

# Talk to the Hand

A Black Comedy



**Brenda Iovino**

# TALK TO THE HAND

by

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Two Act Play

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**Cast:** Two Men and a woman

**Time:** Present day.

**ALLIE:** Dark in eyes, hair and in personality in her mid thirties. You would think she is the Russian in their relationship. Would rather speak Russian. Asked her why she became a American spy and her answer is always, "I wanted to legitimately kill people, bad people and not be arrested for it." Loves fast cars, guns and could easily snap you in two. Her humor is dark and sarcasm is all about her, but she does have a sense of humor at times. Always dresses in black, except the white shirt she wears to sleep in of SERGEI. Whenever she is near SERGEI she touches him lovingly, always. This is her way of telling him.

**SERGEI:** Fourth generation Russian spy in his mid thirties; Speaks English without an accent and prefers speaking English to Russian. SERGEI likes comedy while ALLIE like intrigue and drama. He likes long walks in the sun and she likes to walk in the rain, preferably with lightning and thunder. He wears light colors. He and ALLIE, are lovers and have been for three years. Neither one of their agencies know of their relationship. They know that they fight most of the time for opposites sides, but they make it work by doing very little talking, none about work.

**HENRI:** A French spy in his mid 50's. Always wears turtle necks and he hasn't figured out yet that they went out of style 30 years ago. Graying around edges but still nice

looking. His English is better than his French, since he has not been home in many years. He is SERGEI and ALLIE's only friend and vice versa.

**Stage:** Except for the last scenes the entire play takes place in ALLIE and SERGEI's apartment, with both rooms in full open view to the audience. They keep his and her apartments in NYC along with this one they share, all on the same block. This to keep their cover, all within the same block. They get to each place via the roof.

The action takes place in their joint apartment. There are no personal pictures of either one of them, no personal touches. It is furnished with IKEA furniture and has the feel of a display room in their store. The living room is open to the kitchen and breakfast bar. There is a dividing wall to the bedroom. The large bed takes up most of the space with two dressers side by side, his and hers. There are doors for the closet and for the bathroom, which are in the bedroom.

The Last scene takes place on a boat on the ocean near island off of Morocco.

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A Black Comedy in Two Acts

## ACT I Scene 1

Setting: Manhattan Apartment - Entire play takes place in this apartment. SERGEI is in the kitchen cooking. He has a black glove on his left hand. He has a hard time picking up things, because he is still learning to use his new bionic hand. He gets frustrated but refuses to get too angry. This man is happy to be alive, even if it is minus one hand.

At Rise: Present day. Hear key in door and ALLIE comes in soaking wet from rain. Stops and smells the air. Knows he is cooking. He always cooks and his food is always delicious.

ALLIE

Smells great.

(SERGEI comes away from kitchen and sees a wet ALLIE, he sees this every time it rains. ALLIE knows the drill by now.)

SERGEI

You can't get sick - you're supposed to be taking care of me.

ALLIE

(Removing hat/coat, placing on hall tree.)  
Says the man cooking dinner.  
(Puts her wet body in his waiting arms.)

SERGEI

If we had to survive on your culinary skills...well -

ALLIE

I survived before there was a we...

SERGEI

You had three numbers on speed dial, Chinese, Pizza and your office.

ALLIE

Well, when you're slaying dragons all day...

(ALLIE removes her Glock/gun from her back. Walks to the bedroom and places it on the bedside table. Comes back to the living area.)

SERGEI

I thought you were going to start wearing a holster.

ALLIE

The holster is too tight and bulky. It's easier to grab it this way.

(Puts hand behind her and acts like she is getting her gun. Puts finger/gun to lips and blows.)

SERGEI

Always the rebel.

(Attention back to dinner and stirring the pot.)

ALLIE

Always.

(Comes up behind him and embraces him from behind. She is visibly wet. SERGEI is concerned for her.)

SERGEI

Before you catch your death, change your clothes, at least your shoes. They're soaked.

(ALLIE kisses him on his back and goes to the bedroom. She goes to her side of the bed, sits, gets slippers from under the bed, pulls a knife out of her right boot, places it on

the bedside table and a small gun from her left ankle, removing strap holding it in place and both are also placed on the table. She takes her boots off, placing them by the window/heater. She goes back to the bed, sits, looks at the knife and fingers it, not picking it up.  
SERGEI comes to the doorway and sees her. He lowers his head and goes back to the kitchen. He calls out from the kitchen.)

SERGEI

Dinner in five. Will you pour the wine?

ALLIE

Sure.

(ALLIE walks back into the living area and goes to the bar.)

ALLIE

Red or white?

SERGEI

Surprise me.

(ALLIE goes over, looks in pot, smiles at him, runs her finger along back of his neck and picks out a bottle of red and proceeds to open it.)

ALLIE

I think a nice Bordeaux.

(Pause - remembering)

I thought HENRI was coming to dinner?

SERGEI

He called, couldn't make dinner but he'll stop by later for a drink. He sounded excited about something.

ALLIE

Really?

(SERGEI brings the pot over to the table that is all ready set and dishes out dinner. ALLIE pours the wine. He is all smiles and she is her usual, not all smiles, self. It is

obvious that ALLIE has no appetite except for the wine. She fingers her food with the fork, but drinks. SERGEI eyes her and decides to speak.)

SERGEI

ALLIE, what's going on and before you say nothing - that's bullshit.

ALLIE

When do you think you'll be ready to go back into the field?

SERGEI

The doctors cleared me but I failed the field exam. Not sure why my aim is off, since I shoot with my right hand, but it is. I go back in a week and try again.

ALLIE

(Eager)

We could go practice?

SERGEI

And have you show me up - as you always do - no. Why aren't you eating?

(ALLIE plays with her food with her fork.)

SERGEI

You don't like it?

ALLIE

No it's great.

(takes small bite)

My appetite is just off. I don't know why.

SERGEI

I do.

ALLIE

Stop!

SERGEI

We have to talk about this.

(ALLIE goes over to the counter and gets bread and large bread knife.)



ALLIE

No we don't.

(While this is said, she angrily jabs knife in cutting board. Pause.)

