

The Magic Lantern

FADE IN:

INT./EXT. PRAGUE - RUZYNE AIRPORT - DAY

A KLM 737 approaches and lands on a runway at Ruzyně Airport near Prague. The sign on top of the terminal says "PRAHA". In the cabin of the plane a twenty-eight-year-old American named Steven Walsh reads a Czech phrasebook. The plane taxis on the runway and stops. Steven walks down the passenger steps to the tarmac wearing a jacket and tie and holding his carry-on bag. He appears tired as he nears the end of a long journey.

SUPER: August 1989

MONTAGE - RUZYNE AIRPORT TO CHARLES UNIVERSITY - DAY

A) Steven proceeds to passport control. His passport and visa are stamped by the customs officer.

B) Steven retrieves his suitcase and walks outside the terminal to a taxi.

C) The taxi speeds off through the Bohemian countryside.

D) The taxi passes a communist propaganda billboard, and a Soviet military transport going in the other direction.

E) The taxi heads into Prague on a causeway and moves along the Vltava River embankment.

F) Images of a statue of Lenin, a building facade with a bronze hammer-and-sickle, a communist propaganda poster.

G) The taxi idles while a procession of demonstrators passes. Some of them are arrested by the Czech police.

H) The taxi ascends the hill leading to the campus of Charles University.

I) Steven gets out of the taxi and walks into a building.

END MONTAGE

INT. CHARLES UNIVERSITY - SOCIAL SCIENCES FACULTY - DAY

Steven asks for directions at the security desk.

SUPER: In 1989 Czechoslovakia had been under communist

rule for more than 40 years.

He ascends a stairway and walks down a hallway, looking for a particular office.

SUPER: In 1968 a reform government led by Alexander Dubcek tried to liberalize the regime during what came to known as the Prague Spring.

SUPER: This led to an invasion by the armed forces of the Soviet Union and its allies./Hardline communism was restored in Czechoslovakia.

He enters the outer office of the Dean of Social Sciences, where the secretary works at her desk.

[Note: Dialog is in English unless otherwise specified.]

STEVEN

Dobrý den. Good morning. I'm Steven Walsh, the Fulbright Scholar from America. I'm here to see Dr. Pavel Zeman of the Social Sciences Faculty.

The secretary escorts Steven into the dean's inner office.

SECRETARY

(in Czech, subtitled)

Dr. Zeman. This is Mr. Steven Walsh.

Dr. Pavel Zeman, a man in his late fifties, rises from his desk and walks over to Steven. They shake hands.

DR. ZEMAN

Mr. Walsh, welcome to Charles University.

STEVEN

Thank you Dr. Zeman.

DR. ZEMAN

(in Czech, subtitled)

Klara, please ask Professor Čermak to join us.

(in English)

We've been expecting you. How was

your trip?

STEVEN

My trip was good. I flew from Philadelphia via Amsterdam.

DR. ZEMAN

You must be exhausted.

STEVEN

I'm alright. I slept on the plane.

DR. ZEMAN

Young man, you come highly recommended.

Professor Viktor Čermak, a man in his early forties, walks into the office and shakes hands with Steven.

DR. ZEMAN

(in Czech, subtitled)

Viktor, this is our Fulbright Scholar, Steven Walsh.

(in English)

Professor Čermak is one of our top economists. You'll be working with him during your year in Prague.

STEVEN

Dobrý den Professor Čermak.

ČERMAK

It's a pleasure to meet you Steven. Tell me, how is my friend Tim Lyons at the University of Pennsylvania?

STEVEN

Professor Lyons is well and he sends his regards.

ČERMAK

I knew Tim when we were at the London School of Economics in 1968.

STEVEN

Tim is the reason I'm here.

ČERMAK

Let's have lunch in the dining hall. There are some students I want to you meet, what you would call undergraduates.

STEVEN

Alright. Let me get unpacked first.

DR. ZEMAN

Spend today getting settled in. Explore the campus and the city. Orientation for foreign residents is tomorrow at 9AM.

Čermak and Steven walk toward the door.

DR. ZEMAN

We will be expecting great things from you Mr. Walsh.

INT. CHARLES UNIVERSITY - FACULTY DINING ROOM - DAY

Professor Čermak and Steven sit at a table eating.

ČERMAK

The economy here is in crisis. Industry can't meet its goals. Some say better modeling and forecasting will help solve that. That's where you come in.

STEVEN

I've got a lot of experience in modeling. Professor ...

ČERMAK

Please call me Viktor.

STEVEN

Viktor, on the ride over here I saw protesters clashing with the police.

ČERMAK

(low voice)

It's the anniversary of the day
the Soviets came in 1968.

Three university students named Milos, Anna and Jan (a
boy's name, pronounced 'Yahn') walk into the dining hall.

ČERMAK

You understand that in addition to
you research we're asking you to
mentor some of our students in
your area of expertise.

STEVEN

Understood, that was explained to
me in Washington.

ČERMAK

I asked Milos, Jan, and Anna to
join us. You'll be working with
them. This is Steven, our
American Fulbright Scholar.

The three students sit down at the table.

STEVEN

Dobrý den.

MILOS

(in Czech, subtitled)

Good day to you. Where did you
learn to speak Czech?

JAN

(in Czech, subtitled)

Do you speak Slovak too?

ANNA

(in Czech, subtitled)

Is this your first time in our
country?

STEVEN

Uh, *dobrý den.*

ČERMAK

You'll be learning our language soon enough Steve. [to the students] And I'd like your help with that. [to Steven] They all speak English, that's why they were chosen to work with you.

STEVEN

Let's get together tomorrow.

MILOS

The Social Sciences Library, at four o'clock?

Steven, Jan and Anna nod. They all get up and exit the dining hall. Steven and Čermak walk outside the building together.

STEVEN

Viktor, can I speak frankly?

ČERMAK

Go ahead Steve.

STEVEN

You know I got pulled into this on short notice. The original Fulbright Scholar had a family emergency and couldn't do the year in Prague.

ČERMAK

We know that.

STEVEN

Professor Lyons recommended me to take his place. He said that no academic could pass on an assignment like this. I know he's right, but ...

ČERMAK

But you have doubts.

STEVEN

I didn't have time to learn the language. Normally that's required. And I've travelled

abroad before. But this a
communist country. Am I going to
 have the technology and data I
 need to do this job?

ČERMAK

We'll do our best. But if half of
 what Tim told us about you is true
 then you're going to do fine with
 just an abacus.

STEVEN

If you say so. Give me my IBM
 abacus.

ČERMAK

Take the rest of the day off
 Steve. Don't forget, orientation
 for foreign residents tomorrow
 morning at nine.

EXT. CHARLES UNIVERSITY - CAMPUS - DAY

Steven stands on a hill taking in a view of the city.

INT. UNIV. OF PENNSYLVANIA - PROFESSOR LYON'S OFFICE - DAY
 (FLASHBACK)

Professor Lyons sits in his office talking with Steven.

STEVEN

Why me?

LYONS

Because you're the only one I know
 of who's qualified. When I heard
 the Fulbright Program needed a
 replacement scholar I *immediately*
 thought of you.

STEVEN

Tim, these Fulbright people are
 idealists. You know I'm not out
 to save the world.

LYONS

Nobody's asking you to save the
 world Steve. Just do what you're

good at. I mean it, your work here has been so good *it's scary*.

STEVEN

My work here? I'm just slumming here until I can get a real job again. And now I've got one. In two weeks I'm joining the research group at Drexel Burnham.

LYONS

But you can always get a research job. You'll never have another chance to be the first Fulbright Scholar ever in Czechoslovakia!

STEVEN

You mean *communist* Czechoslovakia.

LYONS

I don't know anyone here who would turn down an opportunity like this. Do you know what this will mean for your career? When you come back you can write your own ticket, whatever you decide to do.

Lyons stands and walks over to Steven.

LYONS

The Fulbright Program is interviewing candidates tomorrow in Washington. Are you going?

END FLASHBACK

EXT. CHARLES UNIVERSITY - CAMPUS - DAY

Steven turns and begins walking as the sun sets.

EXT. AN AMERICAN EAST COAST BEACH - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Steven and some friends relax outside a beach house.

DIANE

Did you hear? Steve is headed to Czechoslovakia next week as a Fulbright Student.

STEVEN

Fulbright Scholar. I'll be working in an advisory role.

BOB

Going behind the Iron Curtain like James Bond.

JENNIFER

They're tearing down the Iron Curtain. The Poles and Hungarians just threw the communists out of power.

JIM

And this time the Russians aren't trying to stop it.

BOB

Stay out of trouble over there Steve.

STEVEN

It's a business trip Bob. You stay out of trouble by sticking to business.

END FLASHBACK

INT. CHARLES UNIVERSITY - LECTURE HALL - DAY

Steven and about a dozen other scholars and advanced students from various countries sit in a lecture room. Dr. Petr Kovář addresses the group from the lecture podium. A young woman named Regina Jelínková stands to his left.

DR. KOVAR

I'm Dr. Petr Kovář, head of the foreign exchange program. You are all advanced students and scholars in various fields and from many different countries. As you begin your study and research here it is our responsibility to make sure your transition is successful. Miss Jelínková will now speak to you about that.

Regina steps to the podium, a picture of poise and professionalism.

REGINA

Good morning. *Bonjour. Guten morgen. Dobroye utro.* My name is Regina and I'm an advanced student in the Languages Faculty. I've agreed to serve as your advisor on non-academic matters. Any questions or concerns please come to me. In the days ahead I'll be meeting with each of you to help you get settled here and to insure your successful transition. Now follow me for a tour of this historic campus.

EXT. CHARLES UNIVERSITY - CAMPUS - DAY

Regina leads the foreign residents on a tour of the campus.

REGINA

This is the central campus, known as the Albertov. Charles University is one of the oldest in Europe, founded in 1347 by Emperor Charles IV. It was modeled on the University of Paris.

INT. CHARLES UNIVERSITY - CLEMENTINUM - DAY

REGINA

We're standing in the baroque library hall of the Clementinum complex. The artwork on the ceiling is the work of Jan Hiebl.

EXT. CHARLES UNIVERSITY - CAMPUS - DAY

The group stands outside a building which has a memorial plaque set in the wall.

REGINA

This plaque on the wall of Hlávková Dormitory commemorates Czech medical student Jan Opletal

who was killed in 1939
demonstrating against the Nazi
occupation of this country.
Opletal and other Czech students
who died resisting fascism are
remembered every year on
International Students' Day,
November 17. This year will be
the fiftieth anniversary.

INT. CHARLES UNIVERSITY - DINING HALL - DAY

After the tour the group has lunch. Steven sits at a table
in the dining hall with several other foreign scholars.
Directly across from Steven sits a young woman named Lena
Rall. Lena leans forward to greet Steven.

LENA

How do you do? Lena, University
of Bonn, Mathematics.

STEVEN

Hello Lena. Steven, University of
Pennsylvania, Economics.

TOM

Tom, Cambridge University, Art
History.

MILA

Mila, Sofia University, Bulgaria,
Music.

MINH

Minh, Vietnam National University,
Physics. Except this past year I
was studying at the Sorbonne.

STEVEN

Does anyone here have a computer?
Lena?

LENA

Here, no. I brought my slide
rule.

MINH

The slide rule forces you to use

your head Steven.

MILA

At least we all get private rooms
in the Foreign Residents
Dormitory.

TOM

It's a nice place. But I'm a
little past the point in my life
of living in a dormitory.

STEVEN

We all are Tom.

TOM

They won't let us get a place off
campus?

LENA

No, they're keeping all their
foreign eggs in one basket.

INT. CHARLES UNIVERSITY - SOCIAL SCIENCES LIBRARY - DAY

Steven has his first session with his Czechoslovak
students.

STEVEN

So none of you have access to a
personal computer?

JAN

There are computers here. But
access is very limited.

STEVEN

Everybody uses a computer where I
come from. Here people are still
using slide rules.

ANNA

You're in Absurdistan now Steve.

STEVEN

We'll just have to make do.
Welcome to the exciting world of
economic modeling. There will be

some number crunching involved ...

MILOS

Steve, before we get started we want to warn you about something. As a foreign resident from the West you should know they're going to be watching you.

STEVEN

Who's going to be watching me?

JAN

The StB.

ANNA

That's the *Státní Bezpečnost*, the State Security police.

STEVEN

The Fulbright people warned me about that before I left the U.S. Look, I just do my work. I don't get mixed up in the local politics.

JAN

Did your people tell you that the StB has agents, how you say, *embedded* here among the students and faculty?

STEVEN

Whatever. I don't bother them and they don't bother me. Now, let's go over the syllabus.

INT./EXT. FOREIGN RESIDENTS DORMITORY - NIGHT

In the lounge Lena and Minh explain to Steven how to use a slide rule.

MINH

... and move the left index on the C scale.

Minh hands the slide rule back to Steven.

STEVEN

OK, got it. What if I need to use
an exponent?

Lena takes the slide rule.

LENA

The best way is to work with the
logarithms ...

DISSOLVE TO:

Steven uses the phone in the lounge. He writes on a
notepad as he speaks.

STEVEN

Giants over the Redskins 27-24 ...
Tampa Bay over Green Bay 23-21 ...
Cleveland over Pittsburgh 51-0 ...
No, I can't get any scores here
unless I go to the American
Embassy ... Thanks Bob, talk to you
next week.

DISSOLVE TO:

Steven works at his desk. The fire alarm goes off.
Through the open door of his room he sees Minh and Tom walk
past in the hallway.

STEVEN

What's going on?

MINH

Fire drill.

STEVEN

At ten o'clock at night? To hell
with it.

Steven continues working at his desk. Regina holds the
door to the stairwell as the residents exit. One resident
is missing so she goes to Steven's room.

REGINA

Steven, on your feet! We're
having a fire drill!

STEVEN

Yes ma'am.

Steven gets up and walks outside with Regina. He leaves an economic modeling book open to a page with a table printed on it. He leaves the door of his room partially open. Outside the residents chat while Regina paces slowly. Steven turns to Minh.

STEVEN

(low voice)

This is freaking ridiculous.

The alarm ceases.

REGINA

Drill over! Everyone back inside!

The group heads back inside. The door to Steven's room is closed. Steven tries the knob and finds it locked. He uses his key to unlock it and walks inside. Steven notices that the book he left on his desk is turned to a different page. He flips back to the page with the table on it.

INT. CHARLES UNIVERSITY - DR. ZEMAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Steven and Professor Čermak sit at a table. Dr. Zeman sits at his desk wearing a new, finely tailored suit. Čermak hands some papers to Steven.

ČERMAK

This is fine Steve. You're off to good start.

STEVEN

I could do more with a computer.

ČERMAK

Sorry, I'm afraid that a computer is out of the question for now.

DR. ZEMAN

(in Czech, subtitled)

How is your Czech coming along?

STEVEN

(in bad Czech, subtitled)

Um, started me course basic
 Doctor. And helpful students mine
 truly ...

ČERMAK

Steve, Czech is a challenging
 language for a native English
 speaker. To learn any new
 language you must be immersed in
 it. Stop working so hard. Get
 outside the campus and see this
 city.

STEVEN

Alright Viktor.

Dr. Zeman, Steven and Čermak stand up.

STEVEN

That's a fine suit Dr. Zeman.

DR. ZEMAN

I'm attending a reception this
 afternoon at the American Embassy
 for the new ambassador, Shirley
 Temple Black.

ČERMAK

The embassy reception is a big
 event here in Prague. Shirleyka
 is very popular in this country.

Steven and Čermak leave Dr. Zeman's office.

INT./EXT. FOREIGN RESIDENTS DORMITORY - DAY

Steven arrives back at the dormitory. Regina emerges from
 the front entrance as Steven approaches.

REGINA

Steve! We were supposed to meet
 yesterday.

STEVEN

Sorry Regina, I forgot.

REGINA

You're the only foreign resident I

haven't sat down with yet.

STEVEN

Can we meet later this morning?

REGINA

Eleven o'clock, sharp.

Steven walks inside the dormitory lounge to find Lena, Mila, Minh and Tom reading and drinking coffee. He looks at the bulletin board.

MINH

They posted the menu for next week.

STEVEN

Let's see, this week it was sausage and cabbage. Next week it's cabbage and sausage.

MILA

Its university food Steve.

TOM

You could try talking to Regina.

LENA

But I don't know what she can do about the menu.

STEVEN

I'll mention it to her when we meet later.

