

G I C A

wri tten by

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INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

RALUCA (late 20s) is walking between some moving boxes, all full. She's doing her best to organize her stuff in such a way, touse the least boxes possible. Only part of the things around the room have been put into boxes.

Raluca hears the intercom. She goes to answer.

TEODORA
Are you ready?

RALUCA
Yes. Come up.

Raluca closes the box next to her, picks it up, takes it to the entrance door, opens the door and puts the box next to it, so that the door will remain open.

She goes to the bathroom.

The elevator has reached her floor.

TEODORA (late 20s) enters the apartment. She looks for Raluca, understands she's in the bathroom. Goes to the bedroom and stops next to the boxes.

Raluca comes out of the bathroom.

TEODORA
Is this all?

RALUCA
Yes. How many did you think I had?

TEODORA
Don't know. More.

RALUCA
Nope. After five years, I'm left with three boxes.

TEODORA
Five beautiful years.

RALUCA
Fabulous!

Teodora tries to take as many boxes as possible.

RALUCA (CONT'D)
It's OK. We'll come back.

TEODORA
 Nooo! We take it all. Don't you
 want to get it done faster?

Raluca nods 'yes'. Teodora puts the box down and lifts her arms, placing them parallel to the floor.

TEODORA (CONT' D)
 Load it.

Raluca stacks a few boxes, one on top of the other.

RALUCA
 You're good.

TEODORA
 One more.

RALUCA
 You sure?

TEODORA
 Positive. One more!

Raluca adds one more box. Teodora, from waist to head, has disappeared behind boxes.

She walks out of the room, walking slowly. When she stumbles onto a box or object, Raluca guides her.

TEODORA (CONT' D)
 (from the threshold)
 You OK to take the rest?

RALUCA
 Sure.

TEODORA
 Hurry, let's not hold the elevator
 too long.

Raluca picks up a bigger box. When trying to pick a second, she notices a blanket on the bed. She puts the box down, takes the blanket. Looks at it for a second and throws it back on the bed.

RALUCA
 Fuck it...

Raluca picks up the remaining boxes and slams the entrance door behind her.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

Sunday service. Raluca enters the church, buys a few candles and walks around, kissing the holy icons. Stops next to the last and, eyes closed, prays.

She opens her eyes to find MARIA (early 30s, GICA's sister) right next to her, kissing an icon and taking a peak at her.

Raluca goes to the rear of the church, without a word. She listens to the service.

Maria kisses one more icon and joins Raluca.

MARIA
How are you?

RALUCA
Fine.

Raluca does her best to avoid talking, taking into account they're inside the church and the service continues.

MARIA
You came to church?

RALUCA
Yes... I didn't for too long.

MARIA
Gica told me you moved out.

RALUCA
I did...

MARIA
For how long?

RALUCA
Two weeks?

MARIA
(in a low tone)
Bitch.

RALUCA
Sorry?

Maria puffs and looks away.

MARIA
Are you OK?

RALUCA
Sorry?

MARIA
Are you OK? Are you happy?

RALUCA
I don't know... I didn't have time
to think about it...

MARIA
What about him? Did you have time
to think about him? That he loves
you? That you stole all his youth
and left him?

An OLD LADY next to them asks them to keep quiet. The girls
stop for a few seconds.

MARIA (CONT'D)
You didn't. You wouldn't have left
if you did.

Raluca's silent. She look at her shoes, the floor.

MARIA (CONT'D)
Why didn't you come to talk to me?

RALUCA
There was nothing to talk about.

MARIA
Wasn't it?

They keep quiet for a few more seconds. They listen to the
service.

MARIA (CONT'D)
Of course there wasn't. What to
talk about, since you were cheating
on him?

RALUCA
I never cheated on him!

MARIA
Really, you didn't? Admit it. You
left him for another man! (BEAT)
What could he have more than Gi ca?

Raluca wants to leave. Maria catches her by the hand. She
talks louder.

MARIA (CONT' D)
 What? Running away? The truth makes
 you mad?

The old lady asks them again to keep quiet. Maria gets angry.

MARIA (CONT' D)
 Shut it! (BEAT) This bitch makes an
 ass of my brother and I should keep
 quiet?

All the WOMEN are now staring at them.

MARIA (CONT' D)
 Tell us, so the ladies can hear. Is
 he good in bed? Is it huge?

Raluca pulls away from Maria and runs out of the church.
 She's crying.

Maria shouts after her.