ALLIE

Look - I know - I know - I had to cut it off. And you - you are dealing with this amazingly well, almost too well. I - on the other hand - I don't know what my fucking problem is. Maybe I haven't killed anyone lately and it's been too long.

SERGEI

I love our dinner conversation - 'how's your day at the office, dear?'

(She pours herself another drink and offers it to him. He shakes his head no.)

ALLIE

I just think work is what I need. (Pause) The Director wants me to go to the mid-east for a few days. He actually gave me the option, can you believe that? (Silence from both.) I think he's worried.

(ALLIE pulls out a pouch from her coat and tosses it on the breakfast bar.)

SERGEI

Ya, think?

(She gives him a look.)

Allie, the last time you were out you single-handedly wiped out an entire squad.

ALLIE

An enemy squad.

SERGEI

Not the point.

ALLIE

Any desert? Oh, we should wait for Henri.

(Upset but not angry, SERGEI gets up and brings a pie to the table with three smaller

plates and another glass for HENRI. He puts his plate in the sink.)

SERGEI

(SERGEI standing at sink)

They're all yours.

(This said as he goes into the bedroom.)

ALLIE

You're too kind.

(Pause)

I distinctly remembering telling you I am not domesticated. I'm only good at one thing - okay, two.

SERGEI

Killing and making love, and yes, in that order.

ALLIE

Fuck you.

(She finishes clearing the table and begins to wash dishes.)

(Buzzer sounds and ALLIE goes to intercom.)

ALLIE

Yes?

HENRI

(O.S.)

Henri...

(ALLIE presses button on the intercom, then goes to the door and opens it. She goes back to the sink to finish the dishes. HENRI Chalmers, man in his fifties with a French accent, comes in with an umbrella, a raincoat and a hat. He is in a suit jacket with a turtleneck, looking dashing, at least he thinks so. He takes them off and goes to the kitchen and greets ALLIE, kissing her on both cheeks.)

HENRI

Did I miss a good meal?

(SERGEI comes in on that line.)

SERGEI

She couldn't say...she didn't eat a bite.

(Comes to greet HENRI, also getting kissed on both cheeks.)

HENRI

A little under the weather? Pregnant?

(ALLIE gives him that 'look.')

ALLIE

Pour yourself some wine, HENRI. I'm almost done here.

HENRI

(Sarcasm)

Very domesticated of you.

(ALLIE now gives HENRI the 'look,' removes the large knife from the cutting board and faces him, showing him the knife before washing it.)

HENRI

Did I come at a bad time?

ALLIE/SERGEI

(Together)

No!

HENRI

(Throws both hands up)

Whoa... Remember I'm an ally to you both. French, remember, lovers not fighters.

(HENRI sits and smells the pie.)

HENRI

Homemade? (Pause) Who made it?

(Gets that look from ALLIE and SERGEI laughs after seeing this.)

HENRI

What's that saying the young say, 'Whoops, am I bad?'

(Both ALLIE and SERGEI laugh.)

ALLIE

How long has it been since you were back in France?

HENRI

I went on holiday nine months ago, remember? Oh, no - you both were away yourselves. I had a grand time, but was I glad to be back here.

SERGEI

Why? (Pause) Don't you miss your home?

HENRI

This is my home. SERGEI, I've been here for thirty-two years. Hell, I've been told my English is better than my French.

ALLIE

Will you retire here?

HENRI

Retire! Do spies do that - I mean live out retirement?  
(Pause - almost hurt) Why, do I look like I need to?

(Gets up and goes to wall mirror and examines himself.)

(ALLIE sensing she has hurt his feelings, goes to him and pats him on the head.)

ALLIE

You're as gorgeous as ever.

(HENRI does not believe her but reluctantly comes back to the table and sits.)

HENRI

You don't understand. We French pride ourselves -

ALLIE

On being vain and snobbish...? You've no worries.

SERGEI

You're an impeccable dresser...except for...

HENRI

I'm supposed to take style advice from - who? You dress in white as much as possible and ALLIE here is colorblind to all except black. Please. I'm French. We invented style. My style will last for as long as I do.

ALLIE

Relax, no one is retiring. Although...maybe these turtlenecks. (Puts her fingers under collar and pulls.)

SERGEI

Don't let her tease you - I'm sure they'll make a comeback.

(SERGEI and ALLIE laugh, HENRI just a smug smile.)

HENRI

When will you be back in the field?

(Both ALLIE and SERGEI look at each other.)

ALLIE

New subject.

HENRI

Still off.

SERGEI

Only if you want a kill shot.

ALLIE

Honey, that is kind of the point, kill them before they kill you?

HENRI

Why do you think you're still having trouble? You're not left handed.

(Silence. ALLIE pours everyone but HENRI, who waves her a 'no', another glass of wine.)

HENRI

Are you tired of the game?

(Silence)

HENRI (Cont.)

You and I have talked about this before.

ALLIE

(This is new to her.)

Excuse me?

HENRI

Whoa, am I bad, again.

BLACK OUT

**ACT I**  
**Scene 2**

At Rise: Later that night.

Setting: Both are in bed. ALLIE sleeps on the left side of the bed where she placed her gun, knife, etc. earlier. SERGEI is restless and ALLIE props herself up on one arm and looks at him. He is restless and she is worried. She wants to calm him but is afraid to wake him. There is a knock at their door. Quickly both grab their guns. SERGEI fumbles with his slightly due to the hand. Both look at each other and get up and go to the living room door.

SERGEI

Yes, who is it?

(No response so he says it again.)

Who's there?

(Still no response. ALLIE is visibly pissed. She cracks the door, gun in hand and looks out. A drunken male voice is heard off stage.)

Voice

(O.S.)

Sorry sweetie, wrong door...unless?

(ALLIE slams the door.)

SERGEI

Well someone had a good time tonight.

ALLIE

Ya, think? Boy what I wouldn't give to put a -

SERGEI

Don't even think about it, sweetie. That wouldn't be sanctioned by your agency.

ALLIE

Ahh...a girl can dream.

