

ANNA AND BAZAROV 1

ANNA

Why is it... that... music, or a good conversation... Why is it that stuff like that seems like a... like a glimpse of happiness from somewhere else... That's more than the happiness I feel right now...

BAZAROV

I never think about that kind of thing.

ANNA

What do you think about.

BAZAROV

I don't know.

ANNA

No, what do you think about. Tell me something.

What do you want.

What's your future look like. Who are you?

BAZAROV

(Laughing nervously) I'm... a med student.

ANNA

But who are you.

BAZAROV

(Exasperated) I'm... going to be a doctor!

ANNA

Bull, that's an Arkady answer!

BAZAROV

What's Arkady got to do with it?

ANNA

It's not even about the future, I just want to know what's going on inside you –

BAZAROV

"Going on," what am I, a country, a society? There's nothing going on inside me!

ANNA

Why can't you just say what's on your mind?

BAZAROV
Can you?

ANNA
Yes!

BAZAROV
Well... then you're lucky!

ANNA
Something tells me we're going to be good friends. Sometime, I think, all the tension in you will go away.

BAZAROV
Tension?
(A pause.)
So you want to know what's going on inside me? You really want to know?
(A pause.)
I love you.
I am stupidly... idiotically... in love with you. There. You see what you did?

ANNA
Eugene...

BAZAROV
Well. I was bound to say it sooner or later.

ANNA
Don't go just yet...

(A pause.)

BAZAROV
You don't love me?

(She stares at him for a moment... She seems almost afraid of him.)

Goodnight, Anna.

(He exits.)

ANNA AND BARAZOV 2

ANNA

You can't leave... What about your promise?

BAZAROV

What promise?

ANNA

You were going to teach me... the names of frogs...

BAZAROV

I'll send you a textbook.

ANNA

You said yourself, a book isn't the same as... Your break's not over till Monday.

BAZAROV

I have to see my parents.

ANNA

Why go?

BAZAROV

Why stay?

ANNA

You think no one will miss you if you go?

BAZAROV

I'm sure they won't.

ANNA

You're wrong if you think that.

BAZAROV

What's there to miss about me? I'm very uninteresting. Not much of a conversationalist.

ANNA

You're fishing for compliments.

(A pause.)

It'll be boring when you go.

BAZAROV
Not for long.

ANNA
What does that mean?

BAZAROV
You said yourself you're only bored when your routine is disrupted... And the way you've ordered your life... It all fits together like clockwork. You'll have no time to be bored.

ANNA
You never told me the Latin name for that tree.

BAZAROV
I don't know my tree classifications.

ANNA
Tell me one thing about yourself, then. You never talk about yourself.

BAZAROV
I try to talk about things that matter, Anna.

ANNA
One thing. Tell me about your family. Tell me about the father you're leaving me for.

BAZAROV
None of that's interesting.

ANNA
We're all trees, then... huh? One just like the other?

BAZAROV
Maybe you're right. Maybe every person is a riddle...
Take you, for instance. You're smart, you obviously have the brains to make something of yourself... With your brains and your looks, why are you living in the middle of nowhere?

ANNA
My looks?

BAZAROV
(Flustered) Nevermind... I just mean, I don't understand –

ANNA
You don't understand why I won't sell my parents' house? How do you explain it to yourself?

(A pause.)

BAZAROV

Because... you're a coward. You like to be comfortable. You like convenience.
Is that right?

ANNA

You still don't believe I can get swept away?

BAZAROV

By curiosity, maybe... Nothing else.

ANNA

Now I understand what brought us together, Eugene... You're exactly like me.