

The Gypsy King

Written by

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FADE IN:

CLOSE-UP ON A SERIES OF FAMILY PHOTOS

NARRATOR (V.O.)

In February 1917, there was a series of revolutions which dismantled the Tsarist Autocracy. Tsar Nicholas Romanov II was forced to abdicate his throne. A new government was formed: The Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic. This new government placed Nicholas and his family under house arrest. For their protection, the new government moved the family and their court to Toblosk, Siberia.

CLOSE-UP ON A PHOTO OF RUSSIAN REVOLUTIONARIES

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. TOBLOSK HOUSE -- DAY

SUPERIMPOSE: MARCH 1918

ANYA (16) and TATIANA (20) have a snowball fight. Both girls are dressed in long wool coats and boots. Anya wears a fur hat and boots, and Tatiana a red hat and red scarf.

A PHOTOGRAPHER takes pictures of the girls.

Anya discreetly stuffs a few pebbles into a snowball. She throws it at Tatiana.

ANYA

Take that!

The snowball hits Tatiana in the face. A small welt forms on her cheek. Tatiana gives Anya an angry stare, stomping her feet.

TATIANA

She is doing this *again!*

Tatiana stomps towards the door.

TATIANA (CONT'D)

Mooooooooo!

MARGARETTA EAGER (35, tall, matronly dressed with her dark hair in a bun) walks outside, just as Tatiana's ready to come into the house.

MARGARETTA

Tatiana, it is Maria's birthday tomorrow. Audrienne is making a cake. Do you want to help her?

TATIANA

(cracking a tiny smile)  
Yes, Miss Margareta.

MARGARETTA

OK. Go upstairs and wash up. It is time for your English lesson. I'll meet you in the library. Anya, it's time for your piano lesson. Go upstairs and get washed up.

ANYA

Miss Margareta, can I make a cake too?

MARGARETTA

No. Your behavior towards your sister is unacceptable. Go wash up, you're dismissed.

Margaretta beckons both girls to come inside. She follows them through the door, as does the photographer.

INT. TOBLOSK HOUSE -- DAY -- CONTINUOUS

As they enter the house, Margareta notices AUDRIENNE HORVATH (a 25-year-old cook/maid with light brown hair) in the kitchen, serving tea to ALEXEI.

AUDRIENNE

Alexei, can you please tell Tsaritsa Alexandra that I wish to speak to her?

ALEXEI

Yes, Audrienne.

Audrienne places the tea kettle on the stove and stares out the window. She shakes herself out of a "daze" as Margareta begins to speak.

MARGARETTA

Alexei, it's time for your lesson.  
I will see you in the study.

Margareta and Alexei leave the room.

Audrienne looks off pensively, as if she wants to say more, but it is too afraid.

Alexei moves into the library, meeting up with TSARITSA ALEXANDRA.

ALEXEI

Mother, Miss Audrienne wants to speak with you.

ALEXANDRA

Thank you, Alexei. After your English lesson, your dad wishes to speak with you. He will meet you here when you are done.

Alexandra goes upstairs to her bedroom. Her expression immediately changes to one of worry and sadness.

TSAR NICHOLAUS sits in a chair, staring out a window with a brooding look on his face. Alexandra quickly goes to him and reaches for his hand.

ALEXANDRA (CONT'D)

Nicholaus... you are a wonderful father and the most gracious of all husbands! You have done your best, but the fate of Russia is in God's hands now.

NICHOLAUS

Generations of blood has been spilled for Mother Russia. May it not be spilled in vain. May God have mercy on my soul.

ALEXANDRA

Remember, God's strength is found in your weakness. You have been a humble servant of the Lord. Sometimes, as servants, we can not see the "big picture" or the plans God has for Russia.

Still holding hands. Nicholas stands up and hugs Alexandra.

NICHOLAUS

Having faith in God is very  
difficult. I pray you haven't lost  
faith in me.

ALEXANDRA

My dearest, Russia will live on!  
Now is the time to devote to your  
family. We will not ever lose  
faith in you.

A brief pause in the conversation. Alexandra sighs.

ALEXANDRA (CONT'D)

I have sown seeds of love into the  
soldiers of Russia. Many days I  
have aided nurses in the hospital.  
The look in the soldiers eyes! OH  
Dearest Nicholas! Through their  
eyes... I felt the soul of Mother  
Russia!

Alexandra looks at a photo of her and a Russian soldier  
NICKOLAI KOLYA (26, tall, blonde wavy hair). The photo was  
taken at a hospital. Kolya is laying in bed.

ALEXANDRA (CONT'D)

I remember the soldiers that came  
back from Manchuria. The nurses  
and I were so overwhelmed. I had  
to hold back my tears. So many  
times I just had to hide behind a  
curtain. I just couldn't let them  
see me cry. I could not bear to  
impose anymore grief upon our  
beloved soldiers. I wanted to be a  
source of comfort and inspiration.

Nicholaus gently touches her chin and smiles.

NICHOLAUS

Yes. That day you came home from  
the hospital was etched in my  
memory forever. You seemed so  
distant for several days. Then I  
realized, your heart was still with  
the soldiers. Even the children  
noticed there was something  
different about you.

She takes ahold of both his hands and looks at him with a fleeting somber look. Then, a glimpse of happiness appears in her eyes.

ALEXANDRA

Yes. Anya's violin playing and our children's laughter brought me back. Back into your arms! Where I always wanted to be.

Nicholaus and Alexandra share a warm-hearted smile.

IN THE KITCHEN...

Audrienne washes dishes.

A KNOCK is at the door. Audrienne walks over to open it.

A GUARD hands her a letter. The name "GRIGORI RASPUTIN" is printed across the front.

AUDRIENNE

Thank you.

The guard walks off and she closes the door. Makes her way upstairs to the master bedroom. Knocks on the door.

Alexandra answers.

AUDRIENNE (CONT'D)

Tsar Nicholas and Tsaritsa Alexandra, there is a letter downstairs. It's from Grigori Rasputin.

ALEXANDRA

(suddenly becoming cheerful)

Rasputin?! Let's go downstairs, Nicholas. Audrienne, gather the children. I will read the letter to them in the library.

AUDRIENNE

Yes, Tsaritsa.

IN THE STUDY/LIBRARY...

Alexandra, Nicholas, Audrienne, Margareta, and all the kids (Tatiana, Anya, Alexei, and the other two daughters OLGA and MARIA) are gathered together in the room. Maria is 19 years old with long, wavy brown hair and soft eyes.

MARGARETTA

Rasputin has sent a letter. Tsar  
Nicholaus and Tsaritsa Alexandra  
would like to read it to you.

Alexandra reads the letter to herself. Tears well up in her  
eyes.

Nicholaus places a comforting hand on her shoulder. She  
hands the letter to him.

ALEXANDRA

Oh, how I miss Rasputin. He has  
been a loyal family friend and  
fierce protector of our daughters'  
hearts! I hope Palestine is  
treating him well.

Nicholaus reads the letter aloud.

NICHOLAUS

"Tsar Nicholaus, Tsaritsa  
Alexandra, Olga, Maria, Tatiana,  
Anastacia and Alexei: I am writing  
you this letter while on a journey.  
My soul is learning much, but my  
heart remains with your family. My  
girls, your laughter IS my  
medicine."

Several of the kids smile and laugh.

NICHOLAUS (CONT'D)

"Alexei, stay strong and continue  
to make your parents proud.  
Love, Grigori Rasputin."

Audrienne delivers a morose frown.

ALEXANDRA

Audrienne, Margareta told me you  
wished to speak with me.

AUDRIENNE

Yes... I wish to speak with you in  
private. It is a matter of  
importance.

Alexandra studies the concerned look on Audrienne's face.

ALEXANDRA

Let us go to the sitting room.

IN THE SITTING ROOM...

Audrienne sits down, wringing her hands. Noticing her increasing discomfort, Alexandra sits next to her.

ALEXANDRA (CONT'D)

What has you so worried, my dear?

AUDRIENNE

I don't know where to start.

Audrienne puts her head in her hands and starts to cry. Alexandra kneels down before her.

AUDRIENNE (CONT'D)

I can't sleep. I've been having these... dreams. I won't repeat them, since I don't wish to speak any harm to your family.

Audrienne slightly pulls herself together. She wipes a tear from her eye and straightens her posture.

AUDRIENNE (CONT'D)

Tsaritsa... you know what is going on, right? The Red Army is gaining strength. The fate of Russia is very volatile right now. I am afraid for you and your family.

ALEXANDRA

Yes, Audrienne... we know what's happening. Tsar Nicholas is in communication with Alexander Kerensky of the Provisional Government. They have assured us that we are safe here in Toblosk.

AUDRIENNE

It is not the Red Army that concerns me. It is the people of Russia. The working people are rising up in arms against Tsar Nicholas. My family has heard so many bad things said about Tsar Nicholas. So many people not only want to hurt him, but your whole family!

ALEXANDRA

(taking Audrienne's hand)

Audrienne, may the Lord bless you for your loyalty and love for my family. I have had many a discussion with Tsar Nicholas.

(MORE)

## ALEXANDRA (CONT'D)

The fate of Russia is very uncertain right now. Yet, we are assured that God will protect us and deliver us. We do not know our future, but we do know that we are in His hands! May the Lord's will be done in our lives and yours also!

## AUDRIENNE

Tsaritsa Alexandra, I pledge my love and service to you and your family. Whatever the future may bring, I will honor you.

The women hug. They exit the room and go their separate ways.

IN THE STUDY...

Alexandra enters.

## ALEXANDRA

Nicholaus? Nicholaus?

As Alexandra walks by the window, she stops and notices SOLDIERS outside, protecting the house.

## ALEXANDRA (V.O.)

I wonder if any of the soldiers that I helped are still alive? Many young men have given their lives for Mother Russia.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. TENT -- DAY

SUPERIMPOSE: ROSTOV-OF-DON

The General of the White Army, ALEXEI MAXIMOVICH KALÉDIN (41, short black hair, thick mustache) firmly addresses his SOLDIERS. Amongst those soldiers is Nickolai Kolya (the man from Alexandra's photo).

## KALÉDIN

The industry of Rostov-on-Don was not ours for the taking. We will press on! We will unite with the Kuban Cossacks. Their numbers will increase our strength. May the salvation of Russia be with us!

(MORE)

KALEDIN (CONT'D)  
 May the salvation of Mother Russia  
 guide us to victory!

The soldiers CHEER.

KALEDIN (CONT'D)  
 Soldiers, you are dismissed.

As the soldiers depart, Kaledin grabs Nickolai by the  
 shoulder.

KALEDIN (CONT'D)  
 Kolya, I would like to have a word  
 with you.

Once all the other soldiers leave the tent, Nickolai and  
 Kaledin speak in private.

NICKOLAI  
 Yes, General Kaledin?

KALEDIN  
 I have orders for you. Supreme  
 Governor Alexander Kolchak is  
 assigning you to monitor the  
 Romanovs. Our allies, Great  
 Britain and United States, are  
 concerned for the welfare of the  
 family. Right now, the Provisional  
 Government is keeping them safe.  
 This mission will be top secret.  
 We have been told that Tsar  
 Nicholas has made a deal with the  
 Bolsheviks. We need you to go  
 there to find out if this is true.  
 It will be between you, I, and  
 Kolchak. Report back to me in  
 three months. You will be going to  
 Tobolsk tomorrow.

NICKOLAI  
 Yes, General Kaledin.

Kolya salutes Kaledin and marches out the tent.

EXT. ROSTOV-ON-DON WAR-FRONT -- DAY

Nickolai walks off. He stops suddenly.

FLASH TO:

INT. HOSPITAL -- DAY (FLASHBACK)

Nickolai lies in bed; clutching onto his wounded, bloody leg. Alexandra stands by his side, consoling him and carefully wrapping a bandage over the wound.

ALEXANDRA  
Everything's going to be OK,  
Nickolai. Just try to stay put.  
You're doing great.

FLASH TO:

EXT. ROSTOV-ON-DON WAR-FRONT -- DAY

Reminiscing back to the aforementioned moment,

NICKOLAI KOLYA  
If I can just repay the kindness  
Tzaritsa Alexandra has shown me. I  
will do my best.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. TOBLOSK HOUSE -- DAY

Nicholaus chops wood with Tatiana.

PAN TO Nickolai, spying on the Romanovs from afar.

INT. TOBLOSK HOUSE -- DAY

DOLLY THROUGH a busy hallway. All the children excitedly chat amongst themselves, dressed in various costumes.

TATIANA  
Maria -- did you prepare the sock  
puppets?

MARIA  
Yes, Tatiana.

TATIANA  
Remember, there's a cat, dog, and a  
cow.

MARIA  
Yes, I remember.

Alexei runs by.

TATIANA

Alexei, do you have the tea set?

ALEXEI

Yes, I do.

TATIANA

Great. Let's go to the study.

IN THE STUDY...

The children set up a tree branch and the rest of the props, preparing to put on a play.

The parents sit across from them, waiting for the show to start.

The children leave the room. All is quiet.

Margaretta enters.