MARIA (CONT' D)
 Run, run! At least you're ashamed
 of God, if people don't get you
 moved!
 (to the women in the
 church)
 Five years he took care of her and
 as soon as he hit a hurdle, the
 bitch runs with another one.

INT. IKEA - DAY

Raluca and Teodora are walking around IKEA with an empty
 cart.

TEODORA
 Won't you buy anything?

RALUCA
 I'd buy them all.

TEODORA
 Buy them!

RALUCA
 Sure, and my father, the prince of
 Egypt, will pay for it.

TEODORA
 Buy them Raluca. Stop denying your
 pleasures!
 (MORE)

TEODORA (CONT'D)
 These last years taught you
 bad. (BEAT) How many lives do you
 think you have?

Raluca looks at Teodora, smiles and grabs a few products fast. She puts them in the cart.

Teodora smiles satisfied.

INT. IKEA - LATER

Raluca's basket is half full. Teodora smiles satisfied every time Raluca add something more.

Raluca's phone rings.

SIMONA (V.O.)
 Ralucuta! How are you?

RALUCA
 Hey! Fine. Out shopping with a
 friend. And you?

SIMONA (V.O.)
 Home, with the kids. Cooking
 something. What are you buying?

RALUCA
 Some stuff... I'm in IKEA.

Simona lists some of the products from Raluca's cart.

SIMONA (V.O.)
 IKEA? What are you getting?
 Like... a bathroom shelf, a bedside,
 some sheets...

RALUCA
 Haha. Yes! You've guessed a few!
 Haha.

SIMONA (V.O.)
 Some red sheets with white dots?

SIMONA (early 30s -Gica's cousin) shows up behind Raluca.
 Teodora's laughing.

RALUCA
 Haha! You know me so well! It's
 like you'd be...

Simona taps Raluca on her shoulder. The girls put the phones down and hug and scream.

RALUCA (CONT' D)
And Tudor?

SIMONA
At the restaurant, with the kids.
My cousin?

RALUCA
Not sure. At work maybe?

Simona stops.

SIMONA
Wait a minute... What do you mean
you're not sure?

RalUCA's smiling.

RALUCA
Well... We broke up.

SIMONA
Really?? When??

RALUCA
A few days ago.

SIMONA
You broke up with him?

RALUCA
No, we both agreed.

SIMONA
Impossible... Be frank, you're with
someone else?

RALUCA
No...

SIMONA
Was he cheating on you?

RALUCA
Haha. No. It wasn't working
anymore. We were living different
lives. We had different plans, we
wanted different things from our
lives...

SIMONA
For better. (BEAT) And? Did you see
him again?

RALUCA
No. It'd be weird. We'd only suffer more. I took all my stuff and moved.

TEODORA
Like a band-aid.

SIMONA
What about us? Do we have to break up, too?

RALUCA
Why?

SIMONA
Since I'm his cousin...

RALUCA
What does that have to do with anything? How could I stop seeing the kids?

SIMONA
Right. Want to see them?

RALUCA
Obviously!

SIMONA
Let's go! They've grown since you'll see them last.

The girls go to the restaurant.

EXT. BUS TERMINAL - DAY

A couch parks in the terminal. Raluca's parents get down, MOM (late 50s) and DAD (early 60s) returning from a trip to Greece. Raluca's meeting them.

Her mother stays with her. Her father, all smiles, kisses her and goes to pick the luggage.

RALUCA
How was it?

FATHER
Very, very nice!

MOTHER
Dear, you've lost a lot of weight! What's wrong, are you depressed?

RALUCA

No. I'm really well. Tell me... How was it?

MOTHER

Let me help your dad.

Her dad is buried in luggage. Her parents have bought all the cheap stuff Greece had to offer, including a sombrero as big as the couch. Her dad puts it on his head and smiles.

FATHER

Best 5 euro investment!

Raluca and her mom help him. Her dad notices something.

FATHER (CONT'D)

Raluca... You are wearing a single earring?

RALUCA

I am. A friend of has the other one. We wear one each.

FATHER

No kidding...

They head to the terminal exit.

RALUCA

Let me call a taxi.

FATHER

What taxi? It's expensive... We'll take the bus.

MOTHER

I still can't understand why you had to come and pick us from the terminal.

Raluca asks them to keep quiet, so she can hear the cab ID and waiting time.

INT. BUS - MINUTES LATER

The bus is packed. Her dad is sitting on a chair in the back, Raluca and her mom move to the front. Most of the luggage are next to her dad.

