GICA

written by

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INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

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

Raluca hears the intercom. She goes to answer.

TEODORA
Are you ready?

RALUCA
Yes. Come up.

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

She goes to the bathroom.

The elevator has reached her floor.

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

Raluca comes out of the bathroom.

TEODORA
Is this all?

RALUCA
Yes. How many did you think I had?

TEODORA
Don't know more.

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

TEODORA
Five beautiful years.

RALUCA
Fabulous!

Teodora tries to take as many boxes as possible.

RALUCA (CONT'D)
It's OK. We'll come back.
TEODORA
Nooo! We take it all. Don't you want to get it done faster?

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

TEODORA (CONT' D)
Load it.

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

RALUCA
You're good.

TEODORA
One more.

RALUCA
You sure?

TEODORA
Positive. One more!

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

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

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

RALUCA
Sure.

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

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

RALUCA
Fuck it...

Raluca picks up the remaining boxes and slams the entrance door behind her.
INT. CHURCH - DAY

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

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

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

Maria kisses one more icon and joins Raluca.

MARI A
How are you?

RALUCA
Fine.

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

MARI A
You came to church?

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

MARI A
Gica told me you moved out.

RALUCA
I did...

MARI A
For how long?

RALUCA
Two weeks?

MARI A (in a low tone)
Bitch.

RALUCA
Sorry?

Maria puffs and looks away.

MARI A
Are you OK?
RALUCA

Sorry?

MARI A
Are you OK? Are you happy?

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

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

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

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

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

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

RALUCA
There was nothing to talk about.

MARI A
Wasn't it?

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

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

RALUCA
I never cheated on him!

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

Raluca wants to leave. Maria catches her by the hand. She talks louder.
MARIA (CONT’ D)
What? Running away? The truth makes you mad?

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

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

All the WOMEN are now staring at them

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

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

Maria shouts after her.

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

INT. IKEA - DAY

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

TEODORA
Won’t you buy anything?

RALUCA
I’d buy them all.

TEODORA
Buy them

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

TEODORA
Buy them Raluca. Stop denying your pleasures!
(MORE)
These last years taught you bad. (BEAT) How many lives do you think you have?

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

Teodora smiles satisfied.

INT. IKEA - LATER

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

Raluca's phone rings.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Simona taps Raluca on her shoulder. The girls put the phones down and hug and scream.
RALUCA (CONT’ D)

And Tudor?

SIMONA

At the restaurant, with the kids. My cousin?

RALUCA

Not sure. At work maybe?

Simona stops.

SIMONA

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

Raluka's smiling.

RALUCA

Well... We broke up.

SIMONA

Really?? When??

RALUCA

A few days ago.

SIMONA

You broke up with him?

RALUCA

No, we both agreed.

SIMONA

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

RALUCA

No...

SIMONA

Was he cheating on you?

RALUCA

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

SIMONA

For better. (BEAT) And? Did you see him again?
RALUCA
No. It'd be weird. We'd only suffer more. I took all my stuff and moved.

TEODORA
Like a band-aid.

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

RALUCA
Why?

SIMONA
Since I'm his cousin...

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

SIMONA
Right. Want to see them?

RALUCA
Obviously!

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

The girls go to the restaurant.

EXT. BUS TERMINAL - DAY

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

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

RALUCA
How was it?

FATHER
Very, very nice!

MOTHER
Dear, you've lost a lot of weight! What's wrong, are you depressed?
RALUCA
No. I'm really well. Tell me... How was it?

MOTHER
Let me help your dad.

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

FATHER
Best 5 euro investment!

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

FATHER (CONT'D)
Raluca... You are wearing a single earring?

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

FATHER
No kidding...

They head to the terminal exit.

RALUCA
Let me call a taxi.

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

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

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

INT. BUS - MINUTES LATER

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

MOTHER
And Gica? Didn't he want to come?
RALUCA

No.

MOTHER

How is he?

RALUCA

Fine. He's probably at work.

MOTHER

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

RALUCA

Yes... Tell me, how was it?

MOTHER

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

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

MOTHER (CONT'D)

A... we're getting down at this one?

RALUCA

No, sit down, we have some more.

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

RALUCA (CONT'D)

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

MOTHER

Aren't we getting down?

RALUCA

No. I moved.

MOTHER

You moved?

RALUCA

I moved. I broke up with Gica.

Raluca's mother shows a huge smile.
MOTHER
You moved? For how long?

RALUCA
A few days.

MOTHER
Alone?

RALUCA
Yes.

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

FATHER
Are we getting down?

MOTHER
No. She moved!

FATHER
What?

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

INT. KITCHEN - TEODORA'S APARTMENT - DAY

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

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

RALUCA
Yes... She's really nice.

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

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

Her mother looks at her.

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

RALUCA
No.

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

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

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

RALUCA
When?

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

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

FATHER
One more?

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

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

RALUCA
92.

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

He goes back to the living. Raluca puts off her cigarette.
MOTHER
You remember your sister living with you, that week the dorms were closed?

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

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

RALUCA
But he wasn't working.

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

Raluka returns to the table. Lights a new cigarette.

RALUCA
Why didn't you tell me??

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

Lunch is ready.

MOTHER (CONT'D)
Put off that cigarette and let's eat.
(t to father)
Sorine! Let's eat!

INT. TEODORA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

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

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

TEODORA
You want juice?
RALUCA
Yeah, bring some.

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

TEODORA
(regarding the film)
What happened?

RALUCA
Not much.

Teodora hands Raluca the glass.

RALUCA (CONT'D)
Not now

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

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

THE END.