(SERGEI goes to the kitchen and gets a glass of water from the refrigerator. ALLIE watches him. He stands in the kitchen and she goes to the sofa. She picks up a magazine from the

coffee table, not reading it and tosses it down. She wants to talk but she's not sure how to go about it. He senses this, goes to the kitchen table and sits. He wants her to talk. He wants to talk. These two love each other - but their communication skills need work, especially hers.)

ALLIE

We need to talk.

SERGEI

Ya, think?

ALLIE

Shut up. (Pause) You first.

SERGEI

You've got to deal...with what you had to do.

ALLIE

Me?! You're the one missing the damn hand!

SERGEI

Yes, but I'm not the one punishing you for it, you are. It's not like you - cut off my manhood, in order to save my life. That...would be a larger problem...for us both.

ALLIE

Guess it's a good thing you weren't in that machine sideways, then.

SERGEI

Look, it's a hand and not even the one I write with and more importantly, shoot with. I'm not thrilled with this  
(holds up left gloved hand)  
but the alternative...well? You had no choice.

ALLIE

I'm afraid....

SERGEI

Of what?

ALLIE

That you will wake up one morning and start blaming me.



SERGE

Not going to happen.

ALLIE

How do you know?

SERGEI

I know myself. ALLIE...I love you. I don't know anyone who could have done what you did to save me. I don't know if I could have done the same thing. You'd probably shoot me for doing it.

ALLIE

Probably...

(Tries to smile.)

SERGEI

Look, you've got to talk with someone - a professional.

ALLIE

Sure, sure... and how do you think that would go over. Let me see, ' Doc, I'm an American spy and my lover is a Russian spy. We were working but - not working together and silly him - he got his hand caught in a machine that was about to eat his entire Goddamn body. So I, just casually, pulled my trusted knife from my boot and sliced it off. What else was I to do? All in the name of love.

(Pause)

Is that what you mean, honey?

SERGEI

Something along those lines, but - I think with some omissions and changes, probably more omissions.

ALLIE

Seriously?!

(Comes over to SERGEI and lovingly places her hand on his face.)

Bed?

SERGEI

Sleep?

ALLIE

(Coquettishly)

Not necessarily.

(Kisses him and takes his hand and leads him  
back to the bedroom.)

SERGEI

So glad my manhood is intact.

ALLIE

Me too.

(She leads him and both exit to bedroom into  
bed as lights out.)

Blackout

**ACT I**  
**Scene 3**

At Rise: Next Morning SERGEI in kitchen and ALLIE still in bedroom.

Setting: SERGEI is singing in the kitchen and making coffee, and ALLIE is seen still in bed. SERGEI eyes the pouch that is still on the breakfast bar. He is tempted but resists looking at the contents. ALLIE gets up, smiles listening to him sing, goes to the closet, picks out a black outfit and tosses it on the bed and goes into the bathroom. We hear water running for a few minutes.

SERGEI

How do you want your eggs?

(ALLIE comes out of bathroom brushing her teeth.)

ALLIE

Surprise me.

(Goes back in.)

(SERGEI continues to cook and sing. ALLIE comes out of bathroom changed and gets a small bag from the closet. She puts a change of clothes, also black, into the bag with a few personal items. SERGEI comes to the doorway and watches her.)

SERGEI

How long did you say you'd be gone?

ALLIE

I didn't.

(Silence with SERGEI looking at his shoes.)

When do you have your next review?

SERGEI

About a week.

ALLIE

Why don't you go to the range and practice?

(SERGEI silently mimics her and goes back to the kitchen. He doesn't know she sees this. ALLIE roles her eyes. SERGEI brings the food over. ALLIE gets juice and glasses and pours. As she gives SERGEI his glass she crosses behind him as he sits and kisses him on the top of his head and strokes his head with her hand. She reaches for pouch and opens it up to look at the papers inside.)

ALLIE

What do you do, while I'm away?

(Silence as he plays with his food.)

SERGEI

Well since I've become soooo domesticated, I thought I would take a French cooking class.

ALLIE

You're kidding - right?

SERGEI

I always wanted to have my own restaurant, at some point.

ALLIE

You never -

(Quickly interrupted by SERGEI)

SERGEI

Didn't I?

(ALLIE no longer thinks he might be kidding.)

ALLIE

Yes you did.

(She continues to eat.)

(Both feel the silence and are uncomfortable. ALLIE clears her plate while SERGEI continues to eat, smiling at her awkwardly and she at him.)

(ALLIE goes to the bedroom and closes the door gently. SERGEI is at the sink washing the dishes.)

(ALLIE gets her cell phone and dials. Talking more in a whisper and constantly looking in the direction of the other room. She goes to the bed and sits as far away from the door as possible.)

ALLIE

Henri, yes it's me. (Pause) No, nothing wrong, I just don't want Sergei to hear me. (Pause) No he's fine. Well no he isn't fine, I'm not fine either. (Pause) Look, I have to go on a short trip and I'm concerned about him. I suggested he go to the range to practice, but... (Pause) I'm not pushing him - okay, hell I am. (Pause) I need you to do something for me while I'm away. (Pause) He's making plans and I need to know what they are. (Pause) I'm afraid he wants to leave his agency and you know how that will play out. (Pause) I just don't want him doing anything while I'm gone. (Pause) Yes, I'm afraid for him. I don't think he's thinking clearly. (Pause) Thanks Henri. I'll only be gone for a couple of days but you know how to reach me in an emergency.

(ALLIE hangs up the phone by the bed, picks up the outfit she put there before and goes to the bathroom.)

(SERGEI hears that she is in the shower, gets his cell phone and calls HENRI.)

SERGEI

Henri, hi. No she's in the shower and I don't want her to hear. (Pause) What, you're getting a hearing aid. Don't be absurd. Did you get that information I asked for? (Pause) No, I haven't said a word to her, why? Did she say something? (Pause) Good, I'll tell her when I have everything in place. (Pause) I know she doesn't like surprises but I don't know what else to do. (Pause) No, I can't tell her - not yet. (Pause) Our roles have always been switched. (Pause) Yeah, she'll be the bouncer. (Pause) Yeah, and you're so damn funny you can be the entertainment. (Pause) No, she won't shoot you for not telling her. (Pause) I'll be the one sleeping in my Kevlar, hell I might need a Kevlar body suit. (Pause) Let me think about it. Come to dinner tonight and we'll talk.