MOTHER

And Gica? Didn't he want to come?

RALUCA
No.

MOTHER
How is he?

RALUCA
Fine. He's probably at work.

MOTHER
Good. (BEAT) You get along well?
He's a nice guy.

RALUCA
Yes... Tell me, how was it?

MOTHER
It was great! Your dad enjoyed it a
lot, having not had a vacation for
so long...

Raluca notices her dad getting up and gathering the luggage. She waves him to sit back. Her mom also notices him and she also gets up.

MOTHER (CONT'D)
A... we're getting down at this
one?

RALUCA
No, sit down, we have some more.

Raluca continues to wave her dad to sit down. Her father's showing her something outside the window.

RALUCA (CONT'D)
(shouting)
I know... Sit down! I'll tell you
when we get down.

MOTHER
Aren't we getting down?

RALUCA
No. I moved.

MOTHER
You moved?

RALUCA
I moved. I broke up with Gica.

Raluca's mother shows a huge smile.

MOTHER
You moved? For how long?

RALUCA
A few days.

MOTHER
Alone?

RALUCA
Yes.

Her mother gets up, smiling wide and waves to Raluca's father. They both shout.

FATHER
Are we getting down?

MOTHER
No. She moved!

FATHER
What?

MOTHER
Raluca. She moved! She'll tell us where to get down.

INT. KITCHEN - TEODORA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Raluca and her mother are in the kitchen. Raluca is smoking, her mother at the fridge. On the table there are a few gifts which her parents have brought her from Greece. Her dad is in the living, watching TV.

MOTHER
Your roommate is nice. You get along well, don't you?

RALUCA
Yes... She's really nice.

MOTHER
Raluca, I can't understand how you stayed for so long with him. Every time he was visiting he was in a bad mood. I've never seen such a squeamish person in my life. This is not good, that is not good... You're a beautiful and smart girl, you deserve a special boy.

Raluca continues to smoke.

MOTHER (CONT' D)
 If only you'd quit smoking... you'd
 be perfect, dear. You'll see,
 you'll find someone nice soon.

Her mother looks at her.

MOTHER (CONT' D)
 Have you found someone else?

RALUCA
 No.

MOTHER
 He was cheating on you, wasn't he?

RALUCA
 No mom, why would he be cheating on
 me?

MOTHER
 Don't lie to me. You think I don't
 know? You think I didn't see how he
 was looking at your sister?

RALUCA
 When?

MOTHER
 Last New Year's. Eh, it doesn't
 matter anymore.

Raluca's dad comes to the kitchen holding an empty bottle of
 beer. He throws it to the trash.

FATHER
 One more?

Raluca's mother picks another bottle from the fridge and
 hands it to him.

FATHER (CONT' D)
 This TV is amazing! How big were
 you saying it is?

RALUCA
 92.

FATHER
 As soon as we get home, we'll buy
 one.

He goes back to the living. Raluca puts off her cigarette.

MOTHER

You remember your sister living with you, that week the dorms were closed?

Raluca is listening. She gets up, takes the empty bottle from the trash and puts it in a separate bag, to recycle.

MOTHER (CONT' D)

One day, when you were working, he started telling her that he's fed up paying for her, that'd be better if she could find something to work, that...

RALUCA

But he wasn't working.

MOTHER

Exactly! So you were working for the pig, paying for his rent, his food, his beer and cigarettes, and he was telling your sister he can't provide for her!

Raluca returns to the table. Lights a new cigarette.

RALUCA

Why didn't you tell me??

MOTHER

Your sister wanted to tell you, but I thought it better not to. Why give you a headache?

Lunch is ready.

MOTHER (CONT' D)

Put off that cigarette and let's eat.

(to father)

Sorine! Let's eat!

INT. TEODORA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Raluca's in the living, on the couch. She's watching a film.

She hears the bathroom door. Teodora checks what Raluca is doing.

TEODORA

You want juice?

RALUCA
Yeah, bring some.

Teodora goes to the kitchen and returns with a glass and a bottle of juice. She lays them on the coffee table. Fills a glass of juice.

TEODORA
(regarding the film)
What happened?

RALUCA
Not much.

Teodora hands Raluca the glass.

RALUCA (CONT'D)
Not now.

Teodora drinks the juice and puts the glass on the table. She sits on the couch.

Raluca cuddles into Teodora's arms. They're both watching the film, quietly. Raluca puts her left hand on Teodora's face, caresses her and starts playing with her earring.

THE END.