INT. FOREIGN RESIDENTS DORMITORY - MEETING ROOM - DAY

Steven and Regina sit at a table.

REGINA

What I recommend is that you not take every meal at the university. Do you ever leave the campus?

STEVEN

Of course I do.

REGINA

The Malá Strana has cafes and

restaurants that offer a better variety of food. For an American they should be quite affordable.

STEVEN

The Malá Strana, the Little Quarter.

REGINA

Yes, and I'm going there now. Would you like to join me?

STEVEN

How far is that?

REGINA

About fifteen minutes.

STEVEN

Alright. I have to be back by two.

INT. PRAGUE - CITY METRO - MOVING TRAIN CAR - DAY

Steven and Regina stand in a metro car as it approaches a stop in the Malá Strana.

REGINA

This is it.

Steven and Regina exit the metro car.

INT. PRAGUE - A CAFE IN THE MALA STRANA - DAY

Steven and Regina dine at a table in the cafe.

REGINA

How are your dumplings?

STEVEN

Awesome. Thanks for showing me this place Regina.

REGINA

This cafe is popular with foreigners. Steve, I'm responsible for your well-being while you're here. So when the fire alarm sounds you must follow

the evacuation procedure.

STEVEN

Yes, of course.

REGINA

So you're from Philadelphia?

STEVEN

Now I am. Originally I'm from Connecticut. I also lived in New York for a few years.

REGINA

New York City?

STEVEN

Yes. I worked on Wall Street for the investment firm E.F. Hutton. They were wiped out in the stock market crash in '87. That's capitalism. I decided to go back to graduate school.

REGINA

How did you like it there, in New York?

STEVEN

New York is great. It's exciting, always something to do. You can have a more interesting career. But the city has a lot of crime and corruption.

REGINA

I would like to see New York.

STEVEN

But you can't.

REGINA

It's difficult. To travel to a non-socialist country you must have a very good reason. Next year I'm applying to the Foreign Service.

STEVEN

So that means you're a ...

REGINA

A what?

STEVEN

A communist.

REGINA

I'm a candidate member of the party. There is no career in the Foreign Service without party membership.

A song plays over the cafe speakers, *Nechte zvony znít* ("Let the Bells Sound") by Marta Kubišová. Regina's attention is drawn to the music.

STEVEN

What is it?

REGINA

I ... I haven't heard this song in long time. This is Marta. Marta Kubišová.

STEVEN

Catchy tune.

REGINA

Once she was the most popular singer in the country. Now her music is banned.

STEVEN

Should I cover my ears?

REGINA

It's alright. This cafe plays banned music sometimes.

STEVEN

Why was she banned?

REGINA

Her record company dropped her

because, they said, she was a bad influence on young people.

KUBISOVA (V.O.)

(in Czech, subtitled)

*Only the bells know what you took
from me
Only the bells know what comes
next*

STEVEN

Really? This doesn't sound so bad. Something about bells. The bells know ...

REGINA

After the crisis in 1968 she kept speaking out against the Soviets and singing protest songs.

Regina and Steven listen to the song.

KUBISOVA (V.O.)

(in Czech, subtitled)

*Comes a great composer and poet
Who knows a hundred wild dreams
Let his song spread across the
city
And I beg, let the bells sound
And I beg, let the bells sound*

EXT. PRAGUE - A STREET IN THE MALA STRANA - DAY

After lunch Steven and Regina walk on the street.

STEVEN

I have to tell you Regina, I've been to a few cities in the world but I've never seen a place like this. It's like a fairy tale.

REGINA

That's what most people say about Prague their first time here. What other cities have you been to?

STEVEN

In the U.S.? Most of the major ones. In Europe I've been to London, Paris, Rome.

REGINA

Paris?

STEVEN

In Paris I stayed in the Latin Quarter.

REGINA

I want to see all these places.

STEVEN

I hope you get into the Foreign Service. I'm afraid I have to get back to the campus now.

REGINA

But it's Friday afternoon. Everyone's left for the weekend. Let me show you around this district.

STEVEN

I'd like to, but I'm meeting with my students in an hour. Thanks again Regina, I'll be coming back here.

REGINA

We're all going out to the *Lanterna Magika* theater tomorrow night. Would you like to come with us?

STEVEN

Maybe.

Steven smiles politely and parts with Regina.

INT. CHARLES UNIVERSITY - SOCIAL SCIENCES LIBRARY - DAY

Steven wraps up a session with Milos, Jan and Anna.

STEVEN

... and always consider the

trade-off effect. You give up one benefit to gain another. That's it for today. Enjoy your weekend.

Milos, Jan and Anna remain seated looking at Steven and out the window of the meeting room. Nobody else is around.

STEVEN

That's not too much homework, is it?

Milos leans forward.

MILOS

Steve, what can you tell us about Poland and Hungary?

STEVEN

Poland and Hungary? They're having free elections now. They overthrew the communists.

JAN

Yes, we know. But how?

MILOS

It's not like we have no idea what's going on. We just can't get any real news from outside the country.

STEVEN

I'm really not here to talk about ...

ANNA

What really happened in China?

STEVEN

You mean the protests? Tiananmen Square? It started last spring when the students there began demonstrating for democracy. They were joined by workers, ordinary citizens. Then the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev went to Beijing for a summit with the Chinese leaders. But they couldn't give

him the ceremony because by then there were a million people occupying the square.

ANNA

And then they sent army in?

STEVEN

The army cleared the square with infantry and tanks. Hundreds were killed. If you want to talk about this then let's set aside some extra time.

EXT. FOREIGN RESIDENTS DORMITORY - COURTYARD - NIGHT

Steven sits on a chair in the dormitory courtyard drinking a beer. Lena walks outside and sits down in another chair, wrapping a shawl around her shoulders.

STEVEN

Evening Lena.

LENA

Evening Steve. How was your day?

STEVEN

Good. I had another session with my students this afternoon.

LENA

How is it going with your Czech students?

STEVEN

They're incredible. I'm going to have to accelerate the curriculum. Lena, are you speaking Czech yet?

LENA

I already speak Czech. I took a proficiency test before I came here. Are you going out with us tomorrow to the *Lanterna Magika*?

STEVEN

Oh, that. I'd like to, but I have work to do.

LENA

You have work? On Saturday night?

Steven turns away from Lena.

LENA

Steve, what's the matter?

STEVEN

(low voice)

They're watching us, that's what. The State Security police have an agent keeping an eye this foreign egg basket. And we both know who that is.

LENA

(low voice)

So what if Regina is watching us? You do your work and I do mine and we both stay away from politics.

STEVEN

(low voice)

During that fire drill she got us all outside so her colleagues could go through our rooms.

LENA

That's because I'm one of the first West Germans to work or study here in twenty years, and you're one of the first Americans. Of course they're going to be keeping an eye on us.

STEVEN

That's what they told me in Washington before I left. And I figured it was just part of working overseas. But now that it's real it feels uncomfortable.

LENA

Then come out with us tomorrow night and take your mind off of

it.

Steven looks away again and scratches his head.

LENA

Regina arranged this. It would be
rude not to go.

STEVEN

Alright, I'll go! I'll wear my
good jacket.

INT. FOREIGN RESIDENTS DORMITORY - STEVEN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Steven sleeps in his bed.

INT. A DARK CHAMBER - NIGHT (DREAM SEQUENCE)

Steven stands in a dark chamber as *The International* plays. The concrete walls have embedded, backlit portraits of Marx, Lenin, Brezhnev, etc, alternating with hammer-and-sickle and other communist icons. Steven turns to find Regina entering the chamber.

Regina wears a form-fitting latex long bodysuit in the olive color of a Czechoslovak military uniform, with insignia on the shoulders and tunic collar, a matching garrison cap, boots, a leather belt and a swagger stick. Her sleeve has a hammer-and-sickle armband. She faces Steven and smiles.

REGINA

You will soon learn that life as
you know it is over. Prepare for
the final victory of world
communism.

Regina walks past Steven.

END DREAM SEQUENCE

INT./EXT. PRAGUE - THE LANTERNA MAGIKA THEATER - NIGHT

A view of the outside of the building. Then a view of the vast subterranean theater inside with a full audience. Steven and Lena sit next to each other enjoying a multimedia spectacle along with Regina and the other foreign residents.

INT. PRAGUE - THE SLAVIA CAFE - NIGHT

After the show the group goes to a nearby cafe. At a table the group eats, and drinks shots of a Slovakian spirit. When the next round is poured Steven raises his glass to Lena, sitting opposite. She responds by doing the same.

EXT. PRAGUE - THE LEGION BRIDGE - NIGHT

Outside the cafe near the embankment Lena waves as a taxi drives off. Steven stands at the embankment looking at the other side of the river. Lena walks over to him.

LENA

No more room in the taxi Steve.

STEVEN

That's alright Lena. I like to take a walk after eating.

It is a clear night with Prague Castle illuminated on the hill across the river.

STEVEN

Maybe I'll walk over to Prague Castle tonight.

LENA

That's where the president of the republic lives.

Steven and Lena begin walking across the Legion Bridge. There are few others around.

STEVEN

What was that we were drinking?

LENA

A Slovakian spirit I think.

LENA

Feel better now?

STEVEN

I do. It was fun evening. I guess we can thank Regina for that.

LENA

Do you really think she's a State Security agent?

STEVEN

I really don't know. She told me she was in the Communist Party.

As Steven and Lena walk on the stone bridge a Czech couple passes them, speaking in their own language.

STEVEN

Sounds like they're talking about the weather.

LENA

They're saying what a fine evening it is.

STEVEN

I'm still trying to learn the language here.

LENA

You never had to learn another language before?

STEVEN

Not to the point where I could work in it. How did you learn to speak Czech?

LENA

My mother is Czech, from Northern Bohemia. After the war the family resettled in Germany.

STEVEN

Did you grow up speaking Czech?

LENA

Czech, and German.

STEVEN

Then you can help me. Just talk to me in Czech. Immersion.

LENA
 (in English)
 Repeat after me ...
 (in Czech, subtitled)
 The River Vltava flows through
 Prague.

Steven repeats the phrase in Czech without subtitles.

LENA
 (in Czech, subtitled)
 The Legion Bridge crosses the
 Vltava.

Steven repeats the phrase.

LENA
 (in Czech, subtitled)
 We are crossing the Legion Bridge.

Steven repeats the phrase. Near the middle of the bridge
 Steven and Lena stop walking and turn to each other.
 Prague Castle is visible in the background.

LENA
 (in Czech, subtitled)
 I see the castle on the other
 side.

Steven repeats the phrase.

LENA
 (in Czech, subtitled)
 Nobody is watching us now.

Steven repeats the phrase. He and Lena look at each other
 for a moment. Then Steven puts his hand on Lena's
 shoulder, gently pulls her closer, and kisses her on the
 lips. Lena puts her arms around Steven's neck and Steven
 puts his arms around Lena's waist. They kiss intensely.

INT. CHARLES UNIVERSITY - TENNIS COURT - DAY

Steven and Minh finish a game of tennis at the university's
 indoor court.

MINH

Game!

They walk off the court.

INT. FOREIGN RESIDENTS DORMITORY - SECOND FLOOR - DAY

Steven and Minh return to the dormitory after their game.
Tom greets Steven in the hallway.

TOM

Care for a drink Steve?

STEVEN

What've you got?

TOM

(low voice)

Scotch, and entertainment.

Steven and Tom go into Tom's room. Tom pours a glass of
scotch for himself and for Steven. They begin drinking.

TOM

Can you keep a secret mate? I
mean it, don't mention this to
anybody.

Steven nods. Tom unlocks and opens his suitcase. He pulls
out a shortwave radio and turns it on. After a moment the
transmission is audible.

BBC ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Hurricane Hugo has passed through
the Caribbean and is expected to
reach the southeastern coast of
the United States tomorrow.
You're listening to BBC World
Service. In other world news,
Vietnam announced today that it
has withdrawn the last of its
troops in Cambodia ...

Steven enjoys hearing this uncensored broadcast.

STEVEN

Can you get Voice of America?

TOM

I think so. The Czechs aren't jamming Western broadcasts anymore.

EXT. PRAGUE - A STREET IN THE MALA STRANA - DAY

Steven and Lena stroll the Malá Strana district together.

STEVEN

This city gets real quiet on weekends.

LENA

Everybody goes out to their country houses. How are your students treating you?

STEVEN

They want to know everything that's happening in the world. It is the same in your faculty?

LENA

It's the same all over.

STEVEN

I thought the kids here would be like Young Pioneers, wearing hammers and sickles on the their arms. No, it's a hotbed of dissent! It feels like something's going to explode.

LENA

It's Gorbachev. The students see him making the Soviet system more liberal. But the government here is still hardline.

STEVEN

Gorbachev, yeah. Reagan, Thatcher, the Pope.

LENA

Have you heard about this underground group called The Student Ribbon? Students who are working with the dissidents.

STEVEN

The Ribbon? Never heard of it.

Steven and Lena turn a corner and find themselves on a street littered with abandoned Trabant cars.

LENA

These are East German Trabants. They drive here and seek asylum inside the West German embassy, over there. There are thousands of them camped inside the compound.

Lena points to the embassy. They look down an alley separated from the embassy compound by an eight foot high brick wall. Then a Trabant drives past them and stops in the street near the alley. A young East German couple exits the car, grabs their bags, and runs down the alley to the wall of the embassy compound. The man climbs on top of the wall and the woman passes him their bags.

STEVEN

Tell them they left engine running.

LENA

(in German)

Hey! You left the engine running!

The man responds in German.

LENA

He said take it.

Steven and Lena watch as the man pulls the woman to the top of the wall. Two Czech policemen arrive on the scene. One of them grabs the woman's leg and tries to pull her back down. She breaks free and climbs over the wall with the man into the embassy compound. Steven and Lena turn to look at the Trabant.

INT./EXT. A CZECHOSLOVAKIAN ROAD - A TRABANT CAR - DAY

Steven drives the Trabant while Lena studies the map in her Michelin Guide. The Trabant gives them a bumpy ride.

STEVEN

It's like driving a lawnmower.

LENA

Turn here.

EXT. THE BOHEMIAN COUNTRYSIDE - NEAR A LAKE - DAY

In a verdant setting Lena poses with her arm against a tree while Steven snaps a Polaroid picture. Steven looks at the picture and shows it to Lena before slipping it into his wallet.

STEVEN

I'm going to keep this one.

Steven and Lena find a spot to recline beside the lake.

STEVEN

You think we can get a room at that lodge?

LENA

No work to do tonight?

STEVEN

Not on Saturday. It's beautiful here.

INT. THE BOHEMIAN COUNTRYSIDE - GUEST ROOM AT A LODGE - DAY

At dawn Steven and Lena lie in bed in their guest room. Lena sleeps while Steven lies awake, facing up.

INT./EXT. NEW YORK - THE BROADWAY THEATER - NIGHT
(FLASHBACK)

This scene begins with a view of Broadway at night. Then a view of the outside of The Broadway Theater, with a billboard in front announcing the musical *Les Miserables*. Inside the theater Steven and his friends sit in the audience. The cast performs *Do You Hear the People Sing*.

CHORUS

*Do you hear the people sing?
Singing the song of angry men?
It is the music of the people
Who will not be slaves again!*

INT. NEW YORK - A RESTAURANT - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Steven and his friends sit at a table.

JENNIFER

That was incredible.

JIM

Your first time seeing *Les
Miserables*?

JENNIFER

For me it was.

BOB

Me too.

DIANE

How did you like it Steve?.

STEVEN

How did I like *Les Miserables*?
It's a great fantasy, for people
like us.

DIANE

A fantasy? How's that?

STEVEN

I mean most of us live mundane
lives, nine-to-five jobs at a
desk. None of us are ever going
to stand on the barricades
fighting the good fight for
freedom and justice.

DIANE

Because we already have these
things.

STEVEN

Right.

JIM

I can see you fighting on the
barricades Steve!

Light laughter all around.

STEVEN

I fight my battles in the office.
That show we just saw is about
people fighting for some great
noble cause.

BOB

Do you hear the people sing?

END FLASHBACK

INT. THE BOHEMIAN COUNTRYSIDE - GUEST ROOM AT A LODGE - DAY

Steven lies in bed and looks at Lena as she sleeps under
his arm.