(Hangs up cell phone. Looks at the pouch that ALLIE put back together while she sat at the table eating. He does miss the action. Starts thumping the pouch like Morse code. ALLIE back in the room changed with her small bag. Sees him thumping the pouch in deep thought. Goes over and gently places her hand on his.)

ALLIE

Honey, I don't think Morse code will crack it.

SERGEI

So it's a code you need read?

ALLIE

Yes and I'm heading to the scientist who can do just that.

(Putting the pouch in the bag.)

SERGEI

And where might this scientist be?

ALLIE

You know I can't say!

SERGEI

I just wanted to know where you'll be.

ALLIE

Disney Land.

(Sensing he's hurt, goes over and puts her arms around him.)

I enjoyed last night.

(Silence from him.)

So glad...

(picking up his bad hand)

that this is on board.

(She kisses his bad hand then lips. Embrace.)

ALLIE

Yes, my love - I think there is time.

(He takes the lead and leads her to the bedroom, stands at foot of bed and pushes her down. He is the dominant and she loves it.)

Blackout

**ACT I**  
**Scene 3a**

Setting: Manhattan Apartment - next day afternoon.

At Rise: A few days later. Allie is alone in the apartment. She has a cardboard box and is looking for a suitable towel, an old one, to put in it. She then goes to the refrigerator and pulls out a small carton of milk, then the freezer, finds salmon and smiles.

ALLIE

This is perfect.

(ALLIE goes into the bathroom and comes out with a towel. We hear the key in the door and SERGEI comes in. He sees a small empty box on the table, wonders about it and goes to the kitchen and sees tonight's dinner on the counter, the salmon. ALLIE comes out. She doesn't see him in the kitchen and she places the towel inside the box. She goes for the salmon and sees him. He knows what she is doing and who this is for.)

SERGEI

You know, that was our dinner tonight.

ALLIE

(Feeling only slightly guilty.)

I suddenly have a craving for Chinese. I'll pick some up on my way back.

(She is preparing to leave.)

SERGEI

She'll move them. She may eat the food but you will not get near her kittens.

(Silence from Allie)

Allie, you can't save them.

ALLIE

She had a litter. Scavenging for food the way she use to is not an option for her these days.

(Waiting for a response from Sergei but getting nothing.)

She has a family to feed now, what the bloody hell do you want me to.

SERGEI

(Smiling at Allie)

She's feral. Her instincts are to run from humans.

ALLIE

I know but I thought at least she would let them sleep on a soft dry surface.

SERGEI

I was raised with pets...

ALLIE

And I was never allowed to have one at the orphanage.

SERGEI

I know you want to save them, like the children at the orphanage, but you can't baby. It's not in their nature.

ALLIE

I did help some of them.

SERGEI

(Laughing)

I know you did.

ALLIE

They were so defenseless.

(ALLIE is collecting the towel, box and salmon. She stop.)

SERGEI

You helped allot of them while you were there.

(Goes to her and holds her.)

It's time that you stopped blaming yourself for not being able to do more for them. It was time for you to leave that place. You had to start living your own life or else we would have never met.

(Smiles and kisses her.)

Right? Right?

ALLIE

Really?

(She take a pillow off the sofa and throws it at him, hitting him dead center in the head.)

How's the wine situation?



(He goes and checks the cabinet.)

SERGEI

Only three bottle. Better get more.

ALLIE

Fuck you...

SERGEI

Don't bother picking up Chinese. Henri is coming over, remember? I've a new dish I've been wanting to try out, pot au feu.

(ALLIE grabs the salmon, leaving the box with the towel and leaves. SERGEI removes the towel, breaks down the box for the garbage and takes the towel back to the bathroom)

Blackout

**ACT I**  
**Scene 4**

At Rise: Later that evening.

Setting: SERGEI is setting the table and hears the door buzzer. Goes over, rings HENRI up and opens the door. We hear a drunken neighbor talking with HENRI.

NEIGHBOR  
(O.S.)

Hey, I just got a bottle of bourbon; ya wanna come over for a drink?

(SERGEI hears this exchange but decides HENRI can handle this guy.)

(HENRI has come to the door and calls out to the Neighbor.)

HENRI

You're too kind but I have plans.

Neighbor  
(O.S.)

You're loss buddy, it ain't the cheap stuff.

HENRI

I'm sure.

(HENRI comes in, closes the door and puts coat/hat on the hall tree.)

SERGEI

Sorry about that.

HENRI

I don't think he's just a drunken neighbor.

SERGEI

No, neither does ALLIE. I thought she would have shot him by now and removed him to some other permanent address.

HENRI

Like the city morgue?

SERGEI

No, to places unknown so he wouldn't be found for a long, long time, if ever. She's good at that.

HENRI

Oh, that does seem to be her preferential treatment for...?

SERGEI

Paid mercenaries.

(SERGEI hands him a bottle of wine to open with two glasses. Goes back to the kitchen and brings their dinner to the table.)

HENRI

Pot au feu?

(Leans over to smell the aroma.)

SERGEI

Practice makes perfect.

(They both take a bite and seem to enjoy it. SERGEI adds both salt and pepper, as does HENRI. They continue to eat and drink wine.)

HENRI

Why is French food so bland?

SERGEI

Why is Russian food so heavy?

HENRI

You're the Russian....

SERGEI

And you're the French...

(Both look at the food.)

Is good, yes?

HENRI

Yes, but you added more spices and that's why.

SERGEI

I'm remaking the French food to liken my pallet more.

(Said as if his English were not good)

HENRI

Then you must call it something else...the restaurant.

SERGEI

Yes...(Pause) about that.

(Silence - they look at each other. HENRI puts down the fork and sips his wine.)

HENRI

Wait...

(He finishes his glass of wine.)

Okay...now....

SERGEI

I've been looking for places that would suit us both.

HENRI

As long as there's a seamstress nearby that doesn't mind only sewing with black cloth, she'll be fine.

(SERGEI gives him a stern look, thinks better about it and pours himself a full glass of wine and offers HENRI more and is waved off.)

HENRI

Yeah, you're right on that score. What is her obsession with black?! (Pause) Anyway, like I was saying...what was I saying?