MARGARETTA

And now The Romanov Theatre  
presents: *The Witch of Baba Yaga.*

Applause is heard. A makeshift spotlight shines over Margaretta, as she narrates the show.

MARGARETTA (CONT'D)

This is the story of good and evil,  
the ever conflicting forces that  
tear at men's souls. Our story  
takes place in the depths of the  
Russian countryside -- a place  
where the dreaded child-eater, Baba-  
Yaga, lives.

Olga and Alexei (dressed as an older man) enter. They play a game of hide-and-go-seek.

MARGARETTA (CONT'D)

These two, are a family... A small  
family, but a happy family all the  
same.

Alexei exits and returns with a tea set.

MARGARETTA (CONT'D)

During this play, don't ever think  
that they don't love each other  
very much.

ALEXEI  
 (in a deep voice)  
 Natasha, I have some news about our family.

OLGA  
 Yes, father?

ALEXEI  
 It's been a long time since mother died. Now, we both miss her very much, but there are some things around here that only a mother can do. That is why I've decided to remarry.

OLGA  
 You mean I'll have a new mommy?

ALEXEI  
 Yes... a new mommy.

Audrienne enters.

MARGARETTA  
 But Natasha's new stepmother didn't love Natasha. She only loved Natasha's father. Natasha's father was completely entranced by this lovely new family addition, and did not notice at all how neglected his daughter had become.

Audrienne takes the tea-cup from Olga. Alexei and Audrienne sit with their backs turned to Olga.

AUDRIENNE  
 Natasha, dear, get me more tea and I'll give you some bread.

OLGA  
 Yes--

AUDRIENNE  
 (interrupting)  
 Little children are to be seen, not heard.

ALEXEI  
 Do as she says, Natasha.

Olga exits. She returns with a cup of tea. Audrienne hands her a slice of bread.

AUDRIENNE

Now, go eat it somewhere out of my sight.

OLGA

Yes--

AUDRIENNE

Little children are to be seen, not heard!

MARGARETTA

Natasha's Stepmother did not like children at all, and soon devised a plan to get rid of this one. She remembered her sister, Baba-Yaga: the dreaded child-eating witch!

AUDRIENNE

Natasha, I need a needle and thread to mend a shirt. Could you go to your auntie's house and get it for me?

OLGA

But we have a needle and thread.

AUDRIENNE

Little children are to be seen, not heard!

Audrienne hands Olga a handkerchief with food in it. Olga takes it and turns. Audrienne exits.

OLGA

I hope I don't get lost on the way.

In the middle of the performance, a very LOUD KNOCK is heard at the door. Audrienne startles.

Nicholaus gets up to answer the door. Fear is plastered all over Audrienne's face.

Nicholaus talks to an soldier for several moments. A concerned Alexandra joins him at the door. A moment later, she sighs and puts her head on his shoulder.

ALEXANDRA

Oh, no. Not Again!

In the study; Margarettta, Audrienne, and the children all wait anxiously, with some of them nervously fidgeting. Maria starts to cry. Audrienne comforts her.

Nicholaus and Alexandra enter. She wipes a tear from her cheek.

NICHOLAUS

Your mother and I have some news to share with you. There has been another change in the government of Russia: the Provisional Government has been taken over by the Bolsheviks. We are no longer safe here. We are being moved to Yekaterinaburg.

Maria, Tatiana, and Olga all start to cry. Anya maintains a stern demeanor.

ALEXANDRA

Can all of you please go upstairs? Father and I have some important matters to discuss with Governess Margaretta and Audrienne.

The children obediently leave the room.

Making sure the kids have disappeared, Nicholaus closes the door.

NICHOLAUS

The foundation of Russia is shifting and the violence is escalating. There's even talk of putting me on trial.

Audrienne gasps loudly. With fear and concern, Alexandra looks over to her. Audrienne turns away, trying not to show any more emotion.

MARGARETTA

When will the move happen?

NICHOLAUS

Next month. You will not be going with us, Margaretta.

Nicholas moves to Alexandra and reaches for her hand. She embraces his hands and looks into his eyes.

ALEXANDRA

I don't understand. Why would they put you on trial? You have given up the throne. You have done what is best for the country!

NICHOLAUS

Russia is in a revolution. There will be out-cries for justice. This is to be expected. The governments are shifting and the people are desperate for a tangible result for their revolution.

A knock is at the door. Nicholas answers. Anya stands at the doorway.

NICHOLAUS (CONT'D)

Anastacia, you are supposed to be in your bedroom.

ANYA

Father, I am too upset. I don't want to be alone right now. I need to talk with Audrienne.

Nicholaus gives Anya a hug.

NICHOLAUS

Yes, of course you may talk with her. Audrienne, please take Anastacia to the sitting room.

AUDRIENNE

Let's go, Anya.

Audrienne leads Anya out the room.

INT. SITTING ROOM -- DAY

Anya and Audrienne enter. Once the door closes, Anya bursts into tears.

AUDRIENNE

Anastacia, I wish I could say everything is going to be all right.

They sit on the couch. Audrienne takes Anya by the hand.

AUDRIENNE (CONT'D)

The truth is our future is uncertain. Try not to fret about tomorrow. It's best to just appreciate every day we have together.

Anya stops crying and manages a slight smile.

AUDRIENNE (CONT'D)

We can make a cake, ride horses... anything you want. You just have to live in the moment. Life is all about change. You have to learn to embrace change.

ANYA

Yes, Miss Audrienne, I understand. But, I'm tired of moving so much. I'm tired of my parents being so worried. And I'm afraid. I know father and mother aren't telling us everything. Father seemed really agitated when he got the message.

AUDRIENNE

Well, your father got some information concerning him that was not verified. That's why he seemed a little more agitated. Your father is concerned for Russia. But, he is no longer in charge.

ANYA

So what was it that got him so agitated?

AUDRIENNE

I cannot tell you. Your parents do not want to worry you any more.

ANYA

But --

AUDRIENNE

Don't let your mind get too far ahead of you. Remember what I said, don't look to the uncertainty of the future. Live every minute to it's fullest!

ANYA

I just wish I could feel happy again. I know father and mother are trying to distract us -- making us chop wood and do other things to keep us busy. Plus, I hate going outside. I just can't stand to look at the soldiers.

AUDRIENNE

It's best that you trust your parents.

(MORE)

AUDRIENNE (CONT'D)

They know what's best for you. For now... maybe we can find an indoor chore for you.

Anya smiles.

AUDRIENNE (CONT'D)

It's just a very difficult time for Russia. People's lives are changing. Your life is changing. Everything's changing. You are no longer royalty, you are a commoner now.

ANYA

Miss Audrienne, if we are commoners, then why are there soldiers surrounding us?

AUDRIENNE

Well, Anya... your father has led Russia into many wars. There has been much bloodshed. The Russian people dislike your father greatly, and that's why the guards are protecting us from them.

ANYA

Is that why our cousins don't come and visit us much anymore?

AUDRIENNE

Yes, Anastacia.

ANYA

(deep in thought)

You're right... all our lives are changing right now.

AUDRIENNE

That's why you have to embrace the change and learn from it. Or, ignore the change let it be a stumbling block to your growth? It is up to you. By the way, how are doing in your English lessons?

ANYA

I am doing great! We just started to read poetry. I have been reading the poem *Evelyn Hope*. It's so sad. It's about a girl who dies when she's 16 years old.

AUDRIENNE

(hesitantly)

Yes, I do remember Miss Margaretta  
telling me about the poem.

ANYA

I wrote my own poem after reading  
Evelyn *Hope*:

There was a man who loved her  
Without having seen her  
But knew her very well.  
And she heard of him also.  
He never could tell her that he  
loved her,  
And now she was dead.  
But still he thought  
That when he and she will live  
their next life...  
Whenever it will be.

Audrienne's expression brightens up significantly.

AUDRIENNE

Anastacia! Wow, you've really  
picked up your mother's talent for  
writing. That was beautiful! I  
love the last line that speaks of  
hope in their next life!

Anya smiles and blushes.

ANYA

Really?

AUDRIENNE

We need to do a poem recital for  
your parents! They would be so  
happy to hear how talented you are!

Audrienne gives Anya a big hug.

AUDRIENNE (CONT'D)

Would you like to have some tea  
with me?

ANYA

Sure!

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. TOBLOSK STREET -- DAY

Nickolai Kolya walks down a rainy street. A GROUP OF PEOPLE stand on the corner, chatting amongst themselves.

Nickolai hides behind a nearby building, listening in on the group's conversation.

MAN IN GROUP

Why should we let Lenin and the  
Bolsheviks get justice for us?

WOMAN IN GROUP

I heard they're being moved to  
another location by train.

MAN IN GROUP

Revenge for Bloody Sunday!

Stirred up by the remarks, a mini-crowd starts to gather around the group.

Loud, indistinct chatter is heard amongst the crowd.

As they become louder and louder, a BOLSHEVIK SOLDIER breaks up the crowd.

BOLSHEVIK SOLDIER

Stop! You must disperse!

The Bolshevik soldier brandishes his gun. The crowd breaks up instantly, with the exception of a few men who continue talking. Those men walk away together.

As Nickolai continues to spy on the situation, he appears increasingly worried.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. TOBLOSK HOUSE -- DAY

Audrienne gathers cake and other items, and brings them into the dining room. She's followed by Anya and Tatiana, who help her out.

AUDRIENNE

Anastacia, don't forget the plates.

ANYA

I won't.

Alexandra walks into the kitchen. Anya comes back in for the plates.

ALEXANDRA

Wow, I can't believe we're leaving  
in a few days. Time gets away from  
us too quickly.

AUDRIENNE

I agree, where did the time go?  
(points up in the air)  
Its flying by us! Someone catch  
it!

Audrienne, Alexandra, and Anya all laugh. Olga peeks her  
head into the kitchen.

OLGA

She's here! It is time to start  
the party!

Audrienne, Alexandra and Anya all enter the dining room. The  
room is decorated with farewell banners. Food is spread  
across the table.

The *Farewell of Slavianka* SONG plays in the background. The  
party attendants include the Romanov family, Audrienne, DR.  
BOTKIN (50's, receding hairline, beard), and the photographer  
from earlier.

With everyone in the room, Margareta enters.

ALL

Surprise!!

The photographer takes pictures. Margareta's eyes grow wide  
as she enters the room.

MARGARETTA

What a great party! For me?

Everyone sings *For She's a Jolly Good Fellow*. The children  
all give Margareta a hug.

NICHOLAUS

Yes, Governess Margareta, this is  
for you!

Nicholaus turns off the music. The photographer keeps  
snapping pictures.

NICHOLAUS (CONT'D)

Everyone to the table.

Everyone sits. Nicholaus stands at the head of the table and  
raises his glass.

NICHOLAUS (CONT'D)

The time has come for us to say  
farewell to our beloved Governess  
Margaretta. Let us toast to her!

Everyone raises their glasses and drinks up.

CLOSE-UP on the photographer (YAKOV YUROVSKY), as he  
continues snapping photos.

FLASH TO:

INT. COLONEL SVERDLOV'S OFFICE -- DAY (FLASHBACK)

Yurovsky stands across from his Superior, COLONEL SVERDLOV  
(46, short, bald).

SVERDLOV

Yurovsky, I have orders for you to  
keep an eye on the Romanovs. They  
will simply know you as the family  
photographer. Look for any  
communication from the White Army.  
You will report to me.

YUROVSKY

Yes, Colonel Sverdlov.

FLASH TO:

INT. TOBLOSK HOUSE -- DAY

Within the busy house, the children run up and down the  
hallway. Suitcases are being carried in and out of rooms.

Alexandra and Audrienne chat amongst themselves.

ALEXANDRA

Does every child have their own  
suitcase?

AUDRIENNE

Yes.

ANYA

(peeking her head around  
the corner)

Miss Audrienne, I cant find my  
hairbrush. Can you help me find  
it?

AUDRIENNE  
I'll be right there.

Audrienne sighs and walks away from Alexandra, giving her a slight wave goodbye.

IN ANYA'S BEDROOM...

Audrienne enters. She immediately finds a brush under the bed and hands it to Anya.

AUDRIENNE (CONT'D)  
(grinning)  
Did you try looking underneath the bed, Anya?

Anya shrugs.

AUDRIENNE (CONT'D)  
Is there anything else I'll find under your bed? Maybe the Statue of Mother Russia?

Anya laughs. She laughs along with her.

ANYA  
Thank you, Miss Audrienne.

Alexandra calls everyone from their rooms to the hallway.

ALEXANDRA  
Everyone! Your father, Maria, and I are all leaving in an hour. In a few days, Alexei should feel better. That's when the rest of you can come. OK?

ANYA  
OK.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. TOBLOSK HOUSE -- DIFFERENT DAY

ALEXEI TRUPP (thin, middle-aged, short gray hair) loads up a carriage. He enters the house.

KATERINA KLEIST emerges from the carriage house, coming out of hiding. The 17-year-old girl looks similar to Anya, even wearing the same coat. Katerina hides in the carriage, under the fur .