EXT. PRAGUE - WEST GERMAN EMBASSY - NIGHT

This scene begins with a view of the abandoned Trabants on
the street outside the embassy. Within the embassy
compound thousands of East Germans camp outside, including
the couple who climbed over the wall. On the balcony above
the compound an official addresses the crowd with a
megaphone.

EMBASSY OFFICIAL

(in German, subtitled)

Federal Republic Foreign Minister
Genscher is here with an
announcement.

Genscher takes the megaphone.

FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER

(in German, subtitled)

I have come to you in order to
inform you that today your
departure ...

Genscher's words are immediately drowned out by loud
cheering from the crowd below him. The East German couple
cheers, and they embrace each other. A young woman in the
crowd cries with relief.

INT. PRAGUE - CENTRAL RAILWAY STATION - NIGHT

Many East Germans, including the couple who climbed the

wall, board their train. A Sky News television crew reports the events.

BRITISH REPORTER

The first group of East Germans here in Prague is boarding a train bound for West Germany. For weeks they had been taking refuge in the West German Embassy. Their departure to the West was arranged earlier this evening.

INT. CHARLES UNIVERSITY - SOCIAL SCIENCES LIBRARY - DAY

Steven wraps up a late day session with Milos, Jan and Anna. He hands some papers to Anna.

STEVEN

Nice work Anna. Milos, Jan, we'll go over your models next time.

JAN

Steve, we need your help to settle an argument.

Milos pulls a copy of *The Times of London* out of his bag and puts it on the conference room table.

MILOS

We managed to get a copy of the *London Times*. There is this one article ...

Anna points to an article on the front page and shows it to Steven.

ANNA

Here. Soviet Union declares "Sinatra Doctrine" for satellite countries, like in song *My Way*.

MILOS

Frank Sinatra, tough guy. Friends with gangsters.

STEVEN

Let me see. This is an interview with a Soviet official. They're

asking him what the Soviet policy is for Poland and Hungary now that they've voted the communists out of power. He's saying that like Sinatra sang this song called "My Way", these countries are now free to go "their way".

ANNA

(in Czech, subtitled)

See, I told you!

MILOS

She was right.

JAN

It's almost six o'clock. Want to come with us to the tavern?

EXT. PRAGUE - A STREET NEAR THE CAMPUS - NIGHT

Steven, Milos, Jan and Anna stand at an intersection waiting for a convoy of Soviet military vehicles to pass.

ANNA

They usually move at night to avoid arousing the public.

MILOS

It's been like this since 1968.

INT. PRAGUE - A TAVERN - NIGHT

Steven, Milos, Jan and Anna sit at a table with food and a large pitcher of beer.

STEVEN

Do you remember the invasion in 1968?

MILOS

I wasn't born yet.

ANNA

I was three months old.

MILOS

My parents talked about that time,

about how excited they were
because of what Dubcek was doing.

JAN

Alexander Dubcek was in power
then. He promised a more human
socialism than what we had before.
Liberal reforms. No censorship,
freedom to travel to the West.

ANNA

Then these three unreformed
Stalinists in parliament sent a
message to Moscow pleading for
"immediate assistance" before
Dubcek went too far. That's when
the Russians invaded.

MILOS

In some places they set up
barricades to try to block the
Russian tanks. People were being
killed.

ANNA

(in Czech, subtitled)

Remember Sergei?

(in English)

Last year we had a visiting
professor from the University of
Moscow. Nice man, we took him to
this tavern. Then Sergei told us
that in 1968 he was part of the
Soviet Army that took Prague,
serving in a tank crew.

EXT. PRAGUE - A NEIGHBORHOOD SQUARE - DAY (FLASHBACK)

A Soviet tank idles in the middle of a square. People
stand around it. The commander and an enlisted soldier,
Sergei, emerge from the turret. Sergei remains on the tank
while the officer climbs down to the street and tries to
converse with the crowd. It immediately becomes a shouting
match.

ANNA (V.O.)

When they reached the city they

stopped to ask for directions. His commander climbed out of the tank and down into the street where there was a crowd. They had been told that they were liberators and that we would welcome them. Instead the Russian officer was mobbed. He pleaded with the crowd. He said "We came to help!", that socialism needed time and that great things would come. But the people kept shouting "Go home!".

The Soviet officer climbs onto the tank and shouts.

ANNA (V.O.)

He gave up and climbed back onto his tank. He shouted "Which way to Old Town Square?" "That way!" the people told him. But they were pointing in the wrong direction.

JAN (V.O.)

They were pointing toward Russia.

The Soviets climb back onto the turret and drive off.

END FLASHBACK

INT. PRAGUE - A TAVERN - NIGHT

MILOS

My parents were at home listening to Radio Prague at the time.

INT PRAGUE - MILOS PARENTS' HOME - DAY (FLASHBACK)

A young Czech couple listens to a radio.

MILOS (V.O.)

The announcer was condemning the invasion but telling Czechs to stay calm, not to resist. He went on for hours. Then the station went silent.

INT./EXT. PRAGUE - RADIO PRAGUE BUILDING - DAY
(FLASHBACK)

Outside the Radio Prague building Czech resisters watch from behind a barricade as a Soviet tank burns. Then Soviet troops assault the barricade. The soldiers ascend the steps leading to the building, passing the barricade and the dead bodies of the Czech defenders.

MILOS (V.O.)

Outside the Radio Prague building university students were fighting the tanks with Molotov cocktails. The Russians ended up storming the station. They overwhelmed the defenders and killed most of them.

Inside the studio the staff listens while the announcer speaks into his microphone. The Soviet troops break into the studio and order the staff out at gunpoint.

MILOS (V.O.)

The announcer was on the air until the moment the Russians broke in.

END FLASHBACK

INT. PRAGUE - A TAVERN - NIGHT

STEVEN

I've seen pictures of that invasion. It's amazing. People were fighting the tanks with bricks and stones.

ANNA

You know why, don't you? They thought the Western countries were coming to our aid.

JAN

There was an American army right across the border in Bavaria.

MILOS

Sergei told us that if America had sent in only one division the Russians would have retreated back to Bratislava. The Czech lands would now be part of the West.

ANNA

But the Americans never came.

INT. PRAGUE - A TEA HOUSE - DAY

Regina walks into a tea house and finds Dr. Kovář and his wife seated at a small table drinking tea from a samovar. This scene is entirely in Czech with subtitles.

REGINA

Good day Petr, Tereza.

DR. KOVAR

Good day, Regina. Glad you could join us.

TEREZA KOVAR

Good to see you again Regina.

DR. KOVAR

How is it going with your foreign residents? Is the American giving you any trouble?

REGINA

No, not at all. Not since I sat down with him.

DR. KOVAR

I've got some news. Your application for full party membership has been passed on to the Central Committee. We might have an answer at the next district party meeting.

REGINA

Thank you for sponsoring me Petr.

TEREZA KOVAR

Petr says you're joining the Foreign Service next year.

REGINA

If I'm accepted.

DR. KOVAR

I have no doubt that you'll be accepted. Political reliability is what matters at this point and your credentials are impeccable.

TEREZA KOVAR

Aren't you happy?

REGINA

Of course I am. But why must political reliability matter more than ability?

TEREZA KOVAR

That's what many young people are asking.

DR. KOVAR

Regina, if ability was all that mattered then you wouldn't need my help at all. But, you understand, this is the way things are for now.

REGINA

About the Students' Day rally, I've heard that it might turn into another political demonstration.

DR. KOVAR

You should definitely go. The Students' Day rally is for all students, Communist and non-party members alike.

REGINA

What if they start demonstrating?

DR. KOVAR

Use your common sense.

INT. FOREIGN RESIDENTS DORMITORY - SECOND FLOOR - NIGHT

Steven works at his desk as Tom enters his room.

TOM

Steven, you need to hear this.

Steven and Tom go into Tom's room and Tom closes the door. Tom turns up the volume on his radio.

BBC ANNOUNCER

More on the breaking news from Berlin. The politburo of the German Democratic Republic has announced that its citizens are now free to leave the country through any checkpoint along its border. Thousands of East Germans have been crossing into West Berlin at several points along the wall, and are being greeted with cheers by West Germans on the other side.

STEVEN

They opened the Wall? People are moving freely into the West?

TOM

That's what they're saying. Of course the Czechs have a blackout on news from East Germany.

BBC ANNOUNCER

East and West Germans are celebrating together on the streets of Berlin, toasting one another with champagne.

STEVEN

I've got to tell Lena about this.

TOM

Tell her you heard it from a friend back in the USA.

Steven goes to Lena's room. He finds Lena and Mila talking.

STEVEN

You heard about Berlin?

LENA

Yeah, I was just on the phone with my sister. It's wide open now, no restrictions.

STEVEN

The students are sure to be asking about this once the news gets out.

MILA

I was telling Lena she should go to Berlin and see for herself.

STEVEN

I'll go if you go. Our visas let us leave and re-enter the country.

INT. PRAGUE - CENTRAL RAILWAY STATION - DAY

Steven and Lena walk toward and board the train to Berlin.

INT. TRAIN FROM PRAGUE TO BERLIN - DAY

Steven and Lena sit in coach as the train moves.

LENA

We're taking the train into Hauptbahnhof Station.

STEVEN

In the Eastern sector.

LENA

Right. From there we can walk to the Brandenburg Gate checkpoint, where we cross over to the West.

EXT. EAST AND WEST BERLIN - BRANDENBURG GATE AREA - DAY

This scene begins with a Google Earth view of Central Europe. The view zooms in to Berlin, then to the city center, then to the Pariser Platz in the Eastern Sector. Steven and Lena walk across this plaza toward the Brandenburg Gate border checkpoint, show their passports to the border guard, and cross into the Western sector.

The atmosphere is festive with East Germans being welcomed by West Berliners. Television crews report from the scene. A West Berliner welcomes Steven and Lena by handing them plastic toasting flutes and filling them with champagne.

Steven and Lena walk along a street running parallel to the wall. In the distance a crane lifts a large concrete slab. Several men with sledge hammers bang on the concrete wall. One hammering German hands Steven a piece about the size of a grapefruit.

The wall stands about nine feet high with a wide surface upon which a number of Germans stand and sit. Steven makes a brief running start to jump and get hold of the top of the wall, and lifts himself up. He then pulls Lena up to the top of the wall and they both begin taking photographs.

On the other side on the ground stand about six East German border guards conversing amicably with the Germans on the wall surface. Steven gives his camera to a German man and puts his arm around Lena as the man takes their picture.

INT. WEST BERLIN - A TAVERN - NIGHT

After sightseeing Steven and Lena have a drink in a tavern. They notice a man sitting near them.

STEVEN

Ask him if he's from the East.

LENA

(in German)

Are you from the East? What made them finally open the Wall?

The man replies in German.

LENA

He says he's from the Eastern side. The uprising began ten weeks ago.

The man speaks in German.

LENA

He says the government was in

crisis. Many people were fleeing the country, especially the young.

The man speaks in German.

LENA

Opposition groups formed and demonstrations against the government kept getting bigger.

The man speaks in German.

LENA

The situation was out of control. The communists couldn't stop it.

The man speaks in German.

LENA

People gathered at the border checkpoints and demanded that they be allowed to cross into the West. Finally the government gave in.

EXT. WEST BERLIN - MARKET - DAY

At a fruit stand Steven buys a bag of oranges and Lena two bunches of bananas. They proceed to a newsstand. Lena picks up a West German newspaper.

STEVEN

What is it?

LENA

There's been a revolution in Bulgaria. They've overthrown the communist government.

STEVEN

Find out as much as you can so we can tell Mila. We can't take any newspapers back to Prague, just what we can cram into our heads.

INT./EXT. TRAIN FROM BERLIN TO PRAGUE - DAY

On the trip back to Prague Steven and Lena sit in coach.

CONDUCTOR

(in German, subtitled)
 Czech border, five minutes. Have
 passports and visas ready.

The train stops at the border checkpoint. Steven and Lena get up, disembark and toss their newspapers into trash bins before getting on line at the checkpoint.

INT. PRAGUE - CENTRAL RAILWAY STATION - DAY

Steven and Lena's train pulls into Prague Station. A sign on the platform says "PRAHA".

EXT. PRAGUE - A CITY STREET - DAY

Steven and Lena walk on the street with their backpacks toward the campus. Church bells ring from a distance.

STEVEN

My faculty is having a reception
 on Tuesday. Do you want to go?

LENA

What time?

STEVEN

Four o'clock.

LENA

I think I can make it.

The church bells sound more loudly.

STEVEN

We've been hearing church bells
 ever since we got off the Metro.

As Steven and Lena approach an intersection they see a procession of parishioners led by several Catholic clergy. A priest at the head of the procession carries a pole with an iconic portrait mounted on top. It is a portrait of a saintly woman with the name *Anežka* at the base.

LENA

That's a Czech saint, Agnes of
 Bohemia. This is the day she's
 being canonized.

INT. FOREIGN RESIDENTS DORMITORY - LOUNGE - DAY

Steven and Lena arrive at the dormitory. Mila, Tom, Minh and Regina are in the lounge.

MINH

You're back!

TOM

How was Berlin?

STEVEN

It was awesome. We got a souvenir.

Steven and Lena place their backpacks on a table. Steven pulls out his piece of the Berlin Wall and puts it on the table. He and Lena take out their fruit and share it with the others. Steven hands oranges to Regina and Mila.

STEVEN

Mila, we found out about the revolution in your country.

MILA

What's happening there?

LENA

The uprising in Sofia began two days ago ...

EXT. CHARLES UNIVERSITY - CAMPUS - DAY

Steven walks outside on the campus with Milos, Jan and Lena.

STEVEN

I can tell you that everything you've been hearing is true. Berlin is wide open and they're taking the wall apart.

MILOS

You say that in East Germany the people were demonstrating? The demonstrations kept getting bigger and bigger?

STEVEN

Right, the government was overwhelmed and they surrendered to the people. We found out as much as we could while we were in Berlin. I have another way of getting news from the outside world. I can't talk about it, but when I know more so will you.

ANNA

We appreciate it Steve.

STEVEN

Now you can tell your friends in the Student Union what's going on.

ANNA

The Student Union? Milos and Jan are in the Student Union. I mean, the official one.

STEVEN

And the unofficial?

Anna turns the inside of her jacket lapel out to reveal a white ribbon pinned to it.

ANNA

Students in contact with the dissidents formed the *Stuha*. The Student Ribbon movement.

JAN

Anna's friends are working for freedom and rights. And the StB has taken an interest.

INT. CHARLES UNIVERSITY - FACULTY LOUNGE - DAY

Steven and Lena arrive at a semi-formal reception of the Social Sciences faculty. They greet Dr. Zeman and Čermak.

STEVEN

(in Czech, subtitled)

Dr. Zeman, Professor Čermak, this is Lena Rall. She's a visiting scholar from the University of Bonn, with the Mathematics

Faculty.

DR. ZEMAN

(in Czech, subtitled)

Pleased to meet you Miss Rall.
Welcome to the Social Sciences
Faculty.

Čermak speaks with Steven alone.

ČERMAK

Steven, your models are being
reviewed by the State Planning
Commission. They should get back
to us in a week or two.

STEVEN

Thank you Viktor. I'd like to
talk to you and Dr. Zeman about
where we're going with this
research.

ČERMAK

We can get together Friday.

STEVEN

Is ten o'clock good? It has to be
in the morning because that
Students' Day ceremony is in the
afternoon.

ČERMAK

Very well, ten o'clock.

Meanwhile Lena converses with Dr. Zeman and a couple of
other Social Science faculty members.

DR. ZEMAN

Miss Rall tells us that you
journeyed to Berlin this weekend.

STEVEN

We sure did. They were literally
tearing down the wall when we got
there. We brought back a piece of
it and some fresh fruit.

LENA

When we got back to Prague we ran into a procession of the faithful for Saint Agnes.

STEVEN

Who was Agnes of Bohemia?

ČERMAK

Anezka was a princess who lived seven hundred years ago.

FACULTY MEMBER

She refused an arranged marriage. She gave up the life of a princess for a life of prayer.

ČERMAK

She founded a hospital and dedicated herself to helping the poor and the sick.

Dr. ZEMAN

Anezka was considered a saintly person. But her canonization by the Roman Catholic Church wasn't announced until a few months ago.

STEVEN

Anezka had to wait seven hundred years to become a saint?

ČERMAK

For seven hundred years we all waited. The legend says that when Anezka becomes a saint a miracle will happen in the Czech lands.