(Takes another drink of wine.)

A place to call home? (Sarcastically)

SERGEI

Yes... Okay.... I thought of an island. We have to be able to control egress and ingress and an island is the best for that. What do you think?

HENRI

Oh, no you don't. When Allie asked me if I helped you, well... There are too many wines I haven't tasted and ladies I haven't...you get my point.

SERGEI

Yeah, you're scared of her.

HENRI

You forgot something.

SERGEI

Too - you're scared of her too.  
(Drinks his wine)

HENRI

I'm not stupid. I love her, but she wouldn't hesitate in putting a bullet in my handsome head if it were between she and I or you and I. No, you're on your own with this one.

SERGEI

A true friend...

HENRI

I love you both dear boy, but not as much as I love myself. I am French you know.

SERGEI

How could I possibly forget.

HENRI

I'll steer you in some directions - but I don't want to know the choices you make. That way - I can tell her and not be lying, specially since she always know when I am.

SERGEI

Not to worry, I know the place. I want to use your contact for the new passports and papers.

HENRI

Can't trust yours?

SERGEI

I don't want any lines back to either one of us, so best not to use mine or hers.

HENRI

Makes sense. (Pause) What are the names?

(Takes a piece of paper from his pant's pocket and hands to HENRI.)

SERGEI

What do you think?

HENRI (Laughs)

Really? I think you have a death wish.

SERGEI

What?

(HENRI looks again at the piece of paper and shakes his head.)

HENRI

You think she is going to go for this?

(Holds up paper)

SERGEI

She can pick a nickname later. I don't have to call her that.

(HENRI continues to smile and shake his head, he knows ALLIE will not go for this name.)

SERGEI

Look, it's one of the least used and common names.

HENRI

Wikipedia?

(SERGEI shakes his head yes.)

No kidding? Wish I could be a fly on the wall when you tell her.

(SERGEI gets up and clears the table.)

SERGEI

What's it going to cost?

HENRI

I'll let you know.

(Sees doubt in SERGEI)

He's good. There'll be no trace - he's the best.

(Still see doubt.)

Far better than your guy.

SERGEI

Wait, I'll get you a photos of us.

(SERGEI goes to bedroom and goes to closet.)

HENRI

If you Russians weren't so possessive with your intel, you could have used my guy on that Dubai job and you wouldn't have gotten caught.

SERGEI

(Calling from bedroom)

So you're saying only the French have the best forgers?

HENRI

But of course. Ah the French have the best in all things, wines, best looking spies...

(Takes down a small box with several passports and removes a picture from two of them. Closes the box and puts it back in the closet. He comes back to the living area.)

SERGEI

Here.

(Hands to HENRI.)

I'll need all of the usual, passports, birth certificates, driver's licenses, you know the usual.

HENRI

From here? (Holding out the piece of paper.)  
Why here, of all places?

SERGEI

No extradition, among other things.

HENRI

Helps being on an island.

SERGEI

We have to control ingress and egress, remember?

HENRI

Helps that you two are multi-lingual.

SERGEI

We're both going to miss you like hell.

HENRI

Maybe you could adopt me? I'm house broken.

Blackout

**ACT I**  
**Scene 5**

At Rise: A couple of weeks later.

Setting: ALLIE comes running into the apartment, and she is out of breath. She keeps looking around, not seeing SERGEI, she removes a small pouch from under her blouse. Phones rings and she jumps. Goes to answer.

ALLIE

Dammit!

(Angry at herself. This is not a woman who jumps.)

Yes. (Pause) If you knew it was the wrong number, then why didn't you hang up, fool!

(Slams down the phone.)

(We hear talking at the door. O.S. neighbor.)

Neighbor

(O.S.)

We should get together for dinner sometime.

SERGEI

Sure (not really) Night.

(SERGEI comes into apartment and closes door. He sees an uneasy ALLIE at the kitchen table going over the pouch contents.)

SERGEI

You're back earlier than you said.

(Silence. SERGEI comes to ALLIE and kisses the top of her head, takes coat off, hangs it up and goes to the kitchen to see about dinner.)

SERGEI

Seems that this new neighbor is too friendly, guess we'll have to move.

ALLIE

(Deadpan voice)

I'm not moving. I'll just shoot him, like I did the last one. I would have by now, but this trip came up.



SERGEI

You just can't shoot another one so soon!

ALLIE

You know how hard it would be to find an apartment close to our other two? I'll shoot him. I don't think he's who he claims to be, like the last one, remember?

SERGEI

Allie!

ALLIE

He's a mercenary for hire. I'm going to shoot him. (Pause) He really is. It's him or us and I'm not going to leave this apartment and I also - am not going out every day and worrying about him and you meeting up in a not so nice way.

SERGEI

So now - you're my mother?

ALLIE

Do I need to be?

SERGEI

I wish the world were different.

ALLIE

I'll be here waiting for that.

(Silence from SERGEI)

If it were different - what the bloody hell would I do for a living?

SERGEI

Good point.

ALLIE

Thank you.

(Her attention back to the pouch.)

SERGEI

Odd that another mercenary so soon?

ALLIE

I had that thought too. (Pause) This came in today. New orders.

(Reading the pages quickly.)

ALLIE (Cont.)

I have to go to Hong Kong tomorrow.

(ALLIE pours out the rest of the contents,  
foreign currency and passport.)

SERGEI

You just got back.

(Silence)

For how long?

ALLIE

Doesn't say - maybe a couple of days. I have to steal back a packet that was stolen from Ives. God, what a fool.

SERGEI

Who?

ALLIE

Ives.

(Before he can ask)

He let himself be drawn into an argument in a restaurant and it was stolen from him.

SERGEI

I guess you would have just shot up the place.

ALLIE

No, smartass, I wouldn't have gone to a restaurant but to the food market and not allowed myself to be drawn into a place where doors could be blocked. The market is wide open and I would've been out of there before anything happened.

(SERGEI stops trying to distract himself with dinner preparations.)

SERGEI

Allie, is this all you want?

ALLIE

What?

(Realizing what he means)

I don't know what else to do. This is what I'm good at - and so are you.

SERGEI

Yes, too good.