FLASH TO:

INT. KATERINA'S BEDROOM -- DAY (FLASHBACK)

Katerina sits on her bed, talking to her father -- BARON KLEIST (45, suited, receding brown hair).

KATERINA

But father, I don't want to marry him. I am NOT in love with him.

BARON

You must marry him to preserve your inheritance.

Baron leaves the room.

Katerina scribbles a note onto a piece of paper.

KATERINA KLEIST (V.O.)

Dear Father,

Please don't be angry with me. I cannot marry Alexander. I'm leaving for Tyumen with a friend.

FLASH TO:

EXT. TOBLOSK HOUSE -- DAY

Trupp gets into the drivers seat.

Alexei, Olga, Anya, Tatiana, and Audrienne enter the carriage.

INT. CARRIAGE -- DAY -- CONTINUOUS

Anya sits in the back. She notices a lump under the fur blanket and looks underneath, revealing Katerina's face. Katerina signals her to "hush."

Anya gives her a quick nod and tries to act natural.

Tatiana sits next to Audrienne.

TATIANA

(puzzled)

Miss Audrienne, the soldiers look really angry.

AUDRIENNE

They are Bolshevik soldiers. They're not as friendly as the provisional government soldiers.

ANYA

I don't like them. I saw them  
leave disgusting messages on the  
fence. Something is terribly wrong.  
I just can't figure it out.

EXT. ROAD -- DAY

The carriage rides off. FIVE RED ARMY SOLDIERS surround the carriage, with FIVE MORE SOLDIERS following from behind.

Nickolai Kolya follows the carriage from about a quarter of a mile away.

The sun shines directly upon the soldiers. Sweat pours down their faces.

The carriage approaches a narrow, tree covered road; with many clouds above the trees and dense bushes on both sides.

The road goes into hills. As the carriage approaches the trees, everything becomes silent.

INT. CARRIAGE -- DAY

Katerina slightly lifts up the fur seat and taps Anya's leg, grabbing her attention. She pokes her head out.

KATERINA

(quietly)

Anastacia... there is something I  
have been wanting to tell you...  
It's about your family.

(pauses)

The red army has shot...

A GUNSHOT is heard.

EXT. ROAD -- DAY -- CONTINUOUS

A rifle sticks out of the dense bushes. Smoke rises from the gun.

INT. CARRIAGE -- DAY -- CONTINUOUS

A bullet hits Katerina on the left side of her head. She slumps over, bleeds profusely, and is fatally wounded.

Trupp speeds up the horses.

EXT. ROAD -- DAY -- CONTINUOUS

A red army soldier SHOOTs and kills a CIVILIAN.

Another red army soldier gets shot, causing him to fall off his horse.

Red Army Soldier # 3 SHOOTs a civilian in a tree, causing him to tumble out the tree and onto the ground. That same soldier gets shot in the back of the head and falls off his horse.

With Trupp still at the reins, the carriage approaches the final valley.

Trupp gets shot. He slumps over and falls off the carriage. His body rolls down the hill into the bottom of the valley.

The horses keep running and stop at the top of the hill. Their legs are spread. We can see their breath from their noses.

Just when the carriage stops, a ray of light shines over it. Blood drips from the carriage, forming a small puddle.

A QUIET BOOM is heard. The sound becomes louder and louder.

A small shadow moves towards the carriage. With each louder boom, the shadow gets bigger and bigger.

Next to the carriage stands a ONE-EYED GIANT, wearing an eye patch and sporting a greasy beard. As he snarls, he exposes a mouth full of dirty teeth. He lifts his gun and points it directly at the carriage.

We see the giant pointing his gun at the carriage. We hear a shot that was not from his gun.

The giant suddenly appears shocked.

We see Kolya standing behind him with his gun smoking.

The Giant covers his chest with his hand. Blood oozes from underneath his hand. He stumbles towards the carriage, reaching for it.

Anya and Audrienne scream while viewing this from inside the carriage.

The giant touches the carriage, leaving a bloody handprint, and falls dead.

INT. CARRIAGE -- DAY -- CONTINUOUS

Anya and Audrienne are the only ones left alive. Anya looks out the window, looking down at the giant's dead body. She Now sees Kolya fighting a civilian with his sword.

Anya signals to Audrienne to leave the carriage. She follows her out.

EXT. ROAD -- DAY -- CONTINUOUS

Anya and Audrienne step over the giant's body. Anya makes eye contact with the White Army soldier, aka. Nickolai Kolya.

Nickolai points them to two unmanned horses near the carriage. Anya and Audrienne run to the horses, mount them and ride away.

Nickolai continues fighting the civilian with his sword.

Anya and Audrienne ride the horses down the hill. A GUNSHOT is heard.

They look towards the hill. Nickolai rolls down, clutching onto his wounded leg.

Audrienne stops. Anya stops her horse and quickly whips/turns it around to retrieve Nickolai.

She meets Nickolai half way down the hill. Their eyes connect. She reaches down to pick him up and lifts him onto the horse. They ride off into the woods.

A battle takes place between the five remaining red army soldiers and the civilians. Rain drizzles from the sky.

The soldiers kill all the civilians.

GENERAL PETROLOV approaches the carriage. He surveys the damage and looks inside. Everyone's unconscious. Katerina's face is covered in blood, obscuring her appearance.

Petrolov shuts the door and turns to his few remaining soldiers.

PETROLOV

The maid is gone. All Romanovs are accounted for. We must go back to Toblosk.

Continued Lightning and thunder with heavy rain.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. TOBLOSK HOUSE -- DAY

General Petrolov carries Katerina's body through the back door.

Baron Kleist approaches the house. He screams hysterically.

BARON

Where is my daughter? Is she with  
the Romanovs?

Baron gasps as he sees his daughter in the arms of General Petrolov.

PETROLOV

Come inside with me, Baron Kleist.  
The Romanovs were ambushed on the  
way to Yekaterinaburg.

They both enter the house.

INT. TOBLOSK HOUSE -- DAY -- CONTINUOUS

Petrolov lays Katerina's body on the couch.

BARON

That's my daughter!

Baron runs over to her, and wipes the hair and blood off her face. He shows Petrolov the note she left for him.

BARON (CONT'D)

She ran away from me! How could  
you let this happen to my daughter?

Baron weeps immensely over his daughter's body.

PETROLOV

Anastacia Romanov is missing. We  
must find her.

Petrolov leaves the room.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. FOREST -- DAY

Anya, Nickolai, and Audrienne ride horses.

NICKOLAI

Anastacia, you are very good on a  
horse.

ANYA

Thank you... Who are you? I know you are a white soldier, but why are you here?

NICKOLAI

I was following your carriage. My name is Nickolai Kolya. I have been assigned by my superior to watch your family. I've heard the townspeople talking. Certain people have said hateful things towards your father and want to take revenge on him and your family. I suspected the civilians were going to try to ambush your family.

ANYA

Yes, Audrienne has already informed me of that.

AUDRIENNE

And THAT is what I saw in my dream. I just couldn't tell your parents.

Anya gives Audrienne a knowing look. Audrienne looks down in sorrow.

Nickolai groans in pain.

NICKOLAI

We should stop somewhere. I know of a place where we can stop for the night. We'll be safe there.

As they approach dusk, all three of them ride towards a cave. They all dismount. Anya and Audrienne tie up their horses to nearby trees.

The three of them walk towards the cave, with Nickolai clutching his wound and limping.

NICKOLAI (CONT'D)

We can't light a fire tonight. Audrienne, can you get some thick branches for our covering tonight? It's getting dark soon. Anastacia, can you help me dress the wound on my leg?

Anya nods.

Audrienne walks off. Anya and Nickolai sit in front of the cave.

NICKOLAI (CONT'D)  
Anastacia, can you tear off some of  
your dress for my bandage? I need  
to stop the bleeding.

Anya tears long, wide strips of fabric from her dress and hands them to him. Their hands touch. They look into each other's eyes. Nickolai's eyes get a little bigger as he squirms a bit.

NICKOLAI (CONT'D)  
Thank you.

He sets his gun down.

NICKOLAI (CONT'D)  
That was some ambush! I think got  
the last one... but not before he  
got me!

Nickolai proceeds to wrap the new bandage/fabric strip around his leg.

NICKOLAI (CONT'D)  
Thankfully, this is only a  
superficial wound. The bullet  
grazed the side of my thigh.

Audrienne returns with some branches.

AUDRIENNE  
I have always wanted to get back to  
nature...

Audrienne looks down at the branches. She has leaves in her hair.

AUDRIENNE (CONT'D)  
... but this is not what I had in  
mind.

Nickolai smiles at Anya. They all laugh.

Audrienne places the branches near the cave and walks over to Nickolai.

AUDRIENNE (CONT'D)  
How is your leg?

She bends down to examine it more closely.

AUDRIENNE (CONT'D)

Oh, no! You need a doctor! I'll find one right --

NICKOLAI

I can't go to a doctor. We can't attract attention to ourselves. I need to get you and Anastacia out of Russia for your safety.

AUDRIENNE

I understand. We're being hunted by the Red Army right now. We can go to my Uncle Janos' cabin. He lives in a cabin outside of Tyumen. He can help us.

NICKOLAI

We'll go there tomorrow. For now... let's get some sleep.

They lie on the ground and cover themselves with branches.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. WOODS -- DAY

On horseback; Nickolai, Anya, and Audrienne approach a small cabin. They all stop.

Audrienne dismounts the horse and walks up to the door. She knocks.

The door opens and out appears JANOS KOLCHAK (50, stocky, dark hair, full beard). Audrienne embraces him.

JANOS

Cousin Nini! It's so nice to see you. Thank God you're OK! Who are the people with you? Is it Anastacia? Who is the man?

AUDRIENNE

Yes cousin Janos. Anastacia is with me. The man with me is a white army soldier, Nickolai Kolya. He was injured in the ambush. He needs help.

JANOS KOLCHAK

Bring them all in!

Janos signals with his arms for Anastacia and Nickolai to come in. They get off the horses and walk into the cabin.

JANOS KOLCHAK (CONT'D)  
 Welcome, my friends! It has been a long journey for you. Have a seat.

He signals for them to sit down on the chairs/couch. They sit down.

JANOS KOLCHAK (CONT'D)  
 Will you excuse me? I need to get some fresh dressing for my guest's leg.

Janos leaves the room.

INT. JANOS' CABIN -- DAY

Audrienne, Anya, and Nickolai are all seated in the living room.

Janos enters with a bucket of hot water, alcohol, and a fresh bandage. He walks over to Nickolai.

JANOS  
 May I?

NICKOLAI  
 Oh, yes. Thank you.

Janos takes off the old bandage. He cleans and sterilizes the wound, and then places a clean bandage over it.

ANYA  
 Thank you so much for opening your door to us, Uncle Janos.

JANOS  
 Grand Duchess Romanov, Audrienne has written so much about you. She has opened our hearts to you.

ANYA  
 Please call me Anya. Audrienne has told me so much about you. I feel like we're already family.

JANOS  
 Why have I not heard about you, Nickolai?

NICKOLAI

My orders were top secret. General Kaledin gave me orders to watch the Romanov family. No one else knows about me. I do think I was seen by the Red Army when I was shot in the leg.

JANOS

It will take them a while to find out who you are... but they will come after you. Nini, since you were not in the carriage, the soldiers may come here to look for you. You can't stay here very long.

AUDRIENNE

Yes, I understand.

JANOS

Anya, most of your family has left the country. The family that chose to stay... has been killed by the Red Army. All of you must leave Russia.

Anastacia looks to Audrienne and has a surprised look on her face.

ANYA

So, That is the change you were talking about Audrienne!

AUDRIENNE

Yes, It is.

Audrienne points to Nickolai.

AUDRIENNE (CONT'D)

He saved our lives and has given us the ability to change!

NICKOLAI

There is nothing left for us in Russia. We must move forward.

JANOS

I will send you to Uncle Erno. He is Chovanio. He will heal Nickolai's leg and help you with your journey out of Russia. You will find him somewhere around Kuybyshev.

(MORE)

JANOS (CONT'D)

I must get all of you into different clothes. Audrienne, cut Anastacia's hair short. Color it also. Anastacia and Nickolai, you must get familiar with our family's ways. I will send family with you to teach you our ways. They will keep you safe.

AUDRIENNE

Uncle, I need some black walnut powder.

JANOS

It's in kitchen, above the sink. Cousin Agnes left some clothing here. It's in a box under the bed. I have to leave now. I'll return with everything you need for your journey.

EXT. JANOS' CABIN -- DAY

Janos leaves in a small carriage.

INT. JANOS' CABIN -- DAY (MONTAGE)

Audrienne cuts and colors Anya's hair.

Anya tries on different types of clothing.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING -- HALLWAY -- DAY

General Petrolov busts down a door. Red Army soldiers storm into the apartment.

INT. APARTMENT -- DAY -- CONTINUOUS

The Red Army soldiers grab IVAN (aka. the "man in group" from earlier) and take him away.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. JANOS' CABIN -- DAY

Janos arrives with one carriage (Vardo). One covered carriage is full of supplies driven by COUSIN AGNES HORVATH (22, plump, light brown hair, green eyes) and SAMUEL KOLCHAK (33, athletic, blond hair, green eyes).