INT. CHARLES UNIVERSITY - SOCIAL SCIENCES FACULTY - DAY

Professor Čermak and Dr. Zeman sit in the latter's office while Steven stands. This scene is entirely in Czech with subtitles until Steven leaves the office.

ČERMAK

Of course we'll let you know as soon as we hear from the Commission about your models.

STEVEN

Viktor, with all respect to you and Dr. Zeman, the problem in this country isn't the economic models.

ČERMAK

Then what is the problem?

STEVEN

It's this state-planned economy. The best models can't fix a bad system. Even the Russians understand that now.

DR. ZEMAN

What do you propose?

STEVEN

That we direct our research toward market reforms, decentralization.

ČERMAK

Thank you Steven. We'll take it under advisement.

STEVEN

There's a lot published about this in the West if we can just get ...

DR. ZEMAN

Mr. Walsh, you're coming dangerously close to ideas that can be considered subversive and anti-socialist.

STEVEN

Considered subversive and anti-socialist by whom?

ČERMAK

The Ministry of Education approves all research at Charles University.

STEVEN

But perestroika is official policy in this country. Nothing I'm

saying subverts that policy.

ČERMAK

Let the government worry about perestroika. You just do the work you came here to do.

Steven closes his briefcase.

STEVEN

Absurdistan!

Steven walks out of Dr. Zeman's office. Čermak follows Steven into the hallway. They stop and face each other. This conversation is in English.

ČERMAK

Dr. Zeman and I have been fighting for academic freedom for twenty years! You think we don't know what needs to be done here?

STEVEN

So my research is subject to the commissars in the Education Ministry?

ČERMAK

That's the way it is for now. And you knew that before you came here.

STEVEN

Sorry Viktor. Maybe I was a little hotheaded in there.

ČERMAK

Don't worry about it Steve. It's Students' Day!

Čermak smiles and parts ways with Steven.

EXT. CHARLES UNIVERSITY - CAMPUS - DAY

The Students' Day rally is underway in the Albertov with thousands in attendance. There are many banners and Czech flags. The foreign residents - Steven, Lena, Mila, Tom, Minh - stand among the students listening to a speaker at

the podium. Regina is there wearing a light grey jacket.

SPEAKER

(in Czech, subtitled)

Who if not us? When if not now?

Milos, Jan and Anna spot Steven in the crowd and walk over. Anna wears her white ribbon on the outside of her jacket.

Milos

Steven!

STEVEN

Hi Milos, Jan, Anna.

JAN

The speeches are almost over.

STEVEN

It's to remember the students who resisted the Nazis in 1939. But I keep hearing "Now", "Now is the time".

LENA

They're talking about the economic situation, artistic freedom, political change.

MILOS

The ceremony ends with a procession to the Vysehrad Cemetery to lay a wreath for the Czech martyrs.

JAN

(in Czech, subtitled)

Tell him.

ANNA

After the ceremony some of us are going on toward the city center, to the Statue of Saint Wenceslas.

JAN

We'll be lighting candles and laying flowers there.

LENA

Are you going to occupy the square?

MILOS

No. There might be some speeches like what we're hearing now. But then everyone's going home.

JAN

Come with us Steve.

STEVEN

Let's go along Lena. After that we can hit one of the jazz clubs.

MILOS

One moment Steve. After the wreath laying our demonstration is no longer authorized. Anything can happen, we might meet the police. I just wanted to warn you.

STEVEN

You're only stopping at Wenceslas Square. It's not like you're going to stay there.

LENA

He's right. It could be dangerous.

STEVEN

Since when is it dangerous to walk downtown?

LENA

If the police are there you could be arrested. You'll lose your visa and be deported.

STEVEN

I know these students. They're not looking for trouble.

LENA

It's their thing, Steve. It's not for us. Don't go.

STEVEN

They invited me. It would be rude not to go. But don't worry. If I see any police I'll turn around.

As the crowd at the Albertov begins to leave Anna holds up her hand with the "V" for victory sign.

ANNA

(in Czech, subtitled)

To victory!

Lena turns to Regina.

REGINA

(in Czech, subtitled)

Don't worry. It's Students' Day. The police aren't going to do anything.

EXT. PRAGUE - A BOULEVARD ALONG THE VLTAVA RIVER - NIGHT

An enormous procession makes its way along the embankment of the Vltava River from the university area toward the center of Prague. The marchers chant slogans and carry banners and Czechoslovak flags. Other Prague citizens join the march. An American newspaper reporter named Patty Bellandini describes the scene in a voiceover.

BELLANDINI (V.O.)

In Prague right now thousands of university students are marching toward the city center. Their numbers are increasing as other Prague citizens leave their trams and cafes to join them. There are professionals, shoppers, young and older couples and high school students joining the march. Traffic is stopped all along the boulevard and the adjoining streets. The cars and trams are flashing their lights and honking and ringing their bells in support

of the marchers ... yes, I said *in support*. Everywhere people are cheering from the sidewalks.

INT. PRAGUE - A CAFE NEAR THE RIVER - NIGHT

Bellandini speaks on a phone in the cafe. Another American reporter waits to use it.

BELLANDINI

That's all for now. This is for the morning edition. I'll give you my final report in an hour or two.

Bellandini hangs up the phone.

BELLANDINI

All yours Andrew.

PATTERSON

Hello. Andrew Patterson, *Los Angeles Times* ...

Bellandini leaves the cafe to rejoin the demonstration.

EXT. PRAGUE - A BOULEVARD ALONG THE VLTAVA RIVER - NIGHT

Steven walks alongside Milos, Jan and Anna about ten to fifteen rows from the head of the column. Regina walks several rows behind them.

DEMONSTRATORS

(in Czech, subtitled)

Free-dom! Free-dom! Free-dom!
Free-dom!

Bellandini approaches the part of the procession where Steven walks with his students.

BELLANDINI

Excuse me. Do any of you speak English?

STEVEN

I'm American.

BELLANDINI

Hello. I'm Patty Bellandini of

the *Chicago Tribune*.

STEVEN

Steven Walsh. Fulbright Scholar,
resident at Charles University.

BELLANDINI

Have you been with this march from
the beginning?

STEVEN

Yes, I'm with some students I've
been working with. We started at
the university with the Students'
Day rally, and then the students
decided to go all the way to
Wenceslas Square.

BELLANDINI

And then what?

STEVEN

Light candles, lay flowers, maybe
some more speeches, and then
everyone goes home for the
weekend. They say they don't want
to occupy the square.

DEMONSTRATOR

(in Czech, subtitled)
Dinosaurs out, your time is up!

ONE DEMONSTRATOR

(in Czech, subtitled)
Havel to the castle!

ALL DEMONSTRATORS

(in Czech, subtitled)
Havel to the castle! Havel to the
castle! Havel to the castle!
Havel to the castle!

STEVEN

They're saying "Havel to the
castle". That means "Havel for
president".

BELLANDINI

That's Vaclav Havel, the dissident
playwright?

STEVEN

Right. Jakeš and Husák rule in
the castle now. They're the
dinosaurs.

ONE DEMONSTRATOR

(in Czech, subtitled)

Jakeš to the trash!

JAN

(in Czech, subtitled)

Where is Havel? Why isn't he
marching us today?

MILOS

(in Czech, subtitled)

He's at his country house writing
plays.

STEVEN

It seems Havel isn't with us on
this march and they're
disappointed about that.

BELLANDINI

Thank you Steven.

Bellandini leaves Steven.

MILOS

(in Czech, subtitled)

It looks like we're turning at
Národní Avenue.

The procession turns right onto Národní Avenue. As they do
they see people waving and cheering from the Slavia Cafe.
Further along at the New Stage Theater actors and crew
members gather at the windows to wave and cheer.

INT. PRAGUE - NEW STAGE THEATER - GALLERY - NIGHT

In the gallery adjacent to the theater actors and actresses
in nineteenth century period costumes along with theater
crew gather at the windows to cheer the procession. One of
them is a young actor named Michal Sokol.

MICHAL

(in Czech, subtitled)

Look! The students are on
marching on Narodni Avenue!

EXT. PRAGUE - NARODNI AVENUE AND VICINITY - NIGHT

As the procession moves up Narodni Avenue a contingent of police in riot gear deploy on the street ahead of them and around them at the intersections. Most of the police carry truncheons. Two armored personnel carriers arrive with mesh wire frames mounted on the front fenders. The sound of voices over a police radio is constant.

The marchers stop in front of the police line. Steven, Milos, Jan, Anna and Regina halt with the procession. Farther back on Narodni Avenue reporters Bellandini and Patterson also halt. The lead cohort of marchers stands in front of a department store with outside winter holiday decorations - a country house, a cheery snowman, etc.

Demonstrators on the front line place and light their candles on the street between themselves and police. Milos, Jan and Anna step forward to do the same. They along with Steven and Regina behind them watch as a couple of young women walk up to the police and offer them carnations. The policemen do not respond, so the women toss their flowers over the police shields and rejoin the demonstrators.

Student leaders at the front tell everyone to sit down. Behind the rows of police the commander stands next to his squad car holding a microphone. He uses the car's public address system to communicate with the demonstrators.

POLICE COMMANDER

(in Czech, subtitled)

People, this is an unauthorized
demonstration. You must disperse.

STEVEN

(in Czech, subtitled)

State Security?

JAN

(in Czech, subtitled)

No, Public Security. Regular police. Any StB agents here are in the same predicament we're in.

STEVEN

(in Czech, subtitled)

Does the StB have agents marching with us?

JAN

(in Czech, subtitled)

Probably.

Steven turns and looks at Regina.

STEVEN

(in Czech, subtitled)

Is this what you expected?

JAN

(in Czech, subtitled)

No.

Regina gets up, walks over and sits down behind Steven.

REGINA

Steve ...

STEVEN

Hi Regina.

REGINA

... we should get away from here while we still can.

Steven points with his thumb toward Milos, Jan and Anna.

STEVEN

They're not leaving.

Back near the embankment more policemen arrive to form a barrier separating the demonstrators on Narodni Avenue from those behind them. An elevated view shows several thousand demonstrators now cordoned off by the police.

INTERCUT BETWEEN NARODNI AVENUE AND THE NEW STAGE THEATER

Michal and other theater cast and crew view this police cordon with concern.

DISSOLVE TO:

On Narodni Avenue the police commander repeats the order to disperse.

POLICE COMMANDER
(in Czech, subtitled)
People, I say again, disperse now.

One of the demonstrators stands and begins singing.

ONE DEMONSTRATOR
(singing in Czech, subtitled)
We shall overcome,

The other demonstrators stand and begin singing.

ALL DEMONSTRATORS
(singing in Czech, subtitled)
*We shall overcome, we shall
overcome someday
Here in my heart, I do believe
We shall overcome someday*

Steven listens to the tune with a sense of recognition.

ONE DEMONSTRATOR
(shouting in English)
We'll walk hand in hand!

Steven joins the demonstrators in singing the English words.

ALL DEMONSTRATORS
(singing in English)
*We'll walk hand in hand, we'll
walk hand in hand, we'll walk hand
in hand ...*
(singing in Czech)
*... someday
Here in my heart, I do believe
We shall overcome someday*

The demonstrators all sit down again.

DISSOLVE TO:

One of the demonstrators stands up and walks forward.

DEMONSTRATOR

(in Czech, subtitled)

Listen to me everybody! We can
take them! There are more of us!

This causes murmuring among the crowd. Milos, Anna and
some others rise to their feet.

MILOS

(in Czech, subtitled)

No! No violence!

ANNA

(in Czech, subtitled)

You! Sit down!

The agitator, then Milos and Anna, sit down again.

DISSOLVE TO:

POLICE COMMANDER

(in Czech, subtitled)

People, you are not taking the
square. We're not going to have
what happened in China.

The demonstrators rise to their feet again and respond with
whooping and whistling. Some make a "V" for victory sign.

ONE DEMONSTRATOR

(in Czech, subtitled)

Jakeš' Gestapo!

MANY DEMONSTRATORS

Ge-sta-po! Ge-sta-po! Ge-sta-po!
Ge-sta-po!

POLICE COMMANDER

(in Czech, subtitled)

We are not the Gestapo!

The demonstrators answer with louder jeering, whooping and
whistling. One of them holds up a ringing alarm clock.

DEMONSTRATOR

(in Czech, subtitled)

Your time is up!

The police commander signals to a policeman in the squad car to play a tape over the public address system. The sound of growling dogs is heard from the speakers. The demonstrators respond by holding up their keys and jingling them. The thousands of jingling keys sound like so many bells ringing. The faces of the riot police show their agitation.

DEMONSTRATOR

(in Czech, subtitled)

You hear that?

DEMONSTRATOR

(in Czech, subtitled)

The bell tolls for you!

The police begin to advance on the crowd. They step over the candles that had been placed on ground. Men and women raise their hands to the police to show they are unarmed.

DEMONSTRATOR

(in Czech, subtitled)

We have bare hands!

The police use their truncheons to beat the front rows of demonstrators, some sitting, some standing, on the shoulders and head. The sight of bloodied heads alarms the crowd. They back away from the police in increasing panic and start screaming. One of the personnel carriers with wire mesh on the fender maneuvers within the cordoned area, forcing demonstrators to run out of range.

The line of police approaches Milos, Anna, Jan, Steven and Regina. Steven and Jan move back, as does Regina from her position. Milos and Anna struggle with the advancing policemen. Milos is struck on his head with a truncheon and falls. Anna is also beaten to the ground. Another policeman kicks Anna in her left shoulder.

Farther back in the cordon Bellandini and Patterson try to escape the mayhem. They show their passports to the policemen who are blocking them.

BELLANDINI

Patty Bellandini, *Chicago Tribune*!

This is Andrew Patterson of the

Los Angeles Times!

PATTERSON

We are accredited journalists with
United States passports!

BELLANDINI

Let us go!

Instead of allowing them to pass a policeman strikes Bellandini on the head with his truncheon. When Patterson tries to come to her aid two uniformed policemen directed by a plainclothes officer force them both into the entrance of a nearby building. Again the reporters hold up their passports to try to appeal to the policemen.

PATTERSON

United States passports! See?

The policemen beat Patterson and Bellandini with their truncheons in the building entrance.

In the theater gallery Michal and others are distraught as they view the police terror on the street below. They see about a half dozen demonstrators breaking free of the cordon and running toward the theater.

ACTRESS

(in Czech, subtitled)

Look! Some of them have broken
out and they're headed this way!

Michel turns and runs out of the gallery to the stairway, followed by a member of the stage crew. They run down the stairs to the first floor and down another flight of stairs to the ground floor. They run down passageways leading to the locked door of a service entrance. The demonstrators who broke out are heard banging on the door. Michel opens the door, lets them in and closes the door behind them.

Bellandini and Patterson are still being beaten in the building entrance when the plainclothes officer notices their U.S. passports lying on the ground. He orders the two policemen to cease the beatings and leave. Two other policemen without truncheons arrive to guard the Americans.

The police advance compresses the cordon. Steven and Jan are pushed back within an increasingly packed crowd.

STEVEN

Why aren't we moving back to the
embankment?

JAN

The police must be blocking the
other end.

Steven and Jan become separated by the crowd surge.

STEVEN

Jan? Jan?

Steven is pushed by the surge and pressed by bodies on all four sides. The pressing increases until Steven nears the point of asphyxiation. He groans and then passes out, still upright as there is no room to fall to the ground.

This crowd surge throws Regina against the wall of a building. She also feels a crush that makes breathing difficult. But the building has marble work protruding from the wall with a base that offers enough footing for Regina to raise herself a couple of feet above the crowd. This allows her to breath and also gives her a view of the crowd surging around her. Regina sees Steven about ten feet away but unreachable through the crush of bodies. She tries to call him through the noise.

REGINA

(shouting)

Steven!

Steven does not respond.

REGINA

(shouting)

Steven! Turn sideways and move
with the flow!

Again Steven does not respond.

REGINA

(shouting)

Steven, turn sideways!

Next to Steven a demonstrator has heard Regina.

DEMONSTRATOR

(in Czech, subtitled)

She says turn him.

With some difficulty the demonstrators manage to turn Steven to the side. Steven regains consciousness and gasps. Regina sees this, then moves herself sideways along the wall. Cars are parked in front of the building. Regina moves with the crowd until she has a chance to crawl under one of the cars. Looking forward she sees a young man hiding under the next car looking back at her.