ALLIE

Would you prefer if I were more like Ives? He was gutted with a blade by the way.

SERGEI

No, of course not! But I still worry about you - all the time...now.

ALLIE

You have way too much free time on your hands. You never used to worry.

(Pause. Watching SERGEI play with his hand.)

What do you want?

(Comes over and caresses his face)

SERGEI

You, just you.

(He kisses her and she briefly lets her face fall to his chest.)

ALLIE

You have me.

SERGEI

Allie... You know what I mean.

ALLIE

Would your government let you go? Would they let one of their top agents - knowing all kinds of government secrets - just become an ordinary citizen? I don't think so.

SERGEI

The cold war *is* over.

ALLIE

I don't think Putin got that memo. (Pause) We may be allies, but...

(Her attention back to the papers. SERGEI goes over to look at the papers and ALLIE shields them from him. He smiles and goes to the kitchen, looks in the refrigerator and closes it. Not seeing anything he wants, he goes to the phone.)

Chinese or pizza? SERGEI

Surprise me. ALLIE

SERGEI speed dials and says.

Hi, I want an order to go. SERGEI

Blackout

**ACT I**  
**Scene 6**

At Rise: A few days later.

Setting: ALLIE is back from Hong Kong. SERGEI is cleaning his guns at the table. He has the target practice sheet and is displaying it proudly. Not all bulls eyes, but better than it has been. We hear ALLIE at the door, out-of-breath, she comes in hurriedly and locks the door. SERGEI is surprised by this and grabs his gun, not all put back together. She sees this and laughs.

ALLIE

You might want to put the clip in - unless you're going to throw it at someone.

(ALLIE secures the door. Before she hangs her coat up she starts taking out several weapons from the pockets, these are not hers. SERGEI just looks on, surprised.)

SERGEI

Welcome home, love. I see you brought me some gifts, not really my style.

(Picks up one of the guns. Puts it down on table and picks up a large knife, also puts it down.)

ALLIE

(Playful)

Shut up.

SERGEI

Pas pour moi

ALLIE

No? Really not your style?

(Notices the target sheet and is pleased.)

ALLIE

Although this deserves something special.

(She puts the paper down and comes over, puts her arms around his neck and kisses him, her arm inside his shirt. Starts to unbutton his shirt and he stops her, knowing what she wants at that moment and wanting to change the subject. He takes her hands from his shirt and cups them in his and kisses them. He glances at the extra guns on the table, wanting some answers.)

ALLIE

Oh, these?

(SERGEI nods.)

I had a run-in with a few young men who thought your gal was hot.

SERGEI

Are they alive?

ALLIE

You know I only kill *really* bad people - not misguided ones. I called 911 and suggested they get a couple of ambulances.

(SERGEI shaking his head and looking at the arsenal on the table.)

What? I couldn't very well leave them armed, now could I? Besides, I kind of like this little fella,

(Picking up a small gun.)

SERGEI

Where are you going to put another gun?

ALLIE

I don't know - under my pillow?

(Silence)

You can't have enough of these little guys.

(Kisses small gun)

Besides, it's cute, don't ya think?

(Silence, getting that look from him.)

Okay, okay - I'll put them away.

(ALLIE collects all of the weapons and takes them to the bedroom. Once she gets in there, she looks around and dumps them on the bed. She goes to her dresser and opens the drawers and all are full. She finally decides to remove some articles of clothing, throws them

in the closet and places all of the guns, etc in this drawer. While she is doing this, SERGEI is trying to get up the courage to have a real talk with her about their future. ALLIE comes back in. She sees him and knows he is in one of his talking moods. ALLIE is better with actions or showing her feelings than with talking. She comes up behind him on the sofa and puts her hands around his neck and attempts to unbutton his shirt.)

ALLIE

You deserve something special for the improvement in your aim.

(He pulls her onto the sofa. SERGEI sits up and motions for her to do the same. She does not want to talk and keeps trying to draw him into making love. He finally puts his bionic hand up to her face. She looks and is startled into realizing he is serious.)

ALLIE

Really?

SERGEI

We have to talk.

ALLIE

You mean to the hand.

(SERGEI has left his hand in her face. She gently lower his hand, but stops part way and kisses it. He smiles.)

SERGEI

What is your worst nightmare?

ALLIE

Okay, this is serious.

SERGEI

Allie, have you noticed we feel everything and say nothing?

ALLIE

Conversation is way...overrated.

(Sees SERGEI is not happy and still very serious.)

Okay, okay, okay. What's on your beautiful mind?

(She still tries to distract him by reaching for a button. He gently removes her hand.)

SERGEI

Allie...

ALLIE

Dying without you.

(Seeing a surprised look on his face.)

There - I've said it - that's my worst nightmare.

SERGEI

So you want me to die with you?

(Not believing what he is hearing.)

ALLIE

No, no - yes - yes.

(Silence. She takes his face in her hands and looks into his eyes.)

ALLIE

Because - I can't imagine living without you.

SERGEI

I know you don't mean for that to sound selfish - but it kind-of does. (Pause) No, it does - sound selfish.

(Pause. ALLIE has her head down.)

Look, we *really do* have to start talking more. (Silence) I mean it, Allie.

ALLIE

Talk has gotten me into trouble...

SERGEI

Yeah, it's not one of your strong suits.

ALLIE

I'm more the figure it out kind of gal and point and shoot.

SERGEI

Don't remind me.



(Remembers something.)

ALLIE

That wasn't all my fault....you have to take some of the blame for that incident. (Silence) Really...you're really going to go there. If you hadn't made that stupid mistake - I wouldn't have shot you. That's a rookie blunder.

SERGEI

Oh, because I wanted to give him the benefit of the doubt.

(ALLIE gives him the look of, 'I was right')

Okay - so you made a better call - you taught me the error of my ways - by putting a bullet in my leg.

ALLIE

I needed you to drop - so I could take him out. It was the fastest way I could think of - at the time.

SERGEI

You shot me!

ALLIE

To save both of our lives - yes, I bloody well did!  
(Silence.) And that was before we slept together. (Silence)  
Oh, no you don't. You can't sit there and tell me that my shooting you didn't turn you on.

