to her
father)
Helmi says it's his pleasure and
Honor to meet you, dad.

HELMI
And I've come here today to ask you
for your daughters hand in Marriage.

Gordana SLOWLY TURNS HER HEAD BACK to Face Helmi.

GORDANA
Is this a joke because if this is a
joke!

Helmi Smiles at Gordana Slyly.

Gordana JUMPS INTO Helmi's Arms. A Beat.

GORDANA'S FATHER
 (in Serbian)
What the hell is going on.

 GORDANA
 (in Serbian)
Helmi just asked you for my hand in
marriage and you said yes!

EVERYONE Is Overjoyed. There is Much Hugging and Hand
Shaking.

INT. GORDANA'S PARENT'S HOUSE - MORNING

Gordana Helmi and Gordana's Father Sit Around The Table.

 GORDANA'S FATHER
 (in Serbian)
When are you going to get married.

 GORDANA
 (in Serbian)
I don't know dad. Maybe when we get
back to America. It doesn't have to
happen right away.

 HELMI
Of course it does. It should happen
now. Before we go back to America.

 GORDANA
I'm starting to think you speak more
Serbian than I do.

 HELMI
I get like every third word. Listen,
look what I've done Gordana.

Helmi Pulls a Satchel By His Side to the Table.

Helmi Brings Out a Series of Documents.

 HELMI (CONT'D)
I've done all the research. I have
all the paper work.

Helmi Hands Papers to Gordana and Her Father.

 HELMI (CONT'D)
I don't want to rush you and I don't
want to pressure you, but if you
wanted to we can get married any day
before our flight leaves on Tuesday.
 (MORE)

HELMI (CONT'D)

Actually we'd have to do it before Monday. We would need a day to file the papers in Belgrade.

Gordana's Mother Enters Thru a Swinging Utility Door and Puts Spices on the Table.

Helmi Collects UP the Papers and Puts Them Back in His Satchel and the Satchel Away.

In an Instant Gordana's Mother is Back Thru the Door.

In an Instant Gordana's Mother Reappears and Begins Setting the Place Settings.

Gordana's Mother is In and Out the Swinging Door Six More Times In Succession. She Brings Out Glasses, Beverages, Plates, Cutlery, a Dish Of Food, another Dish of Food, another Dish of Food.

Gordana's Mother Retreats Thru the Door.

HELMI (CONT'D)

How many people does she have back there?

GORDANA

It's just her.

Gordana's Mother Instantly Sets More on The Table. The Table is Completely Full.

HELMI

Come on, somebody's got to be handing her stuff.

GORDANA'S MOTHER

(in Serbian)

Give me one minute and we eat.

Gordana's Mother Exits Thru the Door.

GORDANA'S FATHER

(in Serbian)

I want you to translate to Helmut.

GORDANA

(in Serbian)

Of course father.

GORDANA'S FATHER

(in Serbian)

I want you to tell him I think he's
a fine young man and I'm happy you
two are getting married.

GORDANA

My father says you're a good man and
he's happy for us.

GORDANA'S FATHER

(in Serbian)

And there are some things he must
know about you before I feel
comfortable recommending your hand
in marriage to him.

Gordana Stares at Her Father with an evil glare.

Gordana's Father is Resolute.

Gordana Turns Back to Face Helmi.

HELMI

(in Serbian)

What must I know about my bride to
be.

Gordana is Flabbergasted.

GORDANA'S FATHER

(in Serbian)

Woman have changed from when I got
married. As much as I love my
daughter

(Gordana Smiles)

I don't think she's going to make
you a good wife.

(Gordana slaps her
father's shoulder)

What, I'm telling the truth. Isn't
that what you want. You wanted it
in grade school when you wrote about
your trip to Russia? I'm just saying,
the effort Helmut you just saw from
her mother my wife you are never
going to get that out of Gordana.

GORDANA

He's right about that.

HELMI
(in Serbian)
I'll take my chances, sir.

CUT TO:

EXT. GORDANA'S PARENT'S YARD - DAY

The Yard is Festively Decorated for the Wedding. PEOPLE
MILL About.