During this violent crackdown the police commander repeats the order to disperse through the public address system.

Jan moves with the crowd as it is pushed by the police to the entrance of an arcade. People run into the arcade to escape the advancing police. Looking down the passageway Jan sees a dozen policemen on each side beating people with truncheons as they run through. At the other end of the arcade men wearing military fatigues with red berets, and wielding truncheons, deploy to catch and beat people as they emerge from the police gauntlet. A young woman runs the gauntlet with her hands up. She takes blows to her shoulders before being struck on the head with a truncheon.

POLICEMAN

(in Czech, subtitled)

Bitch!

Jan begins running through the arcade. About halfway through he takes a hard blow on the neck from a truncheon.

POLICEMAN

(in Czech, subtitled)

Motherfucker!

Jan stumbles but then rights himself and continues running until he reaches the other end of the arcade. Before he can catch his breath he is pulled aside by two Red Berets. They pin him to a wall and hold him there. Then they force him into a personnel carrier along with other demonstrators. The carrier drives off.

At the building entrance where Bellandini and Patterson lie on the floor an ambulance arrives. The American reporters

are put into the ambulance and driven away.

The crowd surge pushes Steven to the arcade entrance. He sees people being beaten as they run through. Behind him a few feet away other police are closing the cordon and beating people to the ground. With no other options Steven starts running through the arcade, taking blows from the truncheons on his shoulders and neck. A hard blow lands on his right shoulder.

POLICEMAN

(in Czech, subtitled)

Take that swine!

The blow causes Steven to reel forward and bump into a young man running alongside him. That man and another young man - a teenage boy wearing a khaki jacket - grab Steven by the arms and support him as they move forward until he can right himself. The three of them emerge from the arcade. Two Red Berets grab and start beating the man Steven bumped into. Steven sees this. The khaki jacket teen grabs his arm.

KHAKI JACKET TEEN

(in Czech)

Go, run!

The two of them run away from the arcade down a dark side street. They turn a corner but find a Red Beret patrol approaching on that street. They turn and run the other way but then stop. At a loss, the two of them hear a "psst" from the entrance to an apartment building. They turn to find a middle-aged lady looking through a partially opened door and waving them in. They walk inside the building.

INT. PRAGUE - APARTMENT IN THE CITY CENTER - NIGHT

The lady leads Steven and the teenager down the hallway to her apartment. Inside is a vestibule separated from the living room by a curtain. There Steven and the teenager remove their shoes. Beyond the curtain the living room is jammed with over thirty other people standing and sitting. They are mostly university and high school students. Many are injured. One girl of about sixteen sits and sobs as another teenager puts a compress on her head.

MIDDLE-AGED LADY
(in Czech, subtitled)

Silence.

She dims the light. From the street can be heard the sound of boots on the pavement and real growling dogs.

INT./EXT. PRAGUE - NARODNI AVENUE - NIGHT

Back on Narodni Avenue the crowd has been cleared. Two policemen walk past the car that Regina hides under but do not notice her or the man hiding under the next car. The policemen walk back toward the squad car where the commander communicates with headquarters.

Regina sees a chance to get away and signals to the man by pointing to the sidewalk. They get out from under the cars. Regina's light grey jacket has noticeable oil stains. They flee together. At an intersection they see Red Berets coming toward them, so they turn onto a side street and hide in an alley until they pass.

INT. PRAGUE - PUBLIC SECURITY POLICE HEADQUARTERS - NIGHT

Jan waits in the holding area of police headquarters along with other arrested demonstrators. A policeman approaches. This scene is entirely in Czech with subtitles.

POLICEMAN

Come with me.

The policeman leads Jan down a passageway to the office of Inspector Řezník, a man in his forties. Řezník sits at his desk. Standing to his left with his arms folded and dour expression is an older police inspector named Krupička.

ŘEZNÍK

Have a seat. Your identification please.

Jan takes the seat in front of the inspector and hands him his identification. Řezník takes the ID and offers Jan a cigarette. Jan takes the cigarette and a light from Řezník. The inspector looks at Jan's identification.

ŘEZNÍK

Jan Sedlak, third year student at

Charles University. Born March 7,
1968 in Bratislava. Are you
alright? Would you like some
aspirin?

JAN

They gave me aspirin in the
holding area.

ŘEZNÍK

You look like a hockey player Jan.

JAN

I was until I twisted my ankle.

ŘEZNÍK

They say Slovaks are the best men
on the ice.

JAN

It's true. I didn't get your
name.

ŘEZNÍK

Inspector Řezník, Public Security.
This is my colleague Krupička.

KRUPIČKA

What were you doing on Narodni
Avenue this evening?

JAN

I was out for a walk.

KRUPIČKA

Really? Out for a walk! With a
few thousand of your drunken
hooligan friends who thought they
could ...

JAN

It was a peaceful demonstration!

KRUPIČKA

Maybe we'll hand you over to the
StB and you tell them some jokes.

Řezník gestures to Krupička with his hand to silence him.

ŘEZNÍK

Please Jan, I only found out about this an hour ago. I need your help. Tell me, were you at the Students' Day ceremony?

JAN

Yes.

ŘEZNÍK

What happened?

JAN

We went to Vysehrad Cemetery to lay a wreath at the tomb of the martyrs.

ŘEZNÍK

And then?

Jan shrugs.

ŘEZNÍK

Whose idea was it to march to Wenceslas Square?

JAN

Nobody's idea. We all just started walking toward the city center.

ŘEZNÍK

So it was spontaneous.

JAN

That's right, spontaneous.

KRUPIČKA

Have you been in contact with any foreigners?

JAN

I'm the foreigner here.

ŘEZNÍK

He means foreigners from outside the Czechoslovak Federation.

JAN

We had a visiting scholar from
Russia at the university last
year.

ŘEZNÍK

What student organizations do you
belong to?

JAN

I'm a member of the Student Union.

ŘEZNÍK

What do you know about a group
that calls itself the Student
Ribbon?

JAN

Not much.

ŘEZNÍK

Do you know the names of any
students involved with this group?

JAN

No.

Řezník sighs, writes on a slip of paper and hands it to
Jan.

ŘEZNÍK

You'll be paying a fine for
disturbing the peace. See the
duty sergeant on your way out.

INT. PRAGUE - APARTMENT IN THE CITY CENTER - NIGHT

The middle-aged lady walks into her building and her flat.
The people taking refuge there are more relaxed as most of
them watch the television.

MIDDLE-AGED LADY

(in Czech, subtitled)

It's still very dangerous outside.
After midnight you can start
leaving through the back door, in
small groups.

INT./EXT. PRAGUE - A HOSPITAL AND VICINITY - NIGHT

A man in a suit walks into a hospital trauma center. He shows his identification to the receptionist. It says "United States Department of State" / "Richard T. Exner".

DISSOLVE TO:

Exner escorts a bandaged Patty Bellandini out of the hospital.

EXNER

Your colleague Andrew Patterson told us you were here.

BELLANDINI

How is Andrew?

EXNER

He'll be alright. He was released from this hospital an hour ago. He's resting at the embassy now.

Exner helps Bellandini into his car, gets in and drives off.

EXNER

We're issuing a protest about this tomorrow. You can stay at the embassy tonight Patty.

BELLANDINI

Just drop me off at my hotel.

EXNER

Are you sure?

BELLANDINI

It's alright, I'm leaving for Warsaw on Sunday.

EXNER

Do you know of any other Americans here in Prague?

BELLANDINI

I met one who was marching with the students. His name ... Steven

Walsh. Said he was a Fulbright Scholar.

EXNER

Oh yes, the Fulbright. You say he was in the demonstration?

BELLANDINI

Yes. He knew the language and seemed very well informed.

EXNER

We should have his contact info.

EXT. PRAGUE - APARTMENT IN THE CITY CENTER - NIGHT

Steven emerges from the back door of the lady's apartment building into a courtyard. He runs to the gate and looks out onto the street. He then signals to others in the building to come out. The khaki jacketed teenage boy and two teenage girls run out and head through the gate.

Steven leads the teenagers at a hurried pace until they reach the intersection where he had turned around earlier. Steven signals to the others to halt and wait while he looks carefully around the corner. He signals to the teenagers to come along. The four of them run down the empty street.

INT./EXT. FOREIGN RESIDENTS DORMITORY - NIGHT

Steven arrives back at the dormitory. From outside he looks in the window and sees Regina and Mila in the lounge, talking and holding hot drinks. He heads for the back entrance, walks up the stairs to the third floor, and knocks on Lena's door. Lena opens the door in her nightgown and embraces Steven.

EXT. PRAGUE - NARODNI AVENUE AND VICINITY - DAY

Dawn breaks over Prague with a view of the city skyline. Narodni Avenue is viewed from the perspective of candles and flowers being placed in various locations on the street and in the arcade.

INT. FOREIGN RESIDENTS DORMITORY - DAY

Regina, looking worn, sits in the lounge drinking coffee.

Steven, also looking worn, enters the lounge with his cup and pours himself coffee. Regina does not notice Steven until he walks by her.

REGINA

Steve! When did you get back?

STEVEN

Around two in the morning.
Running from the police, a new
experience. How'd you make out?

REGINA

I hid under a car.

STEVEN

You were right Regina. We should
have left while we could.

REGINA

I saw you in the crowd, when the
people were panicking. I ...

The phone in the lounge rings. Regina gets up to answer it.

REGINA

(in Czech, subtitled)

Foreign Residents Dormitory.

(in English)

Yes, he's here. Steve, it's for
you.

Regina hands Steven the receiver.

STEVEN

Steven Walsh.

INT. PRAGUE - AMERICAN EMBASSY - EXNER'S OFFICE - DAY

EXNER

Hello Steven. I'm Richard Exner,
Foreign Service Officer at the
U.S. Embassy. I called to see if
you were alright.

INTERCUT BETWEEN STEVEN'S AND EXNER'S LOCATIONS

STEVEN

I'm OK I guess. You heard what happened last night?

EXNER

Yes I did. Are you planning to stay in this country?

STEVEN

For the time being, yes.

EXNER

Do you have time to talk?

STEVEN

If you want to talk let's do it face to face.

EXNER

I understand. Can you come by the embassy around two this afternoon?

STEVEN

Two o'clock is good.

EXNER

When you get here ask for me at the reception desk.

STEVEN

OK.

Steven hangs up the phone.

EXT. CHARLES UNIVERSITY - SOCIAL SCIENCES FACULTY - DAY

Steven argues with two students guarding the front entrance to the Social Sciences faculty.

FIRST STUDENT

(in Czech, subtitled)

No, you can't come in.

SECOND STUDENT

(in Czech, subtitled)

We're occupying the Social Sciences faculty.

STEVEN

(in Czech, subtitled)

I'm looking for three students,
Milos Hruška, Anna Tesarova and
Jan Sedlak. They were with me at
the demonstration last night.

Jan appears at the entrance and walks outside to Steven.

JAN

Steve, are you OK?

STEVEN

I got hit hard on the shoulder.
It's still sore.

JAN

Milos and Anna were released from
the hospital early this morning.
They're resting now.

STEVEN

What happened to you?

JAN

I was arrested and questioned by
the police. Then they let me go.

STEVEN

Did you tell them anything?

JAN

No.

STEVEN

What's going on here? Or is that
secret?

JAN

The students are occupying all the
faculties and we're on strike as
of today. At all the
universities. The actors are
striking too. Come by the Social
Sciences Library Monday morning.
Milos and Anna should be back by
then.

Steven turns to leave.

JAN

Steve, Čermak is with us.

INT. PRAGUE - AMERICAN EMBASSY - EXNER'S OFFICE - DAY

An embassy worker escorts Steven and Lena to Exner's office.

EMBASSY GUIDE

Mr. Exner, this is Steven Walsh.

EXNER

Hello Steven. Thank you for taking the time to come by.

STEVEN

You're welcome Mr. Exner. This is Lena of the University of Bonn.

EXNER

West German?

LENA

Yes.

EXNER

You should get in touch with your own embassy and make sure they know where you're staying. The situation here is volatile.

LENA

I already have.

EXNER

I'd like to speak with Steven alone. Would you wait outside?

Lena exits Exner's office.

EXNER

I was talking to the reporter who interviewed you last night. She told me you were with the students' demonstration.

STEVEN

Some students I've been working with invited me to go with them. They said they were going to Wenceslas Square.

EXNER

What happened?

STEVEN

We were blocked by the police at Narodni Avenue. The standoff lasted about an hour. Then the police attacked, beating people with their truncheons. The crowd panicked and everyone was pushing so hard I couldn't breathe. I must have passed out for a moment. We were being pushed into this arcade. It was the only way out and the police were hitting us with their truncheons as we went through. At the other end there were these military guys with red berets, pulling people aside and beating them up some more. We ran but the red berets were all over the place. A lady let me hide in her apartment with over thirty other people until the streets were safe.

EXNER

Shocking. We've already lodged a protest with the Foreign Ministry over the American journalists who were beaten.

STEVEN

Protests won't work with this regime.

EXNER

There are very few Americans in Czechoslovakia right now. Maybe a dozen apart from embassy staff.

You're the only one who's in contact with the university students. Do you have any idea what they're going to do next?

STEVEN

The students are occupying the faculties and they're going on strike. Maybe the professors too. And the theater people. They're all committed to nonviolence.

EXNER

In the last twenty-four hours there've been clear signs of an uprising in this country. That means an influx of American journalists and the embassy will have to deal with it. You can help by telling us what you see.

STEVEN

You don't expect me to spy on the students, do you?

EXNER

Of course not. We just want your impressions of where this is all going. It's one way we compile information for travel advisories and assistance to Americans already here. What you can tell us may end up saving lives.

STEVEN

Are my impressions that important?

EXNER

The ambassador is very concerned about this situation.

INT. PRAGUE - AMERICAN EMBASSY - AMB. BLACK'S OFFICE - DAY
(FLASHBACK)

Amb. Black speaks on the phone as Exner listens. On the wall are portraits of President George H.W. Bush and Secretary of State James Baker.

EXNER (V.O.)

Since she arrived she's been talking to both the government and the opposition, and working to keep dissidents out of jail.

END FLASHBACK

INT. PRAGUE - AMERICAN EMBASSY - EXNER'S OFFICE - DAY

EXNER

Can we count on you Steve?

STEVEN

Don't call me at the university.
I'll contact you.

Steven opens the door to find Lena waiting outside.

EXNER

Contact me in a couple of days.

INT. PRAGUE - NEW STAGE THEATER - DAY

The actor Michel, not in costume, stands on the stage with several other actors and students addressing a matinee audience. This audience consists of ordinary Prague citizens - professionals, workers, students, housewives and grandparents with young children, etc.

MICHAL

(in Czech, subtitled)

You came here to see our Saturday matinee. Instead we told you about last night's events as we witnessed them. You will all get your ticket money back. We ask only if you'll stand with us, the actors and students united. Whatever your occupation, if you feel as we do that change must come now, then join us in a *general strike!*

The audience rises to its feet, applauding and cheering.

EXT. PRAGUE - NARODNI AVENUE - DAY

Steven and Lena walk up Narodni Avenue.

STEVEN

This is where we met the police.

They stop and look at thousands of candles along with flowers placed in clusters on the avenue. The main cluster has several Czechs standing around it. There are smaller clusters around blood stains on the building walls and on the pavement. Steven looks into the arcade, which has a cluster near the entrance. Steven and Lena turn to see two young, unarmed Soviet Army soldiers walking up the avenue from the embankment.

LENA

Russians.

The soldiers stop before the main cluster. They place their own candles on the ground, light them, stand as if at attention, remove their fur hats and bow their heads. The Czechs standing nearby applaud.

INT. CHARLES UNIVERSITY - SOCIAL SCIENCES LIBRARY - DAY

Steven enters the library, where about two dozen students have gathered. Many have injuries. Milos, his head bandaged, talks with Jan.

STEVEN

Milos, good to see you.

MILOS

Hello Steve. We're waiting for Professor Čermak. He and other faculty were meeting with key dissidents this morning.

JAN

They're forming some kind of committee. Stick around, we might have some work for you at the Student Union.

Steven, Milos and Jan walk to a table where Anna sits, her arm in a sling, discussing the Student Ribbon with other students. Despite her injury Anna appears energetic.

ANNA

(in Czech)

The Ribbon was started last summer
by student activists Jiří
Dienstbier and Marek Benda ...

STEVEN

Anna!