SERGEI

Allie, you have a strange idea about foreplay.

ALLIE

Yeah....so

(She tries again for the button on his shirt. He gently removes her hands, gets up, realizing he has to put some distance between them if he is to continue this conversation. She makes a move to stand.)

SERGEI

(Said as a parent.)

Stay there!

ALLIE

I'm in - 'time-out' now?

SERGEI

Allie, I swear if you get up, I'm going to put you over my knee.

ALLIE

I love when you talk dirty to me....

(Making move to rise and he puts his bionic hand on her and pushes her down.)

ALLIE

No fair - that's bionic.

(Silence from both of them. She can tell he is more upset, as he walks around. Knowing that her playful antics will not get her out of this conversation - and seeing that he is hurt, she is resolved to sit and listen.)

ALLIE

What's your worst nightmare? (Silence) I want to know. (Said with sincerity)

SERGEI

I don't think you can take it.

ALLIE

My God - what is it?

SERGEI

That you will never be able to forgive yourself for this.  
(Holds up his bionic hand.)  
That it will always hang there between us, like a corpse.

(He dangles his lower arm to show this. Silence - both feel this truth. After a few awkward moments, the phone rings. Both want something to do and go for it at the same time. SERGEI gets it.)

SERGEI

Hello. (Pause) Yes, we'll be here. (Pause) No, I haven't. Not a good time. (Pause) That will be great. See you soon.  
(Hangs phone up. ALLIE gives a 'who was it look?')

HENRI wants to come over. He's bringing dessert.

ALLIE  
(Pause)

Is that all?

SERGEI  
(Sarcasm)

He says it's been ages since he's seen you, with your constant missions here and there.

ALLIE  
(Playful)

Shut-up.

(Smiles as saying.)

When's he coming?

SERGEI

Now. He's a block away.

(Pause)

Allie, we still need to talk.

ALLIE

I know, but not in front of Henri, okay?(Pause) I'm going to take a quick shower.

(Comes over and kisses him on the cheek and goes to the bedroom. SERGEI looks around and starts to pick up and straighten up some. ALLIE has closed the door, sits on the bed with her face in her hands. She is distraught and this does not come easily to her. She goes to the closet and looks for something to change into, finds something and goes to the bathroom. We hear running water from shower. SERGEI puts on some light music, finishes straightening up and sits on sofa getting ready to read when the buzzer goes off. He gets up to let HENRI in and leaves the door open as usual. He goes to the bar and pours a glass of wine for the two of them and keeps one in his hand as HENRI comes with a pastry box and exchanges this for the wine.)

HENRI

You always know how to greet a guest.

SERGEI

At least this guest.

HENRI

(Looks for ALLIE)

Where...?

SERGEI

Shower.

HENRI

So, you've said nothing (Pause) just so I'm clear on where the conversation should or should not go?

SERGEI

I haven't had the chance since she just got back - and then there was something else I needed to talk with her about.

HENRI

Something I need to know?

(SERGEI shakes his head no. ALLIE can be heard in the bedroom.)

SERGEI

Come out decent, Henri is here.

HENRI

Or not...

(Calling out, and smiling to SERGEI and he takes a sip of wine. ALLIE comes out changed but in black. SERGEI has poured her a glass and brings it to her as she greets HENRI.)

HENRI

A toast.

(All raise their glasses waiting for HENRI to speak.)

To old and dear friends in all their incarnations.

(ALLIE gives HENRI a 'look' and then gives the same look to SERGEI.)

ALLIE

Okay, Henri, that was dubious. Care to explain?

HENRI

Well...in our chosen profession...we, we do sometimes wear different ceremonial attire.

HENRI (Cont.)

Yours just happens to be all black.

ALLIE

Shut - up!

HENRI

I wonder what you would look like in a floral print?

ALLIE

In my next life - maybe.

(Pause)

And you, without your turtlenecks?

(Comes over and pulls at the his neck of his turtleneck. He pulls out her fingers and kisses them. She pulls away.)

SERGEI

Now, now children. Can I leave you two alone while I attend to dinner?

(Both shake their heads no.)

What if I refill both your glasses?

(Both look at each other, smile and shake their heads yes. SERGEI fills up her glass but HENRI still has a half full glass and leaves the bottle on the coffee table.)

ALLIE

Wise idea.

(She kisses SERGEI's hand as he leaves the wine. He bends down and kisses the top of her head and goes to the kitchen.)

HENRI

So...everything worked out on your trip?

ALLIE

You know better than to talk shop. (Pause) What were you two boys up to while I was gone?

(HENRI gives SERGEI a look.)

Okay, that look tells me I'm onto something.

HENRI

You really have to give the whole *spy* thing a rest, my dear.

Oh, *really*?  
ALLIE

Oui.  
HENRI

We caught a new show at MOMA on Friday. If you want to go, I'd enjoy going again.  
SERGEI

Who's the artist?  
ALLIE

Hopper/O'Keefe  
HENRI/SERGEI  
(Said together)

That was planned out well.  
ALLIE

It was a retrospective of American Modern artists...so both.  
SERGEI

Good save - but not so *spy like*.  
ALLIE

Do you think we're lying? (Pause) Don't answer that. (Pause) Dinner smells divine, when are we eating?  
HENRI  
(Gets look from ALLIE)  
Not that I want to change the subject...

Soon, and yes you are. Allie, why don't you show Henri your new toys that you collected off of some willing thugs?  
SERGEI

(ALLIE to kitchen, stands behind SERGEI and puts her finger in pot and tastes the food.)

I'm sure Henri has his own collection of toys.  
ALLIE

Yes, but I don't make a point of collecting them from street gangs. My agency provides me with mine.  
HENRI

ALLIE

What can I say...funding being what it is...just trying to do my part in balancing the budget.

(ALLIE comes over and gestures to fill her glass again. HENRI does.)

HENRI

You more then make up the budget in wine cost.

ALLIE

It's a food group for me.

SERGEI

I keep telling her that if we lived on an island somewhere, like off of the south of France, it would be cheaper than water.

HENRI

Ah, now you're talking about my country. We are so much more civilized then either Russia or the U.S.

ALLIE

Just where the hell is this conversation going?