Gordana's Father is Introducing Helmut to MANY OTHER MEN.

INT. GORDANA'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Gordana Sits In Front of a Mirror Wearing a White Dress.

Gordana's Serbian's Friend Stands Behind Gordana Brushing
Gordana's Hair.

The Friend Looks Very Sad.

GORDANA
You don't have to look so sad.

GIRLFRIEND
Oh I'm not sad. I'm happy for you
Gordana. I truly am.

GORDANA
You got married first.

GIRLFRIEND
Yes, I suppose.

Gordana's Father Opens The Door to The Room and Sticks His
Head In.

GORDANA'S FATHER
(in Serbian)
Helmut needs a handkerchief from his
suit case.

Gordana Gets Up and Goes to a Suitcase on the Bed.

GIRLFRIEND
(in Serbian)
I'll bring it to him.

Gordana's Father Nods and Slips Back Out the Door.

Gordana Wrestles Around in The Suitcase and Pulls Out a
Handkerchief and a BOTTLE OF PRESCRIPTION PILLS.

GORDANA
 (to herself in English)
..What's this?

Gordana READS The Label.

The label is Written In Russian.

The Prescription Is Made Out to Svetlana Yuryevich.

 GORDANA (CONT'D)
What *Is* This!

Gordana Brushes Past Her Friend and Out Of the Room Screaming.

 GORDANA (CONT'D)
WHAT IS THIS!

CUT TO:

EXT. GORDANA'S PARENT'S YARD - MOMENT LATER

Gordana RUNS From The House.

 GORDANA
WHAT IS THIS!

All Activity Ceases And Directs Attention to Gordana.

Gordana Heads Strait for Helmi Who is Unaware Speaking With People.

Gordana Is right Behind Helmi.

 GORDANA (CONT'D)
WHAT IS THIS!?

Helmi Turns To Face Gordana.

 GORDANA (CONT'D)
 (near tears whispering
 in Swiss German)
What is this?

 HELMI
I don't know my love I would have to
look at it to tell you.

Gordana Throws The Bottle At Helmi. The Bottle Bounce Off Helmi and Hits The Ground. Helmi Bends Down and Picks The Bottle Up and Begins Examining It.

The Crowd begins To Mingle and Tries to Ignore the Scene.

HELMİ V.O.

In Europe, east and west, and Asia to be sure, all operate with a different sense of what's legal and not legal, safe and not safe, effective and not effective, in terms of prescription drugs. A prescription you can get in Russia you can't necessarily get anywhere else. Some years ago, one of the good things that came out of my time with Svetlana, was a pill she took that helped her sleep. I took one once and it helped me. I couldn't find it anywhere in the world except in Moscow. And Svetlana wouldn't tell me where she got the prescription. But she did hook me up with a big bottle for a big price.

Helmi Looks Up From Studying The Pills.

HELMİ

Here, look here. Look at the date.

GORDANA

I don't need to look at the date.
I'm looking into your soul.

Gordana Turns and Walks back Into The House.

HELMİ V.O.

You see the irony, that bottle was over four years old. I was almost out and I rarely took them anymore anyway but I thought they might come in handy with how exciting things were going to be with the wedding and all.

Gordana's Friend Stands Nearby SMILING.

She's finally found her joy.

Helmi Nods To Her and Smiles Quickly as He Passes Her and Heads For The House.

INT. GORDANA'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Gordana Is Sitting On The Bed Lightly crying.

Helmi Enters but Does Not Approach.

HELMI

The pills are from four years ago.
They're not recent. I have not seen
that woman since she left my house.
I don't know what else to say to
you, Gordana. Perhaps we're rushing
this wedding?

GORDANA

Perhaps we are.

HELMI

Gordana, there's going to come a
moment when you realize you've made
a mistake. About the pills not the
wedding. And when you do, there's
going to be no need for you to
apologize. Because, you're already
forgiven.

Helmi Sets The Bottle on a Dresser and Exits. Gordana is
Extremely Confused.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. PLANE - LATER

Helmi and Gordana Sit Next To Each Other. There's a chilly
détente.