ANNA

(in English)

Hello Steve.

(in Czech)

Our group has close contact with
democracy and human rights groups
...

A young man of university age appears in the library.

YOUNG MAN

(in Czech, subtitled)

Listen everyone! I'm here to warn
you not to go to Wenceslas Square.
The army has taken position there
with tanks!

This causes concerned murmuring among the students.

STUDENT

(in Czech, subtitled)

I was in the square less than an
hour ago. There's no army there.

Steven, Milos, Jan and others in the library turn to find
that the young man has disappeared.

MILOS

(in Czech, subtitled)

Does anyone recognized that guy?

General head shaking as the young man seems to be unknown.

STEVEN

What was that?

MILOS

It looks like StB misinformation.

JAN

The government really doesn't want
us taking over the square.

Professor Čermak arrives along with the actor Michal Sokol.
They walk to where Steven, Milos and Jan are standing.

MILOS

(in Czech, subtitled)

Good morning professor.

ČERMAK

(in Czech, subtitled)

Milos, Jan, this is Michal Sokol.
He's an actor with the New Stage
theater.

Michal shakes hands Milos and Jan. Steven greets Michal
the way Americans often greet people, with a friendly
smile.

MICHAL

(in Czech, subtitled)

Who's the American?

ČERMAK

(in Czech, subtitled)

Steven Walsh, resident scholar.

MILOS

(in Czech, subtitled)

He's our teacher.

JAN

(in Czech, subtitled)

Now we're teaching him.

ČERMAK

Steven ...

Čermak takes Steven aside, but Milos and Jan can still
them.

ČERMAK

The students are all on strike.
You'll have to find something else
to do for a while. Good time to

catch up on your research.

STEVEN

Jan said they could use my help.

ČERMAK

Better yet, take your girlfriend to Vienna for a few days.

STEVEN

We're not going anywhere.

ČERMAK

You were at the demonstration. You know what the regime is capable of.

STEVEN

That's why I'm here Viktor.

ČERMAK

This isn't the kind of college politics that you're used to. Everyone here knows that they're crossing a line to a place where there's no going back, it's only win or die. I mean that *literally*. No matter how much you feel for our cause you can't be with us there.

STEVEN

He's right.

JAN

(in Czech, subtitled)

The Student Strike Committee is writing releases in English for the foreign press. Steven is our only native English speaker. We need him to proofread our translations.

ČERMAK

You understand that the police or the army could show up at any moment and arrest everyone here?

Steven nods. The students and Čermak gather around the table, some seated and some standing. Steven sits in a chair by the wall next to Michal.

STEVEN

You speak English?

MICHAL

Yes.

STEVEN

How did you know I was American?

MICHAL

You were smiling for no reason.

Cermak addresses everyone gather in the meeting room.

ČERMAK

(in Czech, subtitled)

There are meetings like this going on in all the faculties, and at the other universities. You Social Sciences students should get behind the Student Strike Committee if you're not already active. Milos ...

MILOS

(in Czech, subtitled)

As of now all the students are on strike. The faculties too. The Strike Committee is calling for a general strike for the whole country a week from today.

JAN

(in Czech, subtitled)

While our strike goes on students will perform volunteer work - at the hospitals, cleaning parks, that sort of thing - at least one day a week without pay.

MILOS

(in Czech, subtitled)

The people will see that though we

are striking we are not idle.

ANNA

(in Czech, subtitled)

The leaders of the Student Ribbon are working with the Student Union in organizing the strike.

ČERMAK

(in Czech, subtitled)

Over the weekend a group called the Civic Forum formed to direct public protests and to negotiate with the regime. Their headquarters is the *Lanterna Magika* theater. I was just over there representing this faculty. The Forum is being led by Vaclav Havel, Rita Klimova and other key dissidents.

The name Havel causes murmuring among the students.

STUDENT

(in Czech, subtitled)

Apart from the dissidents whom does this Forum represent?

ČERMAK

(in Czech, subtitled)

It's a broad coalition, intellectuals, reform communists, Catholic activists.

STUDENT

(in Czech, subtitled)

What are the goals of the Civic Forum?

ČERMAK

(in Czech, subtitled)

Broadly speaking the same as the students. An end to Communist Party rule, free elections, an investigation into the police attack on Friday night. But nothing we say or do here in

Prague matters if we don't win over the people in the factories and villages. The Forum knows that there's a whole country that needs to be moved from its complacency.

STUDENT

(in Czech, subtitled)

So how do we get the word out?

ANNA

(in Czech, subtitled)

The government controls the airwaves, the newspapers.

ČERMAK

(in Czech, subtitled)

We'll have to speak to the people directly. That's why I brought Michal Sokol here. He's an actor with the New Stage Theater working now with the Forum.

MICHAL

(in Czech, subtitled)

The Civic Forum is calling for delegations to go to factories around the country to get our message to the workers. Each delegation should consist of a student, a faculty member and an actor. Professor Čermak and I will be heading out of Prague daily for the next few days with some of you. Tomorrow we'll be hitting the Skoda Works in Plzeň.

ČERMAK

(in Czech, subtitled)

Anyone interested in being a student delegate see me after the meeting. Otherwise get your volunteer assignments from the Student Strike Committee.

As the meeting breaks up Jan turns to Steven.

JAN

Come to the Student Union tomorrow morning. I'll make sure you can get in.

INT. PRAGUE - A TELEPHONE KIOSK ON THE STREET - DAY

Steven makes a call as Lena stands nearby.

STEVEN

Richard? It's Steven. Let's meet in Old Town Square in an hour.

EXT. PRAGUE - OLD TOWN SQUARE - DAY

Steven, Lena and Exner have a meeting in Old Town Square. A student addresses a small gathering in the background.

STEVEN

Look at this. You don't need me to tell you what's going on. And in Wenceslas Square there must be a hundred thousand people right now.

The student speaks to the crowd.

STUDENT

(in Czech)

The revolution will not just be students and artists. The workers will be with us too.

STEVEN

You hear that? He's talking revolution. It's not just about ending censorship or easing travel restrictions anymore. They want to overthrow the communists.

EXNER

That's why I need your help. You're in contact with the students and they're the ones who've been driving this.

LENA

Steve will be working with the Student Strike Committee, proofreading their English language press releases.

Exner takes Steven aside.

EXNER

Steve, we really need to keep this between ourselves.

STEVEN

Anything you have to say to me you can say to Lena. I'm getting tired of secrets.

EXNER

Do the students really believe they can overthrow the communists?

STEVEN

They feel that there's no going back. It's win or die. But they're going to do it peacefully. The students are working with the Civic Forum. They're also calling for a general strike of the whole country next Monday.

EXNER

The whole country?

STEVEN

They know they have to get the workers behind them to succeed. So they're sending delegations to the factories around Prague and in other cities.

LENA

Let's see what happens in the next few days. Whether the rest of the country comes to Prague to stand with the students.

STEVEN

Or whether the army moves in and

puts a stop to it.

EXNER

We'll meet again in couple of days?

STEVEN

I'll call you.

INT. CHARLES UNIVERSITY - STUDENT UNION BUILDING - DAY

The lounge of the Student Union building buzzes with activity. Small groups of students converse with one another. Women in aprons bring out platters of bread and sausage. Steven, Jan and Milos work together at a table. Jan and Milos (still bandaged) type pages and hand them to Steven, who occasionally marks them with a red pen.

MILOS

Are you going to the demonstration at Wenceslas Square today?

STEVEN

We'll be there.

MILOS

Anna says to enter the square from Vodičkova Street. That's where she's volunteering to organize and direct the crowds.

EXT. PRAGUE - WENCESLAS SQUARE AND VICINITY - DAY

This scene begins with a Google Earth view of Central Europe. The view zooms into Prague, then to the city center and an aerial view of Wenceslas Square. But instead of the usual view the square is packed with hundreds of thousands of demonstrators. Steven walks with Lena, Tom, Minh and Mila along a crowded side street leading to the square.

STEVEN

This way.

They reach the square to find themselves in an enormous crowd of demonstrators. They hold Czechoslovakian flags and banners. Most of them wear ribbons in the colors of the national flag. Regina stands elsewhere in the crowd.

To his left Steven sees a television news crew with their camera aimed at the other side of the square. To his right Steven finds Anna, her arm still in a sling, conversing with other student organizers.

ANNA

Hello Steve.

STEVEN

Hello Anna.

ANNA

Stay here with us. You'll have a good view of that balcony. You see, over there. That's where Havel will be speaking.

STEVEN

How big is this crowd?

ANNA

Yesterday it was at least two hundred thousand. Today we expect more. That's because more people are coming in from outside Prague.

On the balcony the moderator addresses the crowd.

VÁCLAV MALÝ

(in Czech, subtitled)

Vaclav Havel of the Civic Forum.

Vaclav Havel appears on the balcony. The crowd cheers.

CROWD

(in Czech, subtitled)

Havel to the castle! Havel to the castle!
Havel to the castle!
Havel to the castle!

VACLAV HAVEL

(in Czech, subtitled)

After twenty years Czechoslovakia once again finds itself at a historical intersection thanks to the people's movement ...

DISSOLVE TO:

VACLAV HAVEL
 (in Czech, subtitled)
 There is no return to the previous
 totalitarian system of government
 ...

DISSOLVE TO:

VACLAV HAVEL
 (in Czech, subtitled)
 We want to live in a free,
 democratic and prosperous
 Czechoslovakia ...

DISSOLVE TO:

VACLAV HAVEL
 (in Czech, subtitled)
 we are opponents of violence; we
 do not want revenge; we want to
 live as dignified and free people.

DISSOLVE TO:

VÁCLAV MALÝ
 (in Czech, subtitled)
 Now we'll have a song.

A woman in her forties steps onto the balcony and raises her hands triumphantly. The crowd immediately recognizes her and cheers wildly.

CROWD
 (in Czech, subtitled)
 Long live Marta! Long live Marta!
 Long live Marta! Long live Marta!

Steven, Anna and the others all look toward the balcony. So does Regina from her location.

ANNA
 Marta Kubišová. I've never seen her before. She hasn't appeared in public in twenty years.

The cheering dies down until there is dead silence.
Kubišová approaches the microphone.

MARTA KUBIŠOVÁ

(singing in Czech, subtitled)

*Let peace remain with this
country!
Let hatred, envy, grudge, fear,
and strife cease! Let them cease!
Now that which you lost, the rule
over your land, returns to you,
people, it returns to you!*

*Clouds flow slowly from the sky
and each one will reap what he has
sown,
let my prayer speak to hearts not
burnt by the time of wrath,
like flowers by frost, like frost.*

As Kubišová repeats the first verse the crowd reacts to the song. Many over the age of thirty weep, some sing along. Regina also sings along. Steven looks to one side to see several Czech women in tears, their hands raised in the victory sign, and singing. He looks to the other side to see several other Czechs, including a man in a business suit, reacting the same way. The song ends and the crowd cheers as Havel joins Kubišová on the balcony.

INT. FOREIGN RESIDENTS DORMITORY - STEVEN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Steven works at his desk and feels a chill. He gets up to put on his coat and scarf and sits back down.

EXT. PRAGUE - OUTSIDE THE INTERIOR MINISTRY - NIGHT

Two buses stop at the Interior Ministry building. A company of Czechoslovakian Army troops disembarks. The commander and another officer approach the building to greet the concierge. This scene is entirely in Czech with subtitles.

COMPANY COMMANDER

C Company. We're supposed to be
billeted here tonight.

CONCIERGE

We got no word that you were coming. I can't let you enter.

The two officers walk back to the buses.

SERGEANT

Isn't this the right place?

COMPANY COMMANDER

This is it, the Interior Ministry. But the concierge won't let us in. Nobody told them we were coming.

PLATOON LEADER

Listen men. We're going to have to sleep in the buses tonight.

TROOPS

What? We're sleeping in the buses? It's freezing out here!

DISSOLVE TO:

Some students have arrived on the scene with carts filled with hot drinks and soup. They serve these refreshments to the soldiers, who are very grateful.

INT. FOREIGN RESIDENTS DORMITORY - DAY

Stevens walks down the stairwell and meets Regina heading upstairs.

STEVEN

Morning Regina. Have you got a minute?

Regina stops and turns to Steven.

STEVEN

Ever since it got really cold my room is like an icebox.

REGINA

We all got extra blankets a couple of weeks ago.

STEVEN

Right, but am I supposed to work wrapped in a blanket?

REGINA

My room has the same problem. I sealed the window with, how do you say, *izolace*.

STEVEN

Insulation.

REGINA

Yes, insulation. I'll show you.

Steven turns to follow Regina back upstairs and into her room. Regina parts the drapes to show her insulated window.

REGINA

There was a draft from this window. See, I taped this the insulation around it.

STEVEN

Do you have anymore of that?

REGINA

I think there's some left.

Regina opens her closet door and pulls out a box with the insulation material. She cuts a piece from the roll. Meanwhile Steven looks around the room. He sees a long row of books on the shelf - including authors Upton Sinclair, Ernest Hemingway, Thomas Mann and Leo Tolstoy - all in their original English, German or Russian.

Steven sees photographs pinned to a board on the wall. They are from childhood, school, the Young Pioneers, etc. One picture shows Regina posing outside in a white gymnastics costume, smiling and holding a white Olympic style ring up and to the left, with similarly costumed young women in the background, and the inscription "Spartakiada 1985".

Moving along Steven sees a laundry basket with Regina's light grey jacket draped over it, the oil stains from Narodni Avenue clearly visible. Regina offers Steven the insulation material.

REGINA

Here, that should be enough.

STEVEN

Thank you Regina.

REGINA

Steven, are you planning on staying here over the winter break?

STEVEN

Who wants to know?

REGINA

I have to let the custodians know which rooms will be occupied, and there is also the food service.

STEVEN

I might be going home for the holidays. But the way things are right now it's hard to make plans.

REGINA

Yes, I understand. Could you let me know by the end of the month?

STEVEN

No problem.

EXT. PRAGUE - CHARLES BRIDGE - DAY

Steven and Lena meet on the bridge with Exner.

EXNER

You've been a great help Steve. Now we can update our travel advisories. You know tomorrow is Thanksgiving.

STEVEN

Thanksgiving. You're right!

EXNER

We're having a holiday dinner for the embassy staff and other

American residents here. You're welcome to join us.

LENA

Will the ambassador be there?

EXNER

She might stop by to say a few words. But she's having her own VIP dinner for the diplomatic community.

Exner parts with Steven and Lena.

STEVEN

I'm meeting with Čermak in Old Town Square later tonight.

LENA

Let's have dinner first.

EXT. PRAGUE - OLD TOWN SQUARE - NIGHT

Steven and Lena stand near the Prague Astronomical Clock. Čermak, Milos and Michal arrive and appear to be tipsy.

ČERMAK

Steven!

STEVEN

Hello Viktor.

ČERMAK

Milos was with us on today's delegation.

MILOS

We just got back.

LENA

Have you been drinking?

MILOS

We went to the Kolben-Daněk factory. They wouldn't let us into the plant.

MICHAL

But the factory manager was

sympathetic. He arranged for us to meet the workers at a tavern when their shift was over. We were there three hours.

ČERMAK

Steven, Lena, I want to warn you. The army is in Prague. This is what we were afraid of.

MICHAL

How do you say, *it's getting real*.

STEVEN

We haven't seen any soldiers today.

ČERMAK

The government ordered troops into the capital last night.

MICHAL

They were supposed to clear out the students who've been occupying the university faculties.

LENA

What happened?

ČERMAK

As usual the government screwed up royally. It seems that nobody arranged a billet for the troops. They had to sleep overnight in their buses in the freezing cold.

MILOS

Then our students arrived on the scene with hot drinks and soup for the men camped outside. The troops were very grateful.

LENA

That's one way to conquer an army.

ČERMAK

Listen! I'm telling both of you to keep your bags packed and a

ticket to Vienna in your pocket!

MICHAL

When the army shows up at the university then it's time to get the hell out of Dodge.

LENA

Is the army still in the city?

ČERMAK

That we don't know.

STEVEN

I saw a quarter million people in Wenceslas Square. I didn't see one who was afraid.

ČERMAK

That's leadership. The people go there to hear Havel speak to them.

MILOS

We go there to hear the truth. Something we're not used to hearing in public.

Steven, Lena, Čermak, Milos and Michal start walking. Čermak speaks to Steven as the others walk ahead of them.