Audrienne awaits their arrival in the open doorway. Janos, Agnes, and Samuel leave the carriage and walk toward the cabin.

AGNES

Nini! It is so good to see you!

She runs over to embrace Audrienne in the doorway.

AGNES (CONT'D)

(smiling, suddenly realizing)

Are those my clothes?

AUDRIENNE

Yes, my cousin these are your clothes.

AGNES

You look Great on you!!

Samuel steps up to and hugs Audrienne.

SAMUEL

Audrienne! I'm so glad you're OK!  
Uncle Janos did not say why he wanted us to come with him. But, now I know why!

JANOS

We must hurry! Come inside!

INT. JANOS' CABIN -- DAY

Nickolai and Anya are already sitting down in the living room. Nickolai and Anya get up and shake hands with Samuel and Agnes.

JANOS

Sit down everyone.

He signals with his arms.

JANOS (CONT'D)

Samuel and Agnes -- I need you to take Nini, Anya and Nickolai to Kuybyshev. During the journey, you must share our Roma family ways with them. They must learn our Romani language.

SAMUEL

It is going to be very difficult to find Uncle Erno.

JANOS

That's why I need you to accompany them. You'll understand the signs. Remember to look for the Chovanio horse, The Gypsy King.

SAMUEL

Yes, I remember! What a beautiful horse!

JANOS

Agnes will help in the care of Nickolai. To help protect your identity, your names must change.

JANOS (CONT'D)

Anya will now be known as Hannah Kolchak. Audrienne will be Nini Kolchak, Nickolai will be Andras Gabor, and Hannah will be Spitfire when we are not with family. Anonymity is a must!

NICKOLAI

I must warn you about our journey. Before I was assigned to watch Anastacia, I was near Rostov-on-Don. I just made the same journey going north. Going through the mountains will be very dangerous. There are many mountain lions. We must be careful.

JANOS

Nickolai, don't worry. The journey will take you two days. You must leave now.

AUDRIENNE  
Yes, Uncle.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. RUSSIAN TRAIN STATION -- DAY

Red Army soldiers hand out pictures of Anya to TRAIN STATION ATTENDANTS.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CARRIAGE -- DAY

Nickolai and Samuel sit in the front. Samuel teaches him some basic Romani words.

SAMUEL  
"Dza devlesa" means God go with  
you.

NICKOLAI/ANDRAS  
Dza devlesa

INT. CARRIAGE -- DAY

Agnes and Audrienne teaches Romani to Anya.

AUDRIENNE  
"Opre Rroma" means Rise Roma.

HANNAH/ANYA  
Opre Rroma

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. GENERAL PETROLOV'S HOUSE -- NIGHT

Petrolov pours Vodka into a shot glass and sucks it down. He slams the empty glass on the table and puts his head on his arm. His hair is frazzled and clothes are messy.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ROAD -- DAY

The single carriage has now become a caravan for FOUR FAMILIES. The carriages stop.

The men feed the horses. The women bustle about, making dinner on open fires -- including Nini and Agnes.

Andras sits down, looking flushed. Hannah sits next to him.

HANNAH/ANYA

Andras, you look pale. Is there something wrong?

NICKOLAI/ANDRAS

I have an infection in my wound.

Agnes, Nini, and ROSE (one of the women from the caravan) sit next to him.

ROSE

I'll make you some Rosemary-Mint tea. That is what you need. I'll be right back with it.

NICKOLAI

Thank you.

Rose walks off.

AUDRIENNE/NINI

We need to get you to Chovanio fast! I'll make sure you have extra water for your journey.

Samuel approaches.

SAMUEL

I'll get the water. Stay strong, Andras!

Samuel walks off.

AUDRIENNE

The land is so mountainous. It will be very difficult to pass through. Let's hope there's no snow -- we'll get delayed.

Rose returns with the cup of tea. She hands it to Nickolai.

ROSE

Here is your tea, Andras.

NICKOLAI

Thank you.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ROSTOV-ON-DON PORT -- DAY

Red Army soldiers continue showing pictures of Anya, talking to various PEOPLE in the area.

Other soldiers post pictures of Anya on poles.

Petrolov speaks to a PORT INSPECTOR, handing him Anya's photo along with a coin.

PETROLOV

If you give me her whereabouts,  
there will be a lot more to come.

PORT INSPECTOR #1

Yes, sir.

PETROLOV

You can reach me at this address.

Petrolov hands the Port Inspector a piece of paper.

PORT INSPECTOR #1

Yes, sir. I will keep a close  
watch for the Romanov.

Petrolov and his soldiers hop on their horses and leave the port.

Camera ZOOMS IN on a posted picture of Anya.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CARRIAGE -- DAY

Andras sits in the back, seemingly very ill with  
sweaty/clammy skin. Nini sits next to him.

Hannah sits in front with Samuel and Agnes. The horses get  
spooked.

SAMUEL

Did you see that?

ANYA/HANNAH  
 (alarmed)  
 Yes.

EXT. CARRIAGE URAL MOUNTAINS -- DAY -- CONTINUOUS

The horses come to a very slow walk. There is a faint SCREECH... followed by a stronger, high-pitched YELP.

The horses come to a complete stop.

EXT. CARRIAGE -- DAY -- CONTINUOUS

ANYA  
 What is it, Samuel?

SAMUEL  
 The horses are detecting the presence of a mountain lion. I think I heard a cub.

Samuel leaves the carriage.

EXT. URAL MOUNTAINS -- DAY

Samuel combs the surrounding area. He finds an injured MOUNTAIN LION CUB on the side of the road. The CUB'S MOTHER is on the other side, growling.

SAMUEL  
 Back up!

He signals for the carriages to separate, creating an empty space between mother and cub.

INT. CARRIAGE -- DAY -- CONTINUOUS

NICKOLAI  
 What is he doing?

AUDRIENNE  
 He's helping the cub. Romani people are caretakers of the earth. Samuel has a special gift with animals. Remember when Uncle Janos told you not to worry?

EXT. URAL MOUNTAINS -- DAY -- CONTINUOUS

Samuel very slowly approaches the cub. The mother's growl turns into a slight purr.

SAMUEL  
(in almost a whisper)  
Everything is going to be all  
right, little one.

The cub stops shaking and starts to purr. Samuel examines the cubs body.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)  
Looks like you have a dislocated  
hip.

Samuel adjusts the cub's hip bone/socket. The cub gets up and walks to its mother.

Samuel gets into the carriage. Samuel waits for the mother and cub to walk away.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)  
It is safe now. Let's go.

He motions with his arms for the carriages to follow.

EXT. CARRIAGE -- DAY -- CONTINUOUS

ANYA  
Can you teach me how to do that?

SAMUEL  
It's a gift that was bestowed upon  
me by the Creator. Romani people  
are known as caretakers of animals  
and the earth. Our ways are  
thousands of years old. I will tell  
you more about it later.

ANYA  
I am excited to learn more.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CARAVAN CAMPSITE -- NIGHT

The caravan of carriages stop for the night.

INT. CARRIAGE -- NIGHT

Nini tends to Andras, who's still very ill. His skin is very pale and his body shakes, as he has a very bad infection.

Nini gives him tea. She wipes his forehead.

Samuel enters the carriage.

SAMUEL

Nini, how is he doing?

AUDRIENNE/NINI

Not so good. The fever has become worse. He's been shaking and vomiting the last half hour.

Andras shakes. He leans in towards Samuel.

NICKOLAI/ANDRAS

(weakly)

My brother... thank you for helping me.

Andras reaches out his hand to Samuel, who takes it and kneels beside him.

NICKOLAI/ANDRAS (CONT'D)

(whispering)

I have faith in you and your people.

SAMUEL

Stay strong, Andras! We will be at Kuybyshev soon. Nini, make sure that you, Agnes, and Hannah keep an eye on him at all times!

AUDRIENNE/NINI

Yes, Samuel.

COMMOTION is heard, coming from outside. People talking. Pots banging.

A YOUNG ROMANI MAN (18, tall, thin, short dark hair, green eyes) peeks his head into the carriage.

YOUNG ROMANI MAN

Samuel, we have a visitor. He has news for you.

SAMUEL

Tell him I'll meet him by the campfire in a few minutes.

The young Romani man nods and disappears. Samuel turns to Andras.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)  
 (to Andras)  
 You have faith!! Don't forget,  
 Andras. You are family now!

A weak smile comes across Andras's face.

Samuel exits the carriage.

EXT. CARAVAN CAMPSITE -- NIGHT -- CONTINUOUS

Samuel approaches a campfire. A ROMANI MESSENGER (25, stocky, black hair, dirty clothes) waits for him. OTHER PEOPLE have gathered around the fire.

ROMANI MESSENGER  
 Your Uncle Janos has sent me to  
 tell you --

SAMUEL  
 Did you make sure that you weren't  
 followed?

ROMANI MESSENGER  
 Yes. Your uncle wanted to tell you  
 that he's OK. A Red Army soldier  
 stopped by his house. He was  
 looking for somebody.

FLASH TO:

EXT. JANOS' CABIN -- NIGHT

Janos covers up the carriage tracks with a branch and buries the clothes of Anya, Audrienne, and Nickolai in the back forest.

INT. JANOS' CABIN -- NIGHT

Janos cleans the house, including scrubbing some excess hair coloring off the floor and kitchen sink.

INT. JANOS' CABIN -- DAY

A KNOCK is at the door. Janos answers.

A RED ARMY SOLDIER (24, reddish brown hair in uniform) stands at the doorway.

JANOS KOLCHAK  
Hello! How may I be of assistance?

RED ARMY SOLDIER  
I'm looking for Grand Duchess Romanov. Have you seen her? She may be travelling with the family servant.

The soldier shows a picture of Audrienne and Anya.

JANOS  
Sorry, I have not. I live alone here and don't get out much.

RED ARMY SOLDIER  
Do you mind if I have a look around your cabin?

Janos steps back and motions him to come inside.

The soldier quickly looks underneath the bed and inside the closets.

Janos sits in the living room, trying to keep calm.

JANOS  
It's warm out there. Can I get you something to drink?

The soldier stumbles upon the kitchen sink, wipes his finger on the drain. Examines his finger closely. Nothing.

RED ARMY SOLDIER  
No, thank you. I must go now.

The Red Army soldier marches out the door.

FLASH TO:

EXT. CARAVAN CAMPSITE -- NIGHT

Samuel addresses the Romani Messenger by the campfire. People play MUSIC in the background.

SAMUEL  
Ah, yes. He said they would come. I'm sure he was prepared.

Samuel pauses with a smile on his face.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

We need you to go before us and look for the Chovanio. Look for his horse, the Gypsy King Horse. When you find the Chovanio, tell him to prepare for a healing ceremony. Andras has an infected gunshot wound. Only talk to Romani. You must leave quickly. Agnes will feed you and give you supplies.

He motions for Agnes to come over to him. She does.

AGNES

Yes?

SAMUEL

Feed him and give him a two-day supply of food and water.

AGNES

Yes, Samuel.

Samuel motions for the young Romani man to come over. He does.

YOUNG ROMANI MAN

Yes?

SAMUEL

Feed and water his horse.

YOUNG ROMANI MAN

Yes, I will.

SAMUEL

You will find us at the east side roadway of Kuybyshev. We will wait for you there.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. RED ARMY HEADQUARTERS -- DAY

General Petrolov sits behind a desk, during a hearing. His superior, BRIGADIER GENERAL ANDROPOV (60, tall, receding hairline, highly decorated uniform), presides over him. THREE JURORS sit in the background.

ANDROPOV

Next testimony is from Baron Kleist.

Baron Kleist approaches the bench and sits.

BARON

My daughter left me a note. She  
had ran away from home.

Baron hands the note to Andropov, who passes it to the jurors.

BARON (CONT'D)

The note did not say what friend  
she was going to see. I searched  
all over Toblosk for her. I do  
recall her having riding lessons  
with a Grand Duchess Anastacia  
Romanov. When I went to the  
Romanov's house, I saw General  
Petrolov carrying a body of a girl  
into the house.

(trying to hold back  
tears)

That girl... turned out to be my  
daughter.

After a few moments, Baron can no longer control himself and bursts into tears.

ANDROPOV

No further questions, Baron Kleist.  
Please take a seat. The jury will  
now dismiss for deliberation.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CARRIAGE -- DAY MOVING

Nickolai throws up, feeling increasingly ill. Anya sits next to him.

EXT. VARIOUS ROMANI CAMPS -- DAY (MONTAGE)

The Romani Messenger questions a variety of Romani/Gypsy people in the city of Kuybyshev

Finally, he sees a carriage being pulled by a Gypsy King Horse and follows it.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. RED ARMY HEADQUARTERS -- DAY

The three jurors enter. They hand the verdict to Andropov.

