

FENICHKA, NIKOLAI, PAVEL

PAVEL

Where are you off to in such a hurry?

(She freezes.)

FENICHKA

The baby's crying.

PAVEL

I don't hear a baby.

Keep a sick man company for a moment... Please?

(A pause.)

I've been wanting to ask you... Are you afraid of me?

FENICHKA

Me?

PAVEL

You always avoid looking at me. Like you were guilty. But you're not guilty of anything, are you?

FENICHKA

Why should I be?

PAVEL

How should I know.

(A pause.)

Do you love my brother?

FENICHKA

Of course.

PAVEL

You wouldn't trade him for anyone?

FENICHKA

My God, who for?

PAVEL

Who knows.

(A pause.)

Maybe that young doctor who left us recently?

FENICHKA

(Horried) How could you... You have no idea what you're talking about! How could you accuse me of something like that?

PAVEL

I saw you. Out there.

FENICHKA

And how was that my fault!

PAVEL

It... wasn't?

FENICHKA

(Outraged) I can't believe you have such an opinion of me... That you would believe I... I love Nikolai. I would never do anything to hurt him. I would never... (She loses her voice.)

PAVEL

Please love him, Fenichka.

Love my brother.

He's a good, kind man.

Do you know what hell it is, to love someone and not be loved in return?

(Just then, Nikolai enters, carrying Mitya. Fenichka runs to him)

NIKOLAI

Woahhh, what's this all about?

FENICHKA

(To baby) Are you hungry, monkey? It's time you were hungry...

(She exits.)

NIKOLAI

I was about to bring the little monkey in to say hi to you. He misses his uncle. What did she go taking him away for?

How you feeling, not any worse?

PAVEL

Better.

NIKOLAI

(Re: leg) Plagiarism! I'm going to sue you for plagiarism!

(Nikolai makes a show of his own limping leg.)

(A pause.)

NIKOLAI (CONT'D)

I don't know if you saw Bazarov left this morning. He sends his best.

PAVEL

Came to see me, in fact.

NIKOLAI

He tells me you invited him to the range... Since when do you go to the shooting range?

PAVEL

Time in the country... It'll change you, brother.

NIKOLAI

Would you tell me the truth?

(A pause.)

PAVEL

Have you ever noticed she looks like Nelly?

NIKOLAI

Who?

PAVEL

Fenichka... You remember Nelly, don't you? Every time Fenichka walks by...

Like seeing a ghost!

(A pause.)

The nose, the shape of her eyes...

You'd almost think those two were family.