ČERMAK

You still think that this is all a lark, something to tell your friends at the beach house about when you get home.

STEVEN

Give me a break.

ČERMAK

For us it's life or death. We have no choice, this is our country.

STEVEN

I know what the risks are and so does Lena. The guys asked me to help out, proofing their English

language copy.

As the group walks down a street a blue truck pulls up alongside. The driver addresses Steven.

TRUCK DRIVER
(in Czech)

Here!

The driver tosses a bundle of newspapers out of his cabin and drives away as Steven catches it. Steven finds himself holding the bundle as about a dozen people in the vicinity mob him and grab the papers for themselves.

STEVEN
What the hell?

Stephan is left holding only one of the newspapers.

STEVEN
What is this?

Michal takes the paper and shows Stephen the front page.

MICHAL
This is *Svobodné Slovo*, "The Free Word". It's the only newspaper in the country that's not under the control of the government.

ČERMAK
They broke with the communists a couple of days ago and went over to the Civic Forum. Now they're printing our press releases uncensored.

LENA
That's why they were so excited. Because this is only newspaper that's not printing the party line.

MICHAL
They wanted the truth. You were holding it in your hands.

INT. PRAGUE - AMERICAN EMBASSY - DINING HALL - NIGHT

Steven, Lena, Exner and about twenty others sit at a long table in the embassy dining hall. The dinner guests include men in jackets and ties, women in evening dresses, and several United States Marines in dress uniform. The ambassador stands before them.

AMB. BLACK

I came by to wish you all a happy Thanksgiving, and thank you for helping us celebrate this holiday here in Prague during such extraordinary times. As Americans we can all be thankful for freedom. And in case you were wondering, embassy phones *will* be available after dinner for calling home!

The dinner guests applaud and cheer.

STEVEN

I have to call my folks.

INT. PRAGUE - AMERICAN EMBASSY - TELEPHONE BANK - NIGHT

Steven speaks on a phone while Lena stands by.

STEVEN

I'm at the American Embassy with Lena ... Yeah, the ambassador talked to us earlier tonight ...

INT. PRAGUE - AMERICAN EMBASSY - LOUNGE - NIGHT

This scene begins with a view of a television showing an American football game. The dinner guests are standing, or seated on chairs and sofas watching the game. Exner stands next to a sofa where Steven sits with his arm around Lena.

DINNER GUEST

Is this live?

STEVEN

I think so. Richard?

EXNER

The ambassador arranged for a live

broadcast feed.

Steven turns to Lena.

STEVEN

Are you bored?

LENA

No.

INT. CHARLES UNIVERSITY - STUDENT UNION BUILDING - DAY

In the lounge of the Student Union building Steven, Jan and Milos are back at work translating and proofreading press releases. Milos no longer wears a bandage on his head. Jan passes a page to Steven to proof.

JAN

(in Czech, subtitled)

That's all for me. I have to get going.

MILOS

Jan is leaving us for a few days. He's going back to Bratislava to help with the Slovakian revolution.

STEVEN

Isn't it the same revolution?

JAN

It's the same, but for Slovaks.

STEVEN

Good luck Jan.

Professor Čermak appears in the lounge and walks over to the table. Jan greets Čermak as he walks out.

JAN

(in Czech, subtitled)

Good morning Professor Čermak.

ČERMAK

(in Czech, subtitled)

Good morning Milos.

STEVEN

(in English)
Jan is going home for a while.

ČERMAK
(in English)
I know. We're not having a
delegation to the factories today.
But we made progress this week.

(in Czech, subtitled)
Milos, I was just meeting with the
Civic Forum at the *Lanterna
Magika*. They want to make sure
that the students' press releases
don't conflict too much with
theirs.

MILOS
(in Czech, subtitled)
You want to take our draft and
compare it to the Forum's press
release?

ČERMAK
(in Czech, subtitled)
Yes, and you need to come with me.

MILOS
(in Czech, subtitled)
If we end up changing anything the
English text will have to be
proofread again.

ČERMAK
(in Czech, subtitled)
Then bring Steven along.

INT./EXT. PRAGUE - THE LANTERNA MAGIKA THEATER - DAY

Steven, Milos and Čermak meet Michal in the plaza outside
the theater. There is revolutionary activity on the street
- posters, groups of people talking, etc.

STEVEN
Do we need a pass to get inside
the theater?

ČERMAK

You'll need a ticket. Here.

Čermak hands Steven and Milos their tickets. They present their tickets to Forum security guards at the building entrance. They pass through the entrance and walk down the broad stairway into the curving mirror-lined foyer. There people dart about on revolutionary business or gather around the benches talking.

STEVEN

So this is revolutionary headquarters.

MICHAL

A real madhouse, no? These are dissidents, students, artists, intellectuals, reform communists, Catholic activists, trade unionists.

ČERMAK

Everybody's forming themselves into committees, commissions and clubs. There's a communications commission, an economics club, and committees all over the place.

Čermak leads the group through a black door on the side, down a metal stairway, and through a narrow corridor to the theater dressing rooms. A guard stands in front of one of the dressing room doors. Čermak and the others show him their tickets. They enter the crowded room, which has been transformed into the command center for the Civic Forum. It is packed with Forum members, journalists and others. On the far side at a conference table sit Vaclav Haval, Rita Klimova and other forum leaders.

ČERMAK

(in Czech, subtitled)

Wait here.

Steven, Milos and Michal wait in the back while Čermak makes his way to the Forum leadership. The plenum greets Čermak. Klimova hands Čermak a document. They speak to each other, Klimova explaining something and Čermak acknowledging. Čermak then returns to the back of the room.

ČERMAK

(in Czech, subtitled)

The Forum's position paper
regarding the general strike. We
need to review this and edit the
student release accordingly.

Steven and the others turn to exit the dressing room when six university age men and women enter, much to the consternation of the door guard. They are dressed comically as Czechoslovak Young Pioneers - white blouses, red bows, the women with braided pigtailed. They make their way through the room to the plenum.

YOUNG WOMAN

(in Czech, subtitled)

We are the Committee For A More
Joyful Present!

The Forum leaders appear bemused by this.

YOUNG WOMAN

(in Czech, subtitled)

We came here to cheer you up. We
also want to make sure you don't
become another politburo.

The "Young Pioneers" hand small circular mirrors to the plenum. Steven, Čermak, Milos and Michal exit the room. They proceed down another corridor to a room crowded with revolutionary committee members. The room has tables with typewriters, and a computer workstation. They go to work at one of the tables editing their release. Steven reviews the resulting copy and marks it with his red pen.

EXT. PRAGUE - WENCESLAS SQUARE - DAY

Light snow falls as the daily demonstration gets underway. Steven, Čermak, Milos and Michal arrive at the square and greet Anna, still serving as an organizer. She no longer wears a sling. Michal looks around at the throng.

MICHAL

Look over there Steve. That
banner, CDK. That's Kolben-Daněk,
where we went the other day as a

delegation to the workers. Now we
have hundreds of them here.

ANNA

If the workers are here then
they'll support the strike too.

The moderator appears on the balcony.

VÁCLAV MALÝ

(in Czech, subtitled)

The move to freedom was started
twenty years ago by Alexander
Dubček, who will speak to you now.

Dubček appears on the balcony as the crowd roars.

CROWD

Dubček! Dubček! Dubček! Dubček!

DUBCEK

(in Czech, subtitles)

Socialism with a human face lives
in our new generation ...

DISSOLVE TO:

The crowd cheers at the end of Dubček's speech.

CROWD

(in Czech, subtitled)

Dubček to the castle! Dubček to
the castle! Dubček to the castle!

Havel joins Dubček on the balcony. The crowd cheers again.

CROWD

Dubček-Havel! Dubček-Havel!
Dubček-Havel!

DISSOLVE TO:

The moderator has returned to the balcony.

VÁCLAV MALÝ

(in Czech, subtitled)

Cardinal Tomášek announces support
for the Civic Forum on behalf of
the Catholic Church.

DISSOLVE TO:

Olympian Vera Caslavská appears on the balcony.

VERA CASLAVSKA

(in Czech, subtitled)

I was proud to represent this country as a gymnast at the Olympic Games in 1968. Now it is the duty of the generation of 1968 to help the generation of 1989.

DISSOLVE TO:

A worker appears on the balcony.

FACTORY WORKER

(in Czech, subtitled)

On Monday the workers at our plant will be joining the general strike. And we will be taking down from the building the hammer and sickle of communism!

DISSOLVE TO:

As the rally ends the people in the square hold up their keys and jingle them.

INT./EXT. PRAGUE - A JAZZ CLUB AND VICINITY - NIGHT

Čermák, Steven, Michal, Anna and Milos sit at a table near a window drinking beer as a band plays jazz music.

ANNA

(in Czech, subtitled)

The crowds are getting too big for Wenceslas Square. Tomorrow's rally will be at the Letná field.

ČERMAK

(in Czech, subtitled)

For five days Wenceslas Square belonged to the Civic Forum.

The conversation switches to English.

STEVEN

But what's the government going to do now?

MICHAL

The government is doing everything they can to avoid a general strike.

MILOS

You'll have a lot to talk about when you get home Steve.

STEVEN

Right, but will anyone believe it? I'm not sure I believe it.

ČERMAK

It's hard to believe that after twenty years this country is waking up again.

MICHAL

And it's the students who started it.

ANNA

What choice did we have?

MILOS

Only to live the way we have been living, within this facade of lies.

ČERMAK

You see Steven, people here have the same need for truth that you have. Workers, shopkeepers, school teachers. But here we've had to carry the truth inside us.

ANNA

And also to put up signs in the windows praising our socialism and our leaders, and to sleep through all those official meetings.

MILOS

Which makes us *all* part of that

facade of lies that Michal mentioned.

MICHAL

For five days we haven't had to hide the truth in our pockets. Because the truth is out in the open now, for everyone to see, so now we are living in the truth.

ANNA

That's what makes people stand in the freezing cold square for hours.

Suddenly the group hears cheering and whistling from outside the window. Then car horns start beeping. Then more cheering and whistling.

STEVEN

What's going on?

One of the bartenders runs outside, converses briefly with two men on the street, and runs back inside.

BARTENDER

(in Czech, subtitled)

Listen everybody!

The band stops playing and the room turns silent.

BARTENDER

(in Czech, subtitled)

The government has fallen!

The patrons murmur. Some rise to their feet in awe.

BARTENDER

(in Czech, subtitled)

Jakeš and his ministers, they're out! It was announced just a few minutes ago!

The room breaks out in loud cheering, whistling and applause. Steven and the others get up and head outside. Light snow falls. On the street a procession of Skoda cars moves past honking their horns as pedestrians cheer. Further on a group of men and women dance in a circle as a

trumpeter plays a Czech folk tune.

MICHAL

Karl Marx was right. The state
will wither away.

INT. PRAGUE - THE LANTERNA MAGIKA THEATER - NIGHT

Civic Forum leaders toast their victory.

VACLAV HAVEL

(in Czech)

To a free Czechoslovakia!

RITA KLIMOVA

To a free Czechoslovakia!

EXT. PRAGUE - A CITY CENTER STREET - NIGHT

A long chain of university students with their hands
clasped runs past. Milos and Anna run alongside to
converse with them. The students unclasp their hands to
allow Milos and Anna to join the chain.

Steven and Michal stand together on the street as Čermak
walks out of the jazz club.

STEVEN

So that's it. We've won.

ČERMAK

Not yet. I was just on the phone
with the *Lanterna Magika*. Jakeš
and most of the hardliners are
out. But all they've really done
tonight is replace Stalinist
communists with Gorbachev-style
communists.

MICHAL

A definite improvement.

ČERMAK

But it's not enough. That's why
the general strike on Monday has
to go on.

MICHAL

To break the back of the regime.

Steven, Čermak and Michal begin walking down the street amid the revelry.

STEVEN

I don't understand. This so-called strike lasts from noon to two in the afternoon. And everyone's going to make up the lost time anyway. That's not a strike. It's a long lunch hour.

ČERMAK

No, you don't understand. If there's one thing the communist regime cannot handle it's a strike. Even a symbolic one.

MICHAL

It means that they are no longer in control.

ČERMAK

Of course the hospitals and fire departments will stay on duty.

MICHAL

But everyone else will be walking outside.

INT. FOREIGN RESIDENTS DORMITORY - NIGHT

Steven knocks on the door to Lena's room. She opens it.

LENA

You're late.

STEVEN

You know we brought down the government tonight. Got any of that schnapps left?

Steven looks out the window of Lena's room. Lena pours two shot glasses of schnapps and hands one to Steven.

STEVEN

The Czechs are all celebrating.

LENA

To bringing down the government.

They drink the shots. Steven puts his arms around Lena and pulls her down onto her bed. Lena lies on top of him.

STEVEN

We were working with the Civic Forum today at the *Lanterna Magika*. You should see it there now.

LENA

Tell me all about it.

INT. PRAGUE - ST. VITUS' CATHEDRAL - DAY (ARCHIVE FOOTAGE)

This scene uses about 30 seconds of footage from this clip of the Catholic mass held at St. Vitus' Cathedral to celebrate the canonization of St. Agnes.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKOtm5f762E>

SUPER: Mass to celebrate the canonization of Saint Agnes of Bohemia/November 25, 1989

EXT. PRAGUE - LETNA PLAIN - DAY (ARCHIVE FOOTAGE)

This scene uses about 30 seconds of archive footage from this clip of the demonstration led by the Civic Forum at the Letná fields in Prague.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x0aUIjCdp74>

SUPER: Letna Plain - Prague - Civic Forum Rally/November 25-26, 1989

INT./EXT. CHARLES UNIVERSITY - CAMPUS - DAY

The clock strikes twelve noon. Steven, Lena and the other foreign residents walk outside their dormitory to join a growing stream of students and faculty making their way through the campus. Milos, Anna and other students also join. Regina walks with Dr. Kovář and their colleagues. The sound of church bells is constant and growing.

MONTAGE - VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN PRAGUE AND ELSEWHERE - DAY

- A) Michal and others walk outside their theater.
- B) In Bratislava Jan walks toward a crowded city square.
- C) Office workers walk out of their office building.
- D) Workers walk out of a plant as the air whistle blows.
- E) Students and teachers file out of a high school as the school bell rings.
- F) Diners, waiters and cooks leave a restaurant.
- G) Shopkeepers close their shops.
- H) A streetcar stops at an intersection, the driver ringing the car bell.

END MONTAGE

EXT. PRAGUE - WENCESLAS SQUARE - DAY

The striking public fills Wenceslas Square as television crews on the scene cover the activity. In the square Steven, Lena and the other foreign residents stand among the people. Milos, Anna and other students are present. So are Regina and Dr. Kovář.

EXT. PRAGUE - OLD TOWN SQUARE - DAY

The Prague Astronomical Clock in Old Town Square strikes two o'clock. Steven and Lena greet Čermak and Michal.

MICHAL

Professor Čermak was at the
Lanterna Magika just now.

ČERMAK

The government is entering into
negotiations with the Civic Forum
for a complete handover of power.
Now it's done Steve.

PETER JENNINGS (V.O.)

So much has happened so fast here
in Czechoslovakia ...

EXT. PRAGUE - CITY CENTER - NIGHT (ARCHIVE FOOTAGE)

This scene uses archive footage from 6:06 to 6:25 of this clip with ABC News foreign correspondent Peter Jennings.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bPyKuGXppsA>

SUPER: Peter Jennings, ABC News

PETER JENNINGS

The assault on communist authority here has been much more sudden than it was in Hungary or Poland or in East Germany, and least expected. It is often said of Czechoslovaks that they are not easily stirred out of their complacency. After forty years the students here have done it *in ten days*.

INT./EXT. FOREIGN RESIDENTS DORMITORY - DAY

Steven and Lena walk toward the dormitory as Lena reads a Czech newspaper.

LENA

The Federal Assembly has voted to abolish the leading role of the Communist Party in the Czechoslovak constitution.

STEVEN

So it's official. This is no longer a communist country.

LENA

That's right.

STEVEN

Lena, I'm thinking about going home for the holidays next month. But only if you'll come with me.

LENA

For how long?

STEVEN

About two weeks. Christmas in

Connecticut!

LENA

Let me see if I can get away.

Steven and Lena walk inside their dormitory and find four male Czech students in the lounge, along with Tom, Minh, Mila and Dr. Kovář.

STEVEN

What's up?