ANDROPOV  
 (reading aloud the  
 verdict)  
 General Petrolov, the Red Workers'  
 and Peasants' Army -- underneath  
 the authority of General Andropov  
 and Vladimir Lenon -- have formally  
 relieved you of your duty.  
 Dereliction of duty is the charge  
 and your discharge will be  
 dishonorable.

A disheveled Petrolov slams his fists down on the table and  
 springs up from his seat.

PETROLOV  
 This is not finished!

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ROMANI/GYPSY ENCAMPMENT -- KUYBYSHEV -- DAY

The Romani Messenger arrives. He notices several Gypsy King  
 Horses are in a corral.

The messenger gets off his horse and ties it to a tree. He  
 walks over to an OLDER WOMAN (60's, gray hair, round/plump),  
 who stands at a well.

ROMANI MESSENGER  
 Pardon me, I'm looking for the  
 Chovanio. I was told he is here.

OLDER WOMAN/KLARA  
 Oh! Yes, we've heard someone is  
 looking for him. Chovanio Erno is  
 over there.

The older woman points to his covered carriage, which is  
 connected to a staircase and a door. Plants and flowers  
 surround it.

ROMANI MESSENGER  
 Thank you.

The Romani Messenger approaches the carriage and knocks on  
 the door. CHOVANIO ERNO (65, dark and graying hair in a  
 ponytail) stands across from him.

CHOVANIO  
Welcome! Come in.

INT. CHOVANIO'S CARRIAGE -- DAY -- CONTINUOUS

The Romani Messenger enters the carriage and sits down.

ROMANI MESSENGER  
Samuel Kolchak has sent me to find you. There's a man with him who is very ill. He has a severely infected gunshot wound and wants you to prepare for a healing ceremony. He's waiting just east of here. I'll go back to him and tell him where you are.

CHOVANIO  
Ah! Samuel from Tyumen! Tell Samuel that Lynda and I will get started right away! I'll give you something that'll help the pain.

Chovanio reaches into a cabinet. He grabs a vial and hands it to the Romani Messenger.

CHOVANIO (CONT'D)  
This is willow bark tea. He must take this with food.

ROMANI MESSENGER  
Thank you.

The Romani Messenger exits the carriage.

EXT. CARAVAN CAMPSITE -- DAY THE EAST SIDE ROADWAY OF KUYBYSHEV

The Romani Messenger quickly rides his horse into the area. He finds Samuel's carriage, dismounts his horse, and runs over.

ROMANI MESSENGER  
(yelling)  
Good news! Good news!

Agnes, Samuel and other people walk over to him. They surround Andras's carriage.

ROMANI MESSENGER (CONT'D)  
 I have found Chovanio Erno. He's a few hours south, by the water. He gave me medicine for the ill man.

With a big smile on his face, he reaches into his pocket and whips out the vial.

ROMANI MESSENGER (CONT'D)  
 We must give this to him now. He needs to take this with food.

SAMUEL  
 Well done. Thank you.

Samuel reaches for the vial and takes it from the messenger.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)  
 I will take this to Nini. She will give it to Andras.

Samuel enters the carriage.

INT. CARRIAGE -- DAY -- CONTINUOUS

Hannah and Nini sit with Nickolai, who's lost significant weight, with his eyes sunken into their sockets.

SAMUEL  
 We have some medicine. Better yet, we are on our way to Chovanio. Nini give this medicine to Andras with food.  
 (smiling)  
 Prepare for a bumpy ride. Chovanio Erno is only a few hours away.

Samuel leaves the carriage.

EXT. CARAVAN CAMPSITE -- DAY CONTINUOUS

Samuel walks up to the messenger.

SAMUEL  
 Messenger, I want you to go back to Janos and tell him we have found Chovanio. It's very important that you do not talk to anyone about your journey. Agnes, please give him a several-day supply for his journey.

Samuel waves his hands to grab everyone's attention.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

It's time! We must leave quickly!

The caravan of four carriages leaves the campsite.

EXT. ROAD -- DAY (MONTAGE)

The carriage swiftly moves across the bumpy road.

INT. CARRIAGE -- DAY

Nickolai barely hangs onto consciousness, as the carriage bounces up and down.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CHOVANIO ENCAMPMENT -- NIGHT

At dusk, Samuel's caravan of carriages arrives.

Chovanio and LYNDA emerge from their carriage.

GYPSIES come out to greet their special visitor. Chovanio points to different people, assigning them duties.

CHOVANIO

Both of you, we need the salt.  
You, we need the sap. You, we need  
the web and the leaves.

Chovanio and Lynda approach Samuel's carriage.

CHOVANIO (CONT'D)

Samuel, take him to the central  
campfire site. Lynda, get Klara to  
perform the handwalking ceremony at  
the campfire.

Samuel removes Andras from the carriage. He takes him to the central campfire site, where a cot waits for him.

Lynda looks around and finds KLARA (the older woman at the well). They both head to the central campfire site.

A FEW MUSICIANS play instruments around the fire.

CHOVANIO (CONT'D)

We shall begin.

Two women pour a line of salt that encompasses the circular campsite.

Andras, Nini, Hannah, Chovanio, Lynda, and Klara stand in the circle.

Chovanio cuts off the pant fabric around Andras's wound. With his leg now bare, Chovanio grabs some plant sap and places it over the wound, along with leaves and a spider web. He ties a loose layer of cloth around the leg to keep the leaves in place.

Lynda and Klara approach Audrienne and Anya.

LYNDA

Nini and Hannah, Klara and I are going to help you heal through hand walking.

MONTAGE

Lynda and Klara perform hand walking ceremony on Nini and Hannah.

END MONTAGE

Chovanio brings Hannah and Nini over to Andras.

CHOVANIO

We are blessed that your journey has brought you to our doorsteps. Your healing and your journey have just begun. From our family to yours, we send you off with a cloak of protection. You will become invisible to your enemies.

MONTAGE

Chovanio performs the invisibility cloak ceremony.

END MONTAGE

Chovanio addresses Nini and Hannah.

CHOVANIO (CONT'D)

It's important that all of you leave Russia right away. But, I do want you to stay here with us for two days. I need to monitor Andras' healing. When the two days have passed, Samuel and Agnes will take you to Rostov-On-Don.

(MORE)

CHOVANIO (CONT'D)

There will be a port nearby for your exit. We will have new identification cards for you to board the ship.

ANYA/HANNAH

(in Romani)

Thank you.

AUDRIENNE/NINI

Chovanio Erno and Chovani Lynda, you both make me proud to be Romani. I have lived most of my life having faith in our ways. You have proved my faith to be real and true.

CHOVANIO

Andras and Hannah, we are your family now. I will make sure when you set foot in America, that you have family waiting for you. For security purposes, we shall address you as Spitfire in public. But, your Romani name will be Hannah Kolchak.

ANYA/HANNAH

Spitfire?

CHOVANIO

Is that a problem?

ANYA/HANNAH

(smiling)

No... I think it suits me well.

LYNDA

You have a strong mind and a resilient personality. Everywhere you go, you bring light!

CHOVANIO

We will continue to pray for Andras' healing and strength for his journey to America.

All the characters hug each other.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BAR -- NIGHT

LOUD MUSIC fills the atmosphere. PROSTITUTES strut across the room.

Drunk and slurring his words, a disheveled Petrolov talks to a BAR PATRON.

A prostitute walks up to Petrolov. She shoots him a seductive glance, running her hands down his shoulder. He brushes her away and reaches for his drink.

PETROLOV

I don't know how. I don't know why  
I've lost my life. But, mark my  
words... someday I will have an  
answer.

BAR PATRON

(signaling for a  
bartender)

Looks like you need another one.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CHOVANIO ENCAMPMENT -- DAY

Nickolai walks around slowly, feeding the horses.

Anya walks up to the carriage with water. Audrienne prepares the carriage for departure by placing cookware into the carriage.

ANYA/HANNAH

Nini, are we ready to go?

AUDRIENNE/NINI

We're just waiting for Andras to  
feed the horses.

Lynda, Chovanio, Klara, and Andras walk over to the carriage.

CHOVANIO

Andras, you are healing well, my  
brother.

NICKOLAI

Yes... I can't thank you enough.  
You opened my eyes and my world!

The men hug.

CHOVANIO

Samuel and Agnes will go with you  
in a separate carriage. They'll  
watch as you board the ship.

Chovanio presents them with papers.

CHOVANIO (CONT'D)

Here are the papers with your new  
identities: Hannah Kolchak, Nini  
Kolchak, and Andras Gabor. Hannah  
must be hidden. Andras, make sure  
to keep practicing your Romani.  
You must be fluent. It is very  
important that you be in disguise.  
The Red Army will be looking out  
for Anastacia. Keep in mind, your  
voyage to America will be a long  
one. We will have a family member  
waiting for you at Ellis Island.  
Stay together. She'll be looking  
for three people traveling  
together. She'll be looking for  
Spitfire.

Lynda hands Chovanio a pouch. He gives it to Nickolai.

CHOVANIO (CONT'D)

We wish you a safe journey to  
America.

Nickolai looks inside and pulls out several silver coins.  
Nini and Hannah smile.

AUDRIENNE/NINI

Thank you! For everything!

NICKOLAI/ANDRAS

This will help us abundantly in  
America. I will guard it well.

HANNAH/ANYA

Thank you Chovanio Erno.

With a big smile, Hannah turns around and signals with  
outstretched arms to everyone.

ANYA/HANNA

My thanks and LOVE to everyone  
here!

The people cheer and clap. MUSIC starts to play.

Everyone hugs Hannah, Nini, and Andras. They all board the carriage.

The carriage leaves the encampment.

INT. CARRIAGE -- DAY

Nini teaches the Romani language to Hannah and Andras.

AUDRIENNE/NINI

Ulica is street. Puska is gun. It is very important that you master our language. You must be able to convince the port inspector that you speak Russian and Romani language. They will ask questions, like where are we coming from and where are we going to. We must provide the same answers. Tell them we are from Kuybyshev and going to America. We are distant cousins.

NICKOLAI/ANDRAS

Hannah, it's important that you learn also. Once we arrive outside the city limits, you must enter that box.

(points to a crate/box)

I will make sure there's enough circulation of air for you. When we are far out to sea, you can exit the box.

EXT. DAY OUTSIDE OF ROSTOV-ON-DON

SAMUEL

This is where we separate.

He motions to Andras to stop the carriage. Both the carriages stop. Everyone gets out of the carriages.

NINI

My cousin! What a journey

Samuel and Nini hug

AGNES

Nini, Hannah and Andras I hope to see you again someday!

SAMUEL

God Speed!

Hannah gets into the crate. Andras and Nini go towards the port. Samuel and Agnes go towards the boardwalk along the port.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ROSTOV-ON-DON PORT -- DAY

Andras drives the carriage, as they approach the port inspector. The carriage stops.

PORT INSPECTOR #1

Papers, please?

Andras and Nini both reach in their bags to get their identification papers. They give the papers to the port inspector. The port inspector writes down the names.

PORT INSPECTOR #1

What is your destination?

NICKOLAI/ANDRAS

America.

PORT INSPECTOR #1

What do you have to declare?

NICKOLAI/ANDRAS

This is food.

Andras points to the box.

PORT INSPECTOR #1

Open it.

Andras gets up and enters the rear of the carriage. He opens up the box and shows it to the inspector.

PORT INSPECTOR #1 (CONT'D)

OK.

(points to another box)

Now, open this one.

Andras opens the other box.

NICKOLAI/ANDRAS

This is clothing.

Nini gets restless. Sweat beads form on her forehead.

EXT. ROSTOV-ON-DON PORT -- DAY -- CONTINUOUS

The port inspector approaches the other side of the carriage. He pokes the insides of various crates with his sword.

PORT INSPECTOR #1

And this one.

The port inspector starts to poke the inside of Hannah's crate. He manages to poke her on the side of her rib cage.

Inside the crate, Hannah bites her lip, trying to stop herself from screaming in pain.

As the inspector pulls out the sword, a drop of blood is visible on the tip. Distracted by the commotion from a neighboring inspection site, the inspector doesn't notice the tip of his sword.

PORT INSPECTOR # 2 holds his sword in the air. An ALARM SOUNDS in the background.

The first port inspector puts his sword back into the case and dismisses Andras. He motions with his arm.

PORT INSPECTOR #1 (CONT'D)

You are free to board the ship.

Nini quietly sighs.

Andras boards the carriage onto the ship. They both go starboard and wave goodbye, blowing kisses to Samuel and Agnes, who are waving at them also.

The port inspector walks over to the neighboring site, where Port Inspector # 2 shows him what looks to be an expensive Faberge Egg. Much commotion surrounds the site.

PORT INSPECTOR # 2

I think I found something that's connected to the Romanov family: Could this be Maria's Faberge Egg?

PORT INSPECTOR #1

It very well may be.

PORT INSPECTOR # 2

Go get our superior.

Port inspector #1 rushes off. More commotion. Inspector #1 comes back. The PORT CAPTAIN comes to the #2 station. He checks out the object himself.

PORT CAPTAIN

This is not a Faberge Egg. Detain these people until we can find out where this came from.

The Captain points to the port inspector #1.