They Both Have Eyes Front Looking Very Sad.

CUT TO:

INT. GORDANA'S OFFICE CUBICLE - MORNING

Gordana's Co-Worker Enters The Cubicle and Sits.

CO-WORKER

I'm telling you it's like the wild
west over there. From all the
information I've gathered, it looks
like he's telling the truth.

Gordana Contemplates.

EXT. GORDANA'S TOWN HOME - AFTERNOON

Helmi, His Friend, and Gordana's Co-worker All Stand Around
an OLD CAR Out Front of The Condo's.

The Three Laugh and Drink Beers.

INT. GORDANA'S TOWN HOME - CONTINUOUS

Gordana Is At Her Front Blinds Looking Out to The Three on the Street In Front of Her.

Gordana Holds Two Blinds Slightly Apart So She Can See.

Gordana Brings Up The Binoculars to get a Better Look.

Thru The Binoculars Gordana Studies Close Up The Beer They Are Drinking.

Gordana Then Looks at Her Co-Worker and Then Helmi's Friend.

Finally Gordana Rests Her Gaze On Helmi. A Beat.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. GORDANA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Gordana Lays Awake Staring at The Ceiling. She is firmly located on the Right Side of the bed.

Gordana lets Out A Long Sigh.

CUT TO:

INT. HELMI'S BEDROOM ABOVE GORDANA'S - CONTINUOUS

Helmi Lays Awake Also Staring at The Ceiling. He is firmly located on the Left Side of The Bed.

Helmi Closes His Eyes. Then Quickly Opens Them Back Up.

CUT TO:

EXT. GORDANA'S TOWN HOME - MORNING

Gordana Water's Her Hanging Flowers.

Helmi Exits His Door with a Bag.

Gordana Smiles At Helmi and He Smiles Back.

Helmi Walks Down The Path and gets In A Cab.

The Cab Drives Away.

FADE TO:

EXT. GORDANA'S TOWN HOME - DAY

A Different Taxi Pulls Up.

Helmi Gets Out With His Bag. He Looks Around For Gordana.

Helmi Walks Up The Path and Stands In Front Of Gordana's Door.

Helmi Raise His Arm to Knock.

Helmi Hesitates Then Pulls His Arm Down.

Helmi Enters His Own Door.

At That Moment Gordana's Door Opens and Gordana Looks Left Then Right.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. GORDANA'S TOWN HOME - PATIO - DAY

Gordana Steps Out to the Patio and Sees Helmi Sitting On The Love Seat In The CourtYard.

EXT. GORDANA'S TOWN HOME - COURTYARD - CONTINUOUS

Gordana Has Walked Over and She Sets Herself Down Next to Helmi.

Helmi Becomes Aware of Her Presence and Lifts Up His Arm For Her to Get Closer.

GORDANA
I wanted to thank you.

HELMİ
For what?

GORDANA
For forgiving me.

HELMİ
You're welcome.

GORDANA
I want to go back to the way we were.

HELMİ
We can't go back. We can only go forward.

GORDANA
Do you want to go forward?

HELMİ
I do.

GORDANA
Then let's go forward.

Gordana Begins Sensually Rubbing Helmi's Palm.

Helmi Allows her More Access. Gordana Rubs and Caresses and Studies His Palm.

HELMI

I never knew you were a palm reader.

Gordana Is Floored As A MEMORY Rushes Into Her.

GORDANA

Excuse me....did you die?

A Beat.

INT. BRIGHT ROOM - DAY

Helmi Sits at The Cafe Table Sipping His Cappuccino.

EXT. COURTYARD - CONTINUOUS

Helmi Stares Intrigued.

HELMI

How did you know?

Gordana Collapses Tightly Under Helmi's Hold.

GORDANA V.O.

Years before when the psychic told me my perfect man was currently dead and I told my friend I believed the psychic, I was lying. I didn't believe her. How could anyone ever possibly believe anything like that, ever?...I believe her now.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

TITLE OVER:

AND THEY LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER

FADE IN:

TITLE OVER:

TRUE STORY

THE END