TOM

(low voice)

They're saying they found an StB agent living here in the Foreign Residents Dormitory.

STEVEN

(low voice)

No. Really? You think?

DR. KOVAR

An StB officer went over to the Civic Forum and gave them the names of all their agents at the university.

Regina enters the room from the stairway.

STEVEN

(low voice)

Game over Regina. I'll be sorry to see her go. She really is very impressive.

Three of the Czech students position themselves around Lena. Steven notices this.

STEVEN

What do you think you're doing?

FIRST STUDENT

(in Czech, subtitled)

Your coat.

Lena does not respond, so the students hold her and forcibly remove her coat.

STEVEN

(in Czech, subtitled)

Let go of her!

The fourth Czech student and Dr. Kovář hold Steven by his arms to restrain him. The first Czech student finds Lena's wallet inside a coat pocket and inspects its contents.

STEVEN

(in Czech, subtitled)

She's not even from this country!
She can't be your StB agent!

The second student pulls a document from Lena's wallet, looks at it, and hands it to Dr. Kovář. Kovář looks at the document and hands it to Steven. Steven looks at the document. It is an StB identification form with a photo of "Lena" wearing the uniform of a State Security officer:

Jméno: Dvořáková, Věra
Hodnost: Podporučík
Datum narození: 17.5.1964
Výška: 171 cm
Barva vlasů: Hnědá

STEVEN

Is this your real name?
Lieutenant Věra Dvořáková, State
Security Police. How can this be?

Lena says nothing.

DR. KOVAR

If a German can learn to speak
Czech then a Czech can learn to
speak German.

FOURTH STUDENT

(in English)

Her English teacher was probably
German.

(in Czech, subtitled)

Isn't that right Lieutenant?

STEVEN

Why would a State Security
officer, working clandestinely, be

in a relationship with a foreign scholar?

FOURTH STUDENT

You just answered your own question.

STEVEN

Is that what this was all about?

LENA

It was about serving my country!

DR. KOVAR

Her mission here was to report on the activities of the foreign residents.

Steven turns to Regina.

STEVEN

And you knew nothing about this?

REGINA

Nothing.

STEVEN

At the Students' Day rally, when they said they were going to the city center, you told me not to go. You knew what was going to happen.

LENA

All I knew was that the students were not to reach Wenceslas Square. StB agents at the head of the column guided them toward Narodni Avenue. The regular police took over at that point and they completely botched it.

FIRST STUDENT

She's right. StB agents in the crowd ended up getting clobbered along with the students.

LENA

No coordination at all.

FOURTH STUDENT

(in Czech, subtitled)

Yet you managed to bring down the government, on orders from Moscow.

LENA

(in Czech, subtitled)

It's true that Gorbachev wanted the hardliners here out just as much as the students did. Jakeš and his stooges were an embarrassment to Moscow. But don't thank the StB for this.

DR. KOVAR

(in Czech, subtitled)

Gorbachev told his KGB to work with the StB to start an uprising here that would put his kind of communists in power.

LENA

(in Czech, subtitled)

But most of the StB people were not on board with the project. And that uprising was going to happen no matter what the StB did.

FIRST STUDENT

(in Czech, subtitled)

But Gorbachev got just what he wanted, a new government in Czechoslovakia.

LENA

(in Czech, subtitled)

Moscow wanted reform, not revolution! This situation is completely out of control!

STEVEN

Everything I told you, you reported to your superiors in the StB?

LENA

Not everything, only what was
important.

Lena breaks away from the students and walks toward Steven.
She stops and faces him.

LENA

You did well.

DR. KOVAR

(in Czech, subtitled)

Now it's time to go.

The first student hands Lena her coat. She puts it on.
The second student takes Lena by the arm. He and the third
student escort her to the front entrance and outside.

STEVEN

Where are they taking her?

DR. KOVAR

Miss Dvořáková is being escorted
off the campus, and she's not
coming back.

FIRST STUDENT

The new government will decide how
to deal with StB criminals.

FOURTH STUDENT

She's going to be out of a job
soon.

Steven goes to the front entrance and outside. Lena and
her two student escorts are walking about twenty yards
away.

STEVEN

Lena! Věra?

Lena turns and looks at Steven. They both hold the gaze
for a moment. Lena turns away and proceeds with her
escorts. Steven turns and walks back inside the dormitory.
He approaches Dr. Kovář.

STEVEN

Have they identified all the StB agents at the university?

DR. KOVAR

As of now, yes.

Proceeding toward the stairway Steven finds himself face to face with Regina. He seems to want to say something, but he cannot find the words so he walks past her.

REGINA

Steven, Professor Čermak left a message. He would like you to join him in Dr. Zeman's office at four o'clock.

Lena reaches the city street. Her two escorts turn and head back to the campus. She walks up the street, away from the university.

Back at the dormitory Steven walks into his room and finds a worker setting up some equipment.

STEVEN

(in Czech, subtitled)

What's that?

WORKER

(in Czech, subtitled)

Your computer.

INT. CHARLES UNIVERSITY - SOCIAL SCIENCES FACULTY - DAY

Steven walks into Dr. Zeman's office to find Zeman and Čermak along with a half dozen other faculty members.

STEVEN

You wanted to see me Viktor?

ČERMAK

Steve, glad you could make it.

DR. ZEMAN

(in Czech, subtitled)

We were just at the Civic Forum meeting with the new Finance Minister.

ČERMAK

(in Czech, subtitled)

He's asking for research into decentralization of the economy and market reforms. You are all going to have a part in this.

INT. FOREIGN RESIDENTS DORMITORY - TOM'S ROOM - DAY

Steven, Minh and Tom drink scotch with Tom's clandestine radio tuned to a station playing R.E.M.

MINH

Steve, the woman you loved never existed.

TOM

She lied to you about everything.

STEVEN

Except for the part about her mother being Czech.

EXT. PRAGUE - A HILL OVERLOOKING THE CITY - DAY

Steven sits alone on a bench on a snow-covered hill with a view of Prague. Marta Kubisova sings *Kdo těm růžím vůni vzal* ("Where Have All the Flowers Gone") in the background.

INT. PRAGUE - A TAVERN - NIGHT

The same song by Kubisova continues playing in the background over the tavern speakers. Steven sits at a table with Milos and Anna.

STEVEN

I told her about you. But I never talked about the Ribbon, Anna.

ANNA

It doesn't matter now. The StB will be out of business soon.

MILOS

The government has already lifted censorship and travel restrictions. A group of us are

having a holiday in Vienna this weekend.

MONTAGE - VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN PRAGUE AND ELSEWHERE,
ARCHIVE FOOTAGE

A) Communist symbols - a red star on the facade of an office building, a hammer and sickle over a factory - being removed.

B) Christmas trees and decorations being put up.

C) A view of Rita Klimova.

SUPER: Civic Forum member Rita Klimova coins the term "Velvet Revolution" to describe the peaceful overthrow of communism.

D) Archive footage of Gorbachev addressing the Supreme Soviet.

SUPER: The Soviet Union announces that the 1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia was "a mistake"./December 3, 1989

E) Jan returns from Bratislava and greets Milos and Anna in the Social Sciences Library.

F) Steven wraps up his mentoring program with Milos, Jan and Anna as he gives them their grades.

G) A television screen shows footage of the revolutions in Romania and South Africa.

H) Archive footage of Vaclav Havel.

SUPER: Parliament unanimously elects Vaclav Havel President of Czechoslovakia./December 28, 1989

END MONTAGE

INT. FOREIGN RESIDENTS DORMITORY - LOUNGE - NIGHT

Steven, Regina, Tom, Minh, Mila and others toast the New Year. A decoration on the wall says "1990".

INT. FOREIGN RESIDENTS DORMITORY - LOUNGE - DAY

A television screen shows Vaclav Havel delivering his first address to the nation as President. In the lounge Steven,

Regina, Tom, Mila, Minh and others watch the address.

VACLAV HAVEL

(in Czech, subtitled)

My dear fellow citizens, for forty years you heard from my predecessors different variations on the same theme: how our country was flourishing. I assume you did not propose me for this office so that I, too, would lie to you. Our country is not flourishing ...

DISSOLVE TO:

VACLAV HAVEL

(in Czech, subtitled)

We all became used to the totalitarian system and accepted it as an unchangeable fact and thus helped to perpetuate it. None of us is just its victim. We are all also its co-creators ...

DISSOLVE TO:

VACLAV HAVEL

(in Czech, subtitled)

Our country, if that is what we want, can now permanently radiate love, understanding, the power of the spirit and of ideas ...

DISSOLVE TO:

VACLAV HAVEL

(in Czech, subtitled)

You may ask what kind of republic I dream of. I dream of a republic independent, free, and democratic, of a republic economically prosperous and yet socially just ...

DISSOLVE TO:

VACLAV HAVEL

(in Czech, subtitled)
 People, your government has
 returned to you!

INT. CHARLES UNIVERSITY - LECTURE HALL - DAY

Steven walks into a lecture hall with about twenty people seated and takes a seat near the back. At a table in front of the audience sits a commission consisting of a faculty member, a male student and a female student, Anna. In the first row of the hall sit Regina and Dr. Kovář. This scene is in Czech with subtitles until Steven begins testifying.

REGINA

I have renounced my membership in
 the Communist Party.

COMMISSION MALE STUDENT

You renounced your Communist Party
 membership when it was convenient
 for you. When there was no longer
 anything to be gained from it.

REGINA

You know that party membership was
 necessary for anyone planning a
 career in the Foreign Service.

ANNA

What about those whose consciences
 wouldn't allow them to serve the
 communists for career advancement?
 What about the dissidents and the
 people who went to prison?

DR. KOVAR

We couldn't all be dissidents.
 Some of us had important work to
 do.

ANNA

This isn't just about membership
 in a political party. It's about
 association with a criminal
 organization!

REGINA

I committed no crime!

DR. KOVAR

Was the communist regime
overthrown so that we could now
have tribunals dispensing
revolutionary justice?

COMMISSION FACULTY MEMBER

This is not a tribunal. This is
an administrative hearing to
determine Miss Jelinkova's fitness
to serve this university in a
prominent role given her recent
past association with the CPC.

DR. KOVAR

I belonged to the same party.

COMMISSION MALE STUDENT

Dr. Kovář, as a member of the
faculty your case will be handled
by the Ministry of Education.

COMMISSION FACULTY MEMBER

Miss Jelinkova, this commission
understands the circumstances that
led some of our colleagues to join
the CPC over the years. We're
prepared to accept your
renunciation and keep you on. But
we need attestation of your
character from someone not
associated with the Communist
Party. Is there any such person
who will speak on your behalf?

The hall falls silent for a moment. Then Steven stands up.

STEVEN

I will.

COMMISSION MALE STUDENT

Come forward and state your name.

Steven walks down the aisle toward the commission, with
Regina and Dr. Kovář on his right.

STEVEN

My name is Steven Walsh, Fulbright Scholar currently resident at Charles University. Though as a foreigner I may not really be qualified to speak at this hearing.

ANNA

We'll be pleased to hear your testimony Steven.

Steven pauses for a moment, as if at a loss for words.

COMMISSION FACULTY MEMBER

Mr. Walsh, what do you have to say?

STEVEN

(in English)

Anna, translate for me.

Anna nods. Steven gives testimony in English.

STEVEN

I have known Miss Jelinkova since I arrived here last August.

Anna translates into Czech.

STEVEN

I can attest to her ability and her professionalism.

Anna translates.

STEVEN

She definitely takes her responsibilities seriously.

Anna translates.

STEVEN

And though I would never defend anyone's decision to join any communist party ...

Anna translates.

STEVEN

... I consider her renunciation of
that party to be sincere.

Anna translates.

STEVEN

Joining the party was for Miss
Jelinkova a practical necessity ...

Anna translates.

STEVEN

... given her chosen career path
and the way the system worked
until two months ago.

Anna translates.

STEVEN

Anna, you face a better world now
than those who came before you.

Anna appears startled. She pauses and then translates.

STEVEN

Even those who came one or two
years before you.

Anna translates.

STEVEN

And while there will always be
challenges, you will not have to
make the kind of choices that they
did.

Anna translates.

STEVEN

So be careful how you judge them.

Anna translates. Steven turns and heads back up the aisle.
When Anna starts speaking he turns toward the commission.

ANNA

(in Czech, subtitled)
Having heard Mr. Walsh's testimony

I am prepared to recommend that
Miss Jelinkova be kept on in her
current role.

COMMISSION FACULTY MEMBER

(in Czech, subtitled)

Do we all agree?

The commission's male student nods.

COMMISSION FACULTY MEMBER

(in Czech, subtitled)

Miss Jelinkova ...

Regina and Dr. Kovář stand up.

COMMISSION FACULTY MEMBER

(in Czech, subtitled)

... this commission will recommend
that you be retained in your
current position at this
university. This hearing is over.

Steven turns and exits the lecture hall.

EXT. NEAR PRAGUE - SOVIET ARMY CAMP - DAY

Soviet Army troops load equipment into their trucks.

DISSOLVE TO:

A Soviet military convoy drives away from the camp.

EXT. PRAGUE - OLD TOWN SQUARE - DAY

In Old Town Square a tour bus stops, its door opens and
American tourists file out.

SUPER: May 1990

Elsewhere in the square a young American street musician
plays a guitar and sings *What's That I Hear* by Phil Ochs.
His partner shakes a tambourine and asks passersby for
contributions.

STREET MUSICIAN

*What's that I hear now ringing in
my ear
I hear it more and more*

*It's the sound of freedom calling
 Ringing up to the sky*

Steven walks through the square with Milos, Jan and Anna.
 He stops to put some change into the tambourine.

STEVEN

The Red Army is leaving and now
 Prague is filling up with American
 tourists.

MILOS

It's like you say Steve, there's
 always a tradeoff.

JAN

When will you be going home?

STEVEN

Friday. The faculty is giving me
 a farewell dinner Thursday night.
 Are you all going?

MILOS

We'll be there.

ANNA

To honor your accomplishments.

STEVEN

My accomplishments? I
 accomplished some research. But
 you changed the world.

INT. CHARLES UNIVERSITY - FACULTY DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Steven sits at a dinner table with Dr. Zeman, Professor
 Čermak, Dr. Kovář and other faculty members. At another
 table sit Milos, Jan and Anna. At a third table sit
 Regina, Tom, Minh and Mila.

ČERMAK

We can all agree that it's been an
 unforgettable year at Charles
 University. And we of the Social
 Sciences Faculty will not soon
 forget Steven Walsh. Steven's
 work here on modeling has been a

great contribution.

DR. ZEMAN

But that's not all. I hold here a letter from the Finance Minister. Translated it says: "As Minister of Finance I wish to commend the research performed at Charles University for the major role it has played in planning for the transformation of our economy." A good part of that research was the work of Mr. Walsh here.

The rest of the room claps.

ČERMAK

Steven, wherever you go and whatever you do in the future, you can always look back on your work here with great satisfaction.

The rest of the room claps.

EXT. CHARLES UNIVERSITY - CAMPUS - DAY

Steven, with his suitcase and carryon bag, walks with Regina across the campus.

STEVEN

Any plans for the summer?

REGINA

I'll be traveling, abroad.

STEVEN

Now you can see New York.

Steven and Regina stop at the street where a van waits.

STEVEN

I was suspicious of you at first. I thought you were the one they sent to spy on us.

REGINA

Everybody in this country was suspicious. Suspicious of

neighbors, colleagues, even family. It may take years for us to learn to trust each other again.

Steven and Regina join hands.

STEVEN

Rozloučení Regina.

REGINA

Dokud se setkáme znovu Steven.

Steven hands his suitcase to the driver and gets into the van. The van drives off.

INT./EXT. PRAGUE - RUZYNE AIRPORT - DAY

Steven walks through the terminal to the waiting area. He goes outside to the tarmac, up the passenger steps and into a KLM 737. As the airplane ascends Steven reads a magazine in his seat. A flight attendant comes by.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

Would you like something to drink?

STEVEN

I'll have a gin and tonic. Do you take credit cards?

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

Yes.

Steven takes his wallet from his jacket. He has difficulty pulling out his credit card. A number of items fall out of the wallet. He picks up the credit card and hands it to the flight attendant, then puts the other items back into the wallet. The flight attendant hands him his drink.

One item from the wallet remains, the Polaroid picture of Lena posing by the tree near the lake. Steven looks at the picture.

FADE OUT.

THE END