PORT CAPTAIN (CONT'D)

You! Back to your station!

PORT INSPECTOR #1

Yes, sir!

The port inspector#1 returns to his station. He signals for the next carriage to approach.

A RUSSIAN FAMILY in a carriage pulls into the station.

PORT INSPECTOR#1

What do you have to declare?

RUSSIAN MAN

I have my woodworking tools, my clothing and my food.

The port inspector points to a crate.

PORT INSPECTOR#1

Open it.

The Russian man opens the crate and shows the inspector his tools. The inspector moves to the other side of the carriage.

As he pulls out his sword to poke into a crate, he notices blood on the tip of his sword. The port inspector raises his sword in the air.

The ALARM SOUNDS. Immediately, the port captain comes over to him.

PORT INSPECTOR#1 (CONT'D)

Look at this!

He shows the captain the tip of his sword. Points to Hannah's ship, which is now far out into the ocean.

PORT INSPECTOR

This blood came from inside a crate. This looks like human blood. The travelers have already left the port.

PORT CAPTAIN

There is nothing we can do now.  
The ship is in international  
waters. I will report this to the  
Red Army.

PORT INSPECTOR #1

Yes, they just recently came here.  
I remember the general's name,  
Petrolov.

PORT CAPTAIN

Back to work.

The port inspector finishes inspecting the Russian family's carriage and quickly dismisses them. He reaches into his pocket. Grabs the paper that General Petrolov gave him. It contains an address. Camera ZOOMS in on the paper.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. PORT INSPECTOR'S HOUSE -- NIGHT

The port inspector sits at his dimly lit desk, atop of which lies the paper from General Petrolov. He proceeds to write a letter.

PORT INSPECTOR (V.O.)

General Petrolov,

I wanted to personally report to you an incident that happened today. During my duty, I was distracted by a false alarm. I let a carriage go before I completed my inspection. After the false alarm was over with, I noticed blood on my sword from the carriage that I dismissed too quickly. By the time I saw the blood, the carriage was beyond our reach. In the carriage was a Gypsy couple. There was possibly a human in the crate. It could have been Grand Duchess Romanov. But, what would she be doing with Gypsies?

Sincerely,

Vladimir Popov.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SHIP -- NIGHT

Under the bright moonlight, we see Nini and Andras riding on the ship.

AUDRIENNE/NINI  
Is it time? Can we let Hannah out?

Andras looks around to make sure no one's watching.

NICKOLAI/ANDRAS  
Yes, we can open up the crate.

Andras opens the crate and Hannah crawls out, with a blood stain on her clothing.

AUDRIENNE/NINI  
Oh, Hannah. Are you doing all right?

They hug. Hannah lifts up her shirt and shows Nini her wound.

ANYA/HANNAH  
Ouch! It stings.

AUDRIENNE/NINI  
Chovanio Erno sent some salve with us. Let me go and get it.

Hannah gives Andras a side hug. Nini goes to another crate to get the salve.

NICKOLAI/ANDRAS  
That salve is good! I would know!

They both giggle. Nini comes back with the salve.

AUDRIENNE/NINI  
Lift up your shirt, Hannah.

Hannah lifts up her shirt and Nini applies the salve to the wound. Hannah breathes a sigh of relief.

ANYA/HANNAH  
That was a close call. It took all my strength not to scream. All I could think of was Chovanio Erno's invisibility prayer for us. It was worth it! Now look, we are free!

NICKOLAI/ANDRAS  
Hold on!

Andras goes to another crate, pulls out three shot glasses and a bottle of Vodka.

Hannah's eyes get big. She smiles.

Andras hands out glasses to Nini and Hanna. He pours a little Vodka into each glass.

NICKOLAI/ANDRAS (CONT'D)

To the life we left behind and to  
the many happy tomorrows in  
America!

They toast with their glasses and drink. Andras collects the glasses and places them back into the crate.

ANYA/HANNAH

Can we explore this ship? It's  
been a long time since I've been on  
a boat.

NICKOLAI/ANDRAS

Yes, we can. Make sure that you  
bring your identification papers  
with you.

Nini and Hanna pull out their identification papers.

AUDRIENNE/NINI

Let's go!

All three characters stroll on the dimly lit deck.

Hannah finds two sticks with a disk. She grabs one to Nini.

They play "floor shuffleboard," laughing and having a great time.

Nini, Hanna and Andras find themselves at the bow of the ship, the moon still shining brightly over them. Hannah throws her arm around Nini and smiles.

Hannah lets go of Nini and carelessly reaches for a rope, leaning off the bow of the boat.

HANNAH/ANYA

I am going to America with my 2  
best friends!

The ship jolts from a wave. Hannah starts to fall into the water.

Andras reaches over to grab her and pull her back into safety. They embrace, stare at each other deeply. Hannah shakes from brief chills.

NICKOLAI/ANDRAS  
Let's just make it to America!

Everyone laughs.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. HUDSON PIER -- DAY

Nini, Hannah, and Andras get off the boat.

A HUDSON PIER EMPLOYEE (30, male, short, bald, loud voice) gives them directions.

HUDSON PIER EMPLOYEE  
First and second class passengers  
to the right. Steerage to the  
left.

Nini, Hannah, and Andras go to the left. They get directed to a ferry. That ferry takes them to Ellis Island.

EXT. ELLIS ISLAND -- DAY

The ferry arrives.

Nini, Hannah, and Andras exit the ferry. This time they're directed by an ELLIS ISLAND EMPLOYEE (25, male, tall, cleanly pressed uniform).

ELLIS ISLAND EMPLOYEE  
Everyone must go to the Great Hall.  
That's where you'll be processed.  
Please have your paperwork ready.

All three of them enter the building.

NICKOLAI/ANDRAS  
Let's all meet at the Kissing Post  
after we're done being registered.  
I heard it will take a few hours.

INT. ELLIS ISLAND BUILDING -- GREAT HALL DAY

People walk by WOUNDED SERVICEMEN, who are being tended to by NURSES and DOCTORS.

Nini, Hannah and Andras take a seat.

One by one, all three of them get inspected by a doctor and sign the registry and enter the Kissing post.

INT. ELLIS ISLAND BUILDING -- DAY KISSING POST

A WOMAN is waiting at the Kissing Post. A look of intense yearning is plastered on her face.

Nini, Hannah and Andras meet up at the Kissing Post.

ANYA/HANNAH

I've never been around so many people. At least I know I'm not alone.

Hannah gives a sigh of relief.

AUDRIENNE/NINI

I agree... I'm just glad we're back together. Andras, do you remember what Chovanio Erno said about what to do when we arrive?

NICKOLAI/ANDRAS

He said something about sticking together.

ANYA/HANNAH

And to use the name Spitfire.

Anya smiles.

Audrienne shyly looks over her shoulder at a woman sitting down.

NADIA YURAN (25, brown eyes, long brown hair, long dress) sees Audrienne, Anya, and Nickolai standing together. Her eyes grow wide. She stands up and walks over to them.

NADIA

Spitfire?

Everyone smiles.

AUDRIENNE/NINI

Cousin?

Nini and Nadia share a warm embrace.

NADIA

I am Nadia Yuran. I have been sent here by our Uncle Erno.

AUDRIENNE/NINI

I want to introduce to you Hannah Kolchak and Andras Gabor.

ANYA/HANNAH

Hello, cousin!

Hannah hugs Nadia.

NICKOLAI/ANDRAS

It's nice to meet you, Ms. Yuran.

NADIA

Let's get out of here. It's too noisy. We have to take a ferry back to the mainland. My father's waiting in the car for us.

They all walk outside. They board a ferry.

EXT. OCEAN -- DAY

A new ferry arrives at a different dock. All 4 characters get off the ferry and proceed to the boardwalk.

EXT. PIER/BOARDWALK -- DAY

Nadia, Andras, Nini and Hannah walk along the boardwalk.

NADIA

I see him.

She waves her arms in the air.

From afar, GUSTAV "PAPA" YURAN (50, dark brown wavy hair, white shirt, light brown pants) sees them. He brings the car over to them.

INT. GUSTAV'S CAR -- DAY -- CONTINUOUS

Andras puts luggage into the trunk. Everyone enters the car.

NADIA

Everyone, I would like you to meet my father.

GUSTAV  
Welcome to America!

Gustav starts the car and drives off.

GUSTAV (CONT'D)  
It's great to see you have arrived safely! You may call me Papa!

AUDRIENNE/NINI  
Thank you so much for giving us a new life here in America. We had to leave Russia.

GUSTAV  
Yes, Erno has told me all about your background. For the record, I, my wife and Nadia are the only ones that know your background. Your background must be kept a secret, or else you could die. There has been much talk about the events in Russia here in America.

ANYA/HANNAH  
Really? Americans know about my family?

GUSTAV  
Yes, very much so. I have heard that the Red Army may be looking for all three of you here in America. You narrowly escaped being captured at a port in Russia. They now know to look for you, Hannah and two other people. Which means our plans have been changed. We were going to welcome all of you into our family in New Jersey. In light of recent events, it is best for the three of you to split up.

Hannah, Nini and Andras look to each other in surprise.

NADIA  
Papa has made arrangements with our family in Illinois. Nini and Andras will be living with them. Our cousin has come here to take the both of you back to Illinois.

GUSTAV  
Hannah, you will be staying with us here in New Jersey.

ANYA/HANNAH

Oh, I am so excited to live next to the ocean!

GUSTAV

Nini and Andras will stay with us for a week. They will then go back to Illinois to start their new life.

AUDRIENNE/NINI

Papa, will Hannah be able to come to Illinois and visit us?

GUSTAV

Certainly... in the future.

Nini and Hannah give each other a side hug.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. GUSTAV'S HOUSE -- DAY

Gustav's car pulls up to the front of the house. Everyone gets out and walks through the already open door, where MARY YURAN (45, blonde, brown eyes, petite, wife of Gustav) waits in the doorway.

MARY

Come in, come in! Time to relax!

She signals everyone to enter the house. Everyone enters the living room and sits down.

GUSTAV

This is my wife Mary.

MARY

(pointing to Anya)  
Let me guess, you are Hannah.

Hannah smiles and nods.

MARY (CONT'D)

And you are Nini. And you are Andras -- the hero of the day! We are blessed to have you in our family!

AUDRIENNE

Yes, he even saved Hannah from falling off of a ship.

NICKOLAI

All my military training couldn't  
prepare me for this amazing  
journey. Thank You, Mary. I do want  
to say that I am the one that is  
blessed.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. NEW JERSEY BEACH -- DAY

Hannah and Nadia go for a walk on the shoreline.

ANYA

Back in Russia, Nini talked to me  
about change. It was like she knew  
something was going to happen.

NADIA

The Romani women have keen  
intuition. Not only for ourselves,  
but for others.

ANYA/HANNAH

Her love and guidance is one thing  
that I couldn't leave behind.  
She'll always be my best friend!

Hannah kicks her feet in the water.

ANYA/HANNAH (CONT'D)

I just wish I could live closer to  
Nini.

NADIA

Remember, Hannah, we use cars now!  
It is not like you are forced to  
take a carriage anymore. The car  
makes for much faster travelling.

Hannah's face lights up.

ANYA/HANNAH

Oh, yes, that's right. Sometimes I  
just feel like I am stuck. You  
understand?

NADIA

Oh Yes. I understand.

HANNAH/ANYA

Then I shake and tell myself this  
is not a dream. I'm really free  
now!

NADIA

Yes, you are. Now let's see how  
fast you can run. The first one to  
the pier wins.

The girls take off sprinting/running to the pier.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. GUSTAV'S HOUSE -- DAY

Gustav, Mary, Nini, and Andras sit at the kitchen table.  
They're joined by YULIY BORIS BRINER (55, bald, stocky).

GUSTAV

You shall be leaving soon for  
Illinois. I want to introduce you  
to my cousin Yuliy Briner.

BORIS

Nice to meet you! Call me Boris.

Boris shakes hands with Nini and Andras.

BORIS (CONT'D)

Welcome to our family! America is  
the new beginning you are looking  
for. Cousin Gustav said that you  
left Russia to make a better life.

Nini looks at Andras and smiles.

AUDRIENNE/NINI

Yes, we have.

BORIS

Gustav also said you met Chovanio  
Erno?

AUDRIENNE/NINI

Oh, yes! Chovani Lynda also! She  
showed Hannah and I how to hand-  
walk. Chovanio Erno healed Andras  
after he got shot. He was amazing.

BORIS

The Romani practice of healing is very different than the American way. You must share your story with everyone. Opre Rroma!

Anya enters the kitchen.

ANYA/HANNAH

Rise Roma!

BORIS

This must be Hannah. Hello, I'm Cousin Boris. I will be taking Nini and Andras to Illinois.

ANYA/HANNAH

It is very nice to meet you, Boris.

BORIS

Nini was just telling us about Chovanio Erno and Chovani Lynda.

ANYA

Yes. What an experience.

She looks over to Nickolai, who smiles at her.

GUSTAV

We may have forgot our healing ways. There is one thing we have not forgot, and that is music! Our Hungarian brothers are excellent musicians!

