

## KATYA AND ARKADY

KATYA

It's not that I don't like him...

He just seems like a stranger. Now you're a stranger to him too.

ARKADY

Why's that?

KATYA

Oh, what do I mean? He's a wild animal. And you and me are tame.

ARKADY

I'm a wild animal!

KATYA

No you're not.

*(A pause.)*

Do you want to be wild?

ARKADY

I want to be... strong! full of energy!

*(A pause.)*

He must have made an impression on Anna.

KATYA

No one gets the better of her for long.

ARKADY

I think you're afraid of her.

KATYA

Why, are you?

ARKADY

Absolutely.

*(She laughs.)*

KATYA

She's gotten nicer to you.

ARKADY

You think?

KATYA  
Are you pleased?

ARKADY  
What for?

KATYA  
Reasons I'm not going to tell.

ARKADY  
What! Why not?

KATYA  
Sorry.

ARKADY  
You're stubborn, I know that... The two of you have that in common.

KATYA  
Don't compare me to my sister.... I'd come out of it badly.

ARKADY  
What? Why! You're just as smart... and, observant... and as interesting, if not more –

KATYA  
You're forgetting that my sister is beautiful... You of all people! Don't tease about that.

ARKADY  
What's that mean, "you of all people?" And what makes you think I'm joking? What if I meant every word? What if I didn't even put it strongly enough?

KATYA  
What are you saying?

ARKADY  
You're not as observant as I thought.

KATYA  
Why?

ARKADY  
Katya! (He struggles to find words.) You probably don't care one way or the other, but I would never trade you for your sister... or... for anyone else on earth!