BORIS

We have thousands of years of experience, we SHOULD be great musicians!

Everyone laughs.

MARY

Flamenco is my favorite! I also love the new Romani Jazz.

GUSTAV

The beautiful aspect of Romani people is that they adapt to every culture they are in. Yet, they remain loyal to their ancestry.

BORIS

Andras and Nini, we will be leaving very early in the morning. Be sure to gather your belongings tonight, so we can leave first thing in the morning.

INT. GUSTAV'S HOUSE -- NIGHT CONTINUOUS

Hannah washes dishes, gleefully singing. Andras stands in the doorway, watching her.

He slowly approaches her from behind and pokes her side. She lightly screams.

She turns around splashes him with water. She realizes that it's Nickolai. They both laugh.

NICKOLAI

The domestic life suits you well.

ANYA/HANNA

Thanks! I love to help out where ever I go.

Hannah shyly gives a light sigh.

HANNAH/ANYA

I suppose you heard me sing?

NICKOLAI

(with a satisfied nod)  
Yes, I did.

Hannah wipes off some water from his arm. Their eyes connect.

HANNAH/ANYA

Thank you so much for rescuing me, over and over again! I can be a hand full at times.

ANDRAS

I'm glad you are a hand full. I wouldn't want you any other way. I am sure you will keep Papa Gustav on his toes!

ANYA/HANNAH

I promise I won't go near a bow of a boat!

They share another laugh.

ANYA/HANNAH (CONT'D)

I'm going to miss you and Nini so much. My heart will have an empty void.

NICKOLAI/ANDRAS

Look on the bright side, you're living near the ocean. Didn't you say you loved being near the ocean?

ANYA/HANNAH

Yes, I do. I have already been there with Nadia!

NICKOLAI/ANDRAS

Gustav said he may bring you out to visit us. See? You have the best of both worlds!

ANYA/HANNAH

I promise that I will write to you and Nini!

NICKOLAI/ANDRAS

And I will do the same. I have to go upstairs and gather my belongings.

They face each other and hold hands. Hannah starts to cry. He wipes the tear from her eye and holds her in a tight embrace.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. GUSTAV'S HOUSE -- DAY

Boris stands at the front door, looking into the house.

BORIS

Andras? Nini? Are you ready to go?

Nini enters the living room.

AUDRIENNE/NINI

Yes, let me go upstairs and get my luggage.

Nini runs upstairs.

Andras enters the living room , carrying his belongings.

BORIS  
 AH! Good. Let's take your luggage  
 out to the car.

NICKOLAI/ANDRAS  
 Let's go.

Both men walk out the door.

Nini enters the living room with her luggage, followed by  
 Hannah. They both stand in the doorway.

ANYA/HANNAH  
 I am going to...

AUDRIENNE/NINI  
 I will miss you too.

Hannah lightly cries. Nini wipes away her tears.

AUDRIENNE/NINI (CONT'D)  
 America is a gift for you. Enjoy  
 it! Andras and I will be fine. I  
 will write you a letter every week.

Andras and Boris come to the doorway.

BORIS  
 Nini, you are ready?

NINI  
 Yes.

NICKOLAI/ANDRAS  
 I will take your luggage out to the  
 car.

EXT. GUSTAV'S HOUSE -- DAY CONTINUOUS

Nickolai takes Nini's luggage out to the car. Mary and  
 Gustav come to the doorway.

GUSTAV  
 Hopefully, we shall see each other  
 again.

Gustav proceeds to give Nini a hug. Then, Mary hugs her.

AUDRIENNE/NINI  
 Thank you so much for welcoming us  
 into your home.

Nini and Boris walk out to the car. Hannah, Mary and Gustav stand outside the front door.

Boris and Nini enter the car, with Andras organizing the luggage. In the middle of doing so, Anya runs up to Andras and gives him a big hug. She cries.

NICKOLAI/ANDRAS  
(whispering into Anya's  
ear)  
Save me some sea shells. I want to  
hear the ocean.

Anya smiles and giggles. He wipes away her tears and gets into the car.

The car drives off.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

INT GUSTAV'S HOUSE -- DAY

SUPERIMPOSE: TWO YEARS LATER

In the kitchen, Anya reads a letter.

AUDRIENNE (V.O.)  
Dearest Hannah,  
  
The family and I are all doing well. Chicago's been a little crazy. There is this thing called "prohibition." The government has made alcohol illegal. If they tried that in Russia, the people would revolt! Andras is still working at the meat packing plant. We have been spending a lot of time together...

FLASH TO:

EXT. POND -- DAY ILLINOIS

Nickolai and Audrienne sit on a boat in the middle of the pond.

NICKOLAI/ANDRAS  
Nini, I want to share the rest of  
my new life with you!  
(MORE)

NICKOLAI/ANDRAS (CONT'D)  
Will you marry me?

Nickolai holds out a ring, proposing to Audrienne.

She gasps.

NINI  
Yes! Oh Yes I will!

They hug.

FLASH TO:

INT. GUSTAV'S HOUSE -- DAY --

Hannah is reading letter at the kitchen table.

AUDRIENNE/NINI (V.O.)  
He even asked me to marry him. We  
are getting married next month.  
Andras has a very small flat. It is  
very close to his job. We will be  
living there.  
I am so excited! I wish you could  
be here.

FLASH TO:

INT. BORIS' HOUSE -- DAY

Boris, Nini, and Andras are seated in the living room.

BORIS  
And to whom do I owe the pleasure  
of this visit, Andras?

NICKOLAI  
Boris... Mr. Briner... I cant thank  
you enough for all that you have  
done for me. My life in America is  
truly a blessing. I want to share  
that blessing with Nini... and  
that's why I would like to ask for  
her hand in marriage.

NICKOLAI/ANDRAS

For the dowry, I will give you a side of beef from the plant where I work.

A silence washes over them, followed by...

BORIS

Yes!

AUDRIENNE

(elated)

Thank you, Boris!

BORIS

When will the wedding take place?

NICKOLAI

Next month.

BORIS

It is Romani custom to toast our agreement with a glass of wine.

Boris quickly fishes three glasses and a bottle of wine out the cabinet. He pops up the bottle, pours three glasses, and hands one to Andras and Nini. The three raise their glasses.

BORIS (CONT'D)

My sincerest blessings to the marriage of Nini and Andras.

They clink glasses and drink up.

FLASH TO:

INT. GUSTAV'S HOUSE -- DAY

Hanna still reading letter from Nini.

NINI (V.O.)

Give everyone my love. Andras sends his love. I miss you.  
Hugs and Kisses!  
Nini

Hannah stops reading the letter. She looks around.

ANYA/HANNAH

Mary? Mary, where are you?

Hannah goes into the living room.

MARY

I am in the hallway. What's going on?

Hannah meets Mary in the hallway.

MARY (CONT'D)

Oh. I see you read Nini's letter. How are Nini and Andras doing?

ANYA/HANNA

Other than this thing called prohibition? They're doing great. As a matter of fact... they're getting married.

MARY

(happily)  
Really?

ANYA/HANNAH

Where is Papa?

MARY

He hasn't come back from the factory.

ANYA/HANNAH

I want to tell him.

MARY

I promise to say nothing to him. You need to gather your belongings and go to your dance lesson. Hurry, don't be late.

ANYA/HANNAH

Don't worry, I'll go. I will tell him tonight when I get back from my dance lesson.

INT. GUSTAV'S HOUSE -- NIGHT

Mary, Nadia, Gustav, and Hannah finish up dinner in the kitchen.

ANYA/HANNAH

I received a letter from Nini today. She's getting married to Andras.

NADIA

Really? That's great! When is the wedding? We have to go!

ANYA/HANNA

I was just about to ask Papa Gustav if we could go.

NADIA

Papa, Can we go?

ANYA/HANNA

Can we?

GUSTAV

When is it?

ANYA/HANNAH

Next month.

GUSTAV

Too short of notice. No girls. We can't. It's a very busy season in the factory. I can't just get away from work.

ANYA/HANNA

AWWWW.....

NADIA

But, I really want to go.

GUSTAV

How about I send them an extra fancy felt from the factory? It will be a nice wedding present from us.

ANYA/HANNAH

Papa, can I send her the Dilko? Since Andras' father won't be there?

GUSTAV

Yes, we'll send her one. I will ask Boris to place it on her head.

MARY

Nadia, tonight is your turn to do the dishes.

NADIA

Yes, mother.

ANYA/HANNAH  
I'll be up in my room, writing a  
letter to Nini.

Nadia starts to clean up. Everyone else leaves the room.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. HUDSON PIER -- DAY

SUPERIMPOSE: 1922

Sporting a full beard and wrinkled clothing, Petrolov gets off a white star steamship. The Hudson Pier employee gives him directions.

HUDSON PIER EMPLOYEE  
First and second class passengers  
to the right. Steerage to the  
left.

Petrolov goes to the left and gets directed to a ferry.

EXT. ELLIS ISLAND -- DAY

A ship arrives at the dock and Petrolov gets off. Upon arrival, he gets directed by the Ellis Island employee.

ELLIS ISLAND EMPLOYEE  
Everyone must go to the Great Hall.  
You will be processed there.  
Please have your paperwork ready.

INT. ELLIS ISLAND BUILDING -- DAY

Petrolov sees the doctor and signs the registry.

PETROLOV (V.O.)  
(to himself)  
I have left everything behind to  
find Anastacia. America, the  
beautiful, lead me to her.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. LAKESIDE WEDDING CEREMONY -- DAY

TEN PEOPLE sit in the crowd. A BAND plays MUSIC in the background.

Andras and Nini are seated in front of the MINISTER.

MINISTER  
And now, according to Romani  
Tradition...

The minister signals Boris, who brings bread and salt to Andras. A small amount of salt and bread get placed on the knees of the bride.

The groom takes some of the bread, pours salt on it, and eats it. The bride does the same.

MINISTER (CONT'D)  
The union of salt and bread  
symbolizes a harmonious future  
together for the bride and groom.  
Andras and Nini, will you please  
stand up?

Boris grabs the chairs as they stand up.

MINISTER (CONT'D)  
Andras, do you take Nini to be your  
lawfully wedded wife?

NICKOLAI/ANDRAS  
I do.

MINISTER  
Nini, do you take Andras to be your  
lawfully wedded husband?

AUDRIENNE/NINI  
I do.

Nickolai places a ring on her finger.

MINISTER  
With the authority vested in me of  
the State of Illinois, I now  
pronounce you husband and wife.  
You may kiss the bride.

The bride and groom share a loving kiss.

Boris walks over to Nini and places the Dilko on her head.

The crowd APPLAUDS and erupts with joy.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. WEDDING HALL -- DAY

SUPERIMPOSE: NEW JERSEY, 1925

The photographer, ROGER, takes a series of photos.

Anya stands behind the ATTENDEES, adjusting the lighting.

ROGER  
 (calling out to Hannah)  
 Hannah, I need you to take over for  
 me.

She peeks her head around the lighting fixture.

ANYA/HANNAH  
 Yes, boss, I will be right there.

Hannah walks over to the camera and starts directing the ATTENDEES. Roger has disappeared.

ANYA/HANNAH (CONT'D)  
 Miss, I need you to turn. The  
 light is not right on your face.

Hannah takes a picture. Roger comes back into the room.

ROGER (O.S.)  
 We're all done. Hannah, take care  
 of the equipment.

Roger leaves again. Hannah puts away the equipment. She is waiting for Roger.

Roger peeks his head from around the corner.

ROGER (CONT'D)  
 I will be ready to go in a few  
 minutes. Then we can go home.

Hannah takes out a letter and reads it.

AUDRIENNE (V.O.)  
 Dearest Hannah,  
  
 I have some great news to share  
 with you: I'm pregnant! We are so  
 excited. The doctor said it is  
 twins!  
  
 Love,  
  
 Nini.

Hannah looks up at the sound of Roger's voice.

ROGER  
It's time to go.

Anya smiles. She slips the letter into her pocket, grabs the camera and other equipment and takes it out to Rogers car.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ANDRAS AND NINI'S FLAT -- DAY

SUPERIMPOSE: 7 months LATER

Andras and Nini lie in bed. Andras is laying flat and Nini is on her side facing away from Andras.

NICKOLAI/ANDRAS  
Good morning, my love.

Nini lies on her back, revealing her pregnant belly. She replies with a smile.

AUDRIENNE/NINI  
Can I get a kiss from my beloved  
husband?  
(rubbing her belly)  
The twins would appreciate it.

Nini struggles as she tries to sit up in bed. They kiss. She wiggles.

AUDRIENNE/NINI (CONT'D)  
Either I have indigestion, or one  
our babies just kicked me!

They both laugh. Andras kisses her belly and gets out of bed.

NICKOLAI/ANDRAS  
Or could it be that the baby is  
hungry? What can I get you to eat?  
Remember what the doctor said: you  
need plenty of bed rest.

AUDRIENNE/NINI  
Well, since it IS your day off...

NICKOLAI/ANDRAS  
Yes, my dear?

AUDRIENNE/NINI

I would love some sour kraut and sausage kolache. And, on the way back, could you stop by the market and get me some blueberries?

NICKOLAI/ANDRAS

(smiling)

Anything for you, my love.

Andras gets dressed and leaves the flat.

Audrienne looks around the room and sighs. She slowly gets up and moves into the other bedroom, which contains two cribs. She runs her hand along each crib, then hugs one of the teddy bears.

With an ear-to-ear smile, she touches her belly.

LATER THAT DAY...

Andras comes back. He lays a napkin on Audrienne's belly and feeds the kolache to her

NICKOLAI/ANDRAS (CONT'D)

Is my love satisfied with her breakfast?

With a mouth full of food, Audrienne emphatically nods.

Nickolai hands her a glass of water. She drinks it.

NICKOLAI/ANDRAS (CONT'D)

Boris wants to give us the baptism gowns for our babies. Do you feel well enough to go there today?

AUDRIENNE

Yes, just remember to bring water, OK?

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. GUSTAV'S HOUSE -- DAY

Mary's in the kitchen, as Anya runs back and forth in the hallway.

ANYA/HANNAH

Aunt Mary, have you seen my ballet slippers?

MARY

Try looking in the closet on the  
floor off to the right.

Anya goes into her room, digs through the closet, and finds her slippers. She packs her ballet clothes and shoes into a bag.

ANYA/HANNAH

(yelling out)  
I found them. Thanks!

MARY (O.S.)

Hurry! Don't be late for dance  
class!

ANYA/HANNAH

I might be home a little late. I  
have to stop by the studio and  
develop some negatives.

Anya hurries towards the front door, just as Nadia enters.

NADIA

Where are you going, Hannah?

ANYA

(stopping)  
I'm going to dance class.

NADIA

OK. See you later.

Nadia hangs her coat.

NADIA (CONT'D)

(screaming out)  
Mom, where are you?

MARY

I'm in the kitchen.

Mary is covered in flour in the kitchen. Nadia enters and sits at the table.

NADIA

Today, when I was driving home...

Mary wipes off her hands and joins Nadia at the table.

MARY

Yes?

NADIA

I think I saw someone following me.

MARY

Well, be careful. Just to make sure, next time you go somewhere, take a different route. THEN look behind. If you still think someone is following you, tell dad, OK?

NADIA

Yes, Mom, I will. By the way, what are you making?

MARY

Pecan pie, you father's favorite!

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. NICKOLAI AND AUDRIENNE'S FLAT -- DAY

Audrienne wakes up, groaning in pain.

AUDRIENNE

Andras? Andras?!!!

Andras reaches for the light and flips it on.

AUDRIENNE (CONT'D)

Andras, something is terribly wrong. I need to get to the hospital right away.

NICKOLAI/ANDRAS

What do you mean?

Nickolai goes to her side of the bed and pulls up the covers. He uncovers her and sees something that shocks him. He tries his best not to show his emotion.

NICKOLAI/ANDRAS (CONT'D)

Let's go!

Andras picks her up and quickly places Nini in the backseat of the car.

INT. NICKOLAI'S CAR (MOVING) -- DAY

Nickolai presses his foot on the gas pedal, trying to drive as quickly as possible.

In the back, Audrienne screams.

AUDRIENNE/NINI  
They aren't moving anymore, Andras.

NICKOLAI/ANDRAS  
Hold on Nini. We're almost at the  
hospital.

INT. HOSPITAL -- DAY

Nickolai carries his pregnant wife up to the reception desk.

NICKOLAI  
(panicked)  
I need a doctor... nurse...  
somebody!

A NURSE #1 (40's, brown hair) rushes over to them.

NURSE  
I'll get a gurney.

The nurse rushes off.

A DOCTOR (50's, male, bald) walks down the hall. Nickolai  
pulls him aside.

NICKOLAI  
Doctor, can you help me?

DOCTOR  
Yes, is she your wife?

NICKOLAI  
Yes, and she's pregnant. She's  
lost a lot of blood.

The nurse arrives with the gurney. Nickolai helps the nurse  
hoist her onto it.

Audrienne goes into shock.

AUDRIENNE  
(slurring her words)  
A... Andras... I... I'm... ccold.

Audrienne starts to shake, as the doctor and nurse wheel her  
into the emergency room.

AUDRIENNE/NINI  
(reaching for Nickolai)  
I love you. We love ....

Andras tries to follow his wife, but the doctor stops him from entering the emergency room.

DOCTOR

Sir, I cannot let you come in here.  
We'll update you as soon as we know something.

The doctor disappears into the emergency room.

Nickolai paces the hallway. He runs to the nurses' station.

NICKOLAI/ANDRAS

Miss, may I use your telephone?

NURSE # 2 hands him the phone. He quickly places a call.

NICKOLAI

Boris? Nini and I are in the...

The doctor exits the emergency room and approaches him. Nickolai pulls the phone away from his ear.

DOCTOR

Sir...

NICKOLAI

Yes?

DOCTOR

I have some bad news.

NICKOLAI

(distressed)

Did something happen to my babies?

DOCTOR

Actually... I regret to inform you that your wife and both babies have died.

Andras drops the phone and collapses to his knees. He cries on the floor.

Nurse # 2 hesitantly takes the phone and speaks into it.

NURSE # 2

Sir... your friend is in a Cook County Hospital. Please get here fast.

The doctor picks up Andras and guides him to the waiting room. He calmly speaks to him.

DOCTOR

Sir, your wife had a uterine hemorrhage, which caused the babies to miscarry. She lost too much blood and... we unfortunately couldn't save her.

Nickolai cries harder. Boris enters the waiting room and hugs Andras. They both are crying.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. GUSTAV'S HOUSE -- DAY

Mary, Nadia and Hannah sit at the kitchen table.

The PHONE RINGS. Mary gets up and answers the phone.

MARY

Hello?... What happened to Nini?

Hannah stares towards her, questioning, mouth agape. Mary hangs up the phone sits and sits down. She is crying.

MARY YURAN

Nini died as a result of the miscarriage. I have to go and tell Papa.

Mary leaves the kitchen.

Hannah slams her fists down on the table and says.

HANNAH

This can't be! Nini and Andras were so very happy!

Hannah bursts out into tears. Nadia is crying. Still sitting at the kitchen table.

ANYA

I have to go there.

NADIA

I agree you need to go. Andras needs your support now. He's all alone.

ANYA

Can you take me? I know Papa will be too busy.

After a slight pause...

NADIA  
Gladly. I will get the car  
prepared.

LATER THAT NIGHT...

Hannah and Nadia talk to Gustav in the kitchen.

NADIA (CONT'D)  
Dad, Can I take Hannah to Illinois?

GUSTAV  
Didn't you tell your mom something  
about being followed? I don't know  
if this is a good idea.

NADIA  
Papa! We have to go. I promis, I  
will be very careful.

Gustav ponders the decision.

GUSTAV  
Well, OK.

ANYA/HANNAH  
We WILL be careful.

GUSTAV  
You will leave tomorrow.

NADIA  
Thank you, Papa!

The girls leave the kitchen and go up to their bedrooms.  
Hannah is packing her luggage. As she is packing, Anya  
stumbles upon a jar of shells with the name "ANDRAS" printed  
on the front label. She carefully packs it into her luggage.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. GUSTAV'S HOUSE -- DAY

The car sits in Gustav's driveway. Gustav helps Hannah and  
Nadia stuff luggage into the trunk.

GUSTAV  
You have enough money for gas and a  
hotel?

NADIA  
Yes Papa, thank you.

Nadia hugs Papa. Anya Papa him tightly.

ANYA

I love you, Papa! Please tell Mary  
I said I love her too!

The women get into the car. Nadia drives off.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. HIGHWAY -- ILLINOIS/INDIANA BORDER -- DAY

The car proceeds down the road, it runs over a rock. The tire becomes wobbly, causing the car to veer off the side of the road and CRASHES into a tree.

Anya and Nadia lay unconscious in the front seat. The car is smoking/steaming.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ANDRAS AND NINI'S FLAT -- DUSK

Andras falls asleep sitting in a chair. Nini's spirit comes to him in a dream.

FLASH TO:

EXT. ILLINOIS/BORDER HIGHWAY (DREAM SEQUENCE)

She shows him Nadia and Hannah riding in the car. She shows him the car running into the tree.

NINI

Andras, my love.

She shows him the Indiana/Illinois border SIGN. He also sees her holding healthy newborn twins.

NINI (CONT'D)

We are all fine. You have another  
chance for happiness. Go rescue  
them. We will always be with you.

She and the babies fade out from the dream.

FLASH TO:

INT. NICKOLAI AND AUDRIENNE'S FLAT -- DUSK

Andras abruptly wakes up, startled.

EXT. ROAD -- DUSK

Andras drives to Boris's ranch. Andras hops onto his horse, which is a smaller version of a Gypsy King horse. He rides off to find Hannah and Nadia.

EXT. HIGHWAY -- NIGHT

Andras rides the horse along the highway.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. HIGHWAY -- ILLINOIS/INDIANA BORDER -- NIGHT

Andras continues riding along and finds Hannah and Nadia in the car at the crash site.

He jumps off his horse and ties it up. Pulls both women out the car. The women are barely conscious, but groggy.

As cars are seen in the distance, Andras runs to the side of the road and tries to flag one down.

A car pulls over. Andras loads the two women into the car.

When the car drives off, he follows them on his horse.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

EXT. RANCH -- DAY/DUSK

SUPERIMPOSE: FIVE YEARS LATER

Andras sits on the front porch. He hears and turns his head to see someone driving into his driveway. He stands up and walks over to the driveway. The visitor has arrived.

NICKOLAI/ANDRAS

Hello... I don't believe we've met before. How may I help you?

Petrolov emerges from the car.

PETROLOV  
Are you Andras Gabor?

NICKOLAI/ANDRAS  
I am indeed. And you are?

Petrolov smiles.

PETROLOV  
Petrolov, Victor Petrolov. I am from Russia. But, it is not what you think. May I have a seat? I'm getting old.

NICKOLAI/ANDRAS  
Sure.

Andras signals Petrolov to come take a seat on the porch. He does. They both walk to the porch.

NICKOLAI/ANDRAS (CONT'D)  
(through the front door)  
Hannah, we have a visitor. Can you please get him something to drink?

HANNAH (O.S.)  
One ice cold beverage, coming up!

PETROLOV  
I am from Russia. America is my home now. I was the General who was following the carriage when it was overtaken by the civilians.

Andras's eyes grow big.

Clouds increase in the sky. THUNDER is heard in the distance.

A Gypsy King horse grazes near the front of the house.

NICKOLAI/ANDRAS  
Please, Go ON!

PETROLOV  
I was dishonorably discharged from the Red Army after Anastacia disappeared and the dignitary's daughter was killed.

NICKOLAI/ANDRAS  
How did you find us?

PETROLOV

Right after Anastacia disappeared, I went to the only Russian Port. I bribed the port inspectors. After you had passed through, that inspector mailed me your name. He said there was a person hidden in the carriage. I knew that person was Anastacia.

Hannah emerges from the front door with a glass of water. Petrolov looks at her.

PETROLOV (CONT'D)

Oh, Anastacia! How you have grown.

Hannah hands the glass to Petrolov. She discreetly shoots Andras a worried glance.

ANYA/HANNAH

Honeeyyy, who is this?

NICKOLAI/ANDRAS

Former General Victor Petrolov.  
Don't worry, everything is OK.

ANYA/HANNAH

Mr. Petrolov, my name is Hannah Gabor. Nice to meet you.

Petrolov smiles.

PETROLOV

When I left Russia to find you, I had no idea how happy I would be to live in America. You have indirectly changed my life. I will be forever in debt to you. Your identity will be forever safe with me.

NICKOLAI/ANDRAS

We heard the Red Army still may be looking for her. Her whole family is dead. Every person from the Romanov family has either left Russia or was killed.

PETROLOV

Yes, All of her family was killed at Ykaterinaberg. It was very tragic.

ANYA/HANNAH

I will be right back, Mr. Petrolov.

Hannah goes back inside.

FLASH TO:

INT. BASEMENT -- NIGHT

SUPERIMPOSE: YKATERINABERG, RUSSIA

Nicholaus, Alexandra, Olga, Tatiana, Maria, Alexei and the doctor enter the basement. Red Army soldiers poke them with guns.

The women sit on chairs, being held at gunpoint.

Yurovsky holds a gun to Nicholaus' head.

PAN TO the wall, as GUNSHOTS are heard O.S.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. RANCH -- DUSK

Andras and Petrolov are sitting on the porch. The skies grown more cloudier with thunder and lightening.

The Gypsy King horse continues to graze in the front of the yard.

PETROLOV

I am sorry to say that Hannah is  
the last of the Romanovs.

A beautiful TODDLER walks onto the porch and curls up on Andras' lap. Hannah walking behind the toddler, smiles.

ANYA/HANNAH

No, Mr. Petrolov, Audrienne is just  
the beginning.

CRANE UP to the lightning-filled sky.

The Gypsy King horse rares up in response to the thunder.

FADE OUT.