(Silence from both of them. They realize that neither one of them meant to say as much as they did. They both scramble to change the subject and to be busy. SERGEI returns to dinner preparation and HENRI goes into the kitchen to get away from ALLIE.)

ALLIE

Boys?...

HENRI

I think this needs more salt SERGEI.

SERGEI

Keep your damn fingers out of my food.

HENRI

God, don't be such a prick about it.

SERGEI

Go take cover somewhere else. This is my hiding place.

HENRI

I thought we were comrades?

SERGEI

Not here - not against her.

ALLIE

What the fuck is going on?

SERGEI/HENRI

Ask him!

(Both try to busy themselves. SERGEI has scooted HENRI out of the kitchen. He is aimlessly walking round, straightening up their apartment. ALLIE is very amused. She finally goes to the bedroom, room not lit, and comes back in with two guns and points them at each of them. They are not aware at first.)

ALLIE

Oh, boys.

(Taking aim, they stop in their tracks)

One of you want to tell me what the fuck is going on? Now!

HENRI

You shouldn't play with guns, ALLIE dear.

SERGEI

She isn't playing.

(SERGEI returns to dinner making. He has seen this before.)

HENRI

Sergei, don't you think dinner can wait?

SERGEI

Critical time for the sauce.

HENRI

But...now Allie could you possibly remove you finger from the trigger, my dear.

(No response)

Now you know you aren't going to shoot us?



ALLIE

Oh, really? I've shot Sergei before.

SERGEI

She actually has....

HENRI

I'm not finding this amusing. I've suddenly lost my appetite...I feel an evening at home would do me good.

ALLIE

You hate being alone.

SERGEI

She has you there. Allie did you pick up some garlic like I asked?

ALLIE

(Not missing a beat.)

Behind the sea salt.

SERGEI

(Getting garlic)

I asked for powder, not granules.

(ALLIE moves within his eyesight with gun pointed at him.)

SERGEI

Granules will do.

(Begins to pour in garlic and stirs.)

HENRI

Well I'll just be on my way...

(Taking coat from coat rack)

ALLIE

Merry way?...

HENRI

Pardon?...

ALLIE

Sit.

(HENRI puts his coat back on rack and sits on sofa and pours himself more wine. ALLIE is

pacing with both guns, arms folded. When HENRI appears to be getting up again, she points at him and he sits back down.)

HENRI

I don't remember this side of you, dear.

SERGEI

(Laughing)

Like hell, you don't.

HENRI

You're not helping....

SERGEI

I'm enjoying seeing my love focus on someone else for a change.

ALLIE

(To SERGEI)

I *will* get to you later.

SERGEI

(Tasting the sauce.)

There's not a doubt in my mind... Let me know if this needs more salt.

(Comes over at arm's length and gives taste to ALLIE.)

ALLIE

Perfect....new recipe?

(SERGEI shakes his head yes and goes to let HENRI taste, who shakes his head no not taking his eyes off of the gun ALLIE is holding at him.)

ALLIE

He cooks better than most chefs - taste it.

(HENRI shakes his head no. ALLIE raises the gun to his head level.)

HENRI

Sure - why the hell not.

(SERGEI brings a spoon over and lets HENRI taste it. HENRI smiles and so does SERGEI, pleased with himself.)

ALLIE

See, HENRI, you made my *love* happy.

(SERGEI goes back to the kitchen. HENRI starts to relax more.)

ALLIE

Don't get too comfortable.

(HENRI straightens up.)

Now who is going to start this conversation?

(Looks at both SERGEI and HENRI.)

HENRI

As just the *friend* and not the *lover*...I think SERGEI should be the one to begin the discussion.

(SERGEI has started setting the table and brings over dinner in a large pot for the table. He stands and begins to distribute the food. He gestures to HENRI to sit and goes over to ALLIE, kissing her on the back of her neck, lifting her hair up and wrapping his arms around her waist and gently takes the guns from her. That she allows the guns to be taken is obvious. SERGEI removes the clip from both guns, smiling at HENRI who is in disbelief that they were loaded, knowing of course that they were, but still...)

ALLIE

I'm famished. More wine anyone?

SERGEI

Thanks darling.

HENRI

What just happened?

SERGEI

Henri hasn't figured out how we resolve our differences, dear...

ALLIE

Oh? How we resolve the ones that don't require the bedroom....

SERGEI

Henri, how long have you known us, what - seven years? In all that time - have you ever known us to actually shoot a guest at dinner...

(He catches himself before ALLIE can interrupt)

in our own home?

ALLIE

There was that time...

SERGEI

Doesn't count - he was a spy.

ALLIE

Yes but it was here...in our home.

SERGEI

Doesn't count, ALLIE.

(Again that look)

Yes...

(Getting a little heated)

but he was not our friend.

ALLIE

You didn't imply that, you said -

SERGEI

I know bloody well what I said.

(ALLIE puts her fork down and looks over to where SERGEI has put her guns. SERGEI takes her hand and kisses it. She gives in and begins to eat again.)

HENRI

You two really need to work on your dinner etiquette.

(Smiling and giving a sigh of relief.)

Blackout

END OF ACT ONE

**ACT II**  
**Scene 1**

At Rise: Later that night.

Setting: Both are in bed. SERGEI is trying to sleep and ALLIE is awake looking at him. She thinks he is sleeping. ALLIE on the left side of the bed and SERGEI on the right side lies on his back. ALLIE leans on her right arm and looks at SERGEI. He can feel her. He has his bionic hand/arm across his forehead, black glove on. She carefully strokes his hair back from his eyes. He stirs and speaks.)

SERGEI

I'm awake.

ALLIE

I thought as much.

(She leans over and kisses him and falls back on her back. He sits up.)

SERGEI

What's on your mind?

ALLIE

I was about to ask you the same thing.

SERGEI

What do you mean?

(Gets that look from ALLIE)

Oh you mean with Henri?

(ALLIE shakes her head yes, adjusts herself and sits facing him. She is getting in 'attack' mode.)

ALLIE

The two of you are conspiring...about something. What?

SERGEI

Your radar is off. (Pause) No conspiring. Go to sleep. Don't you have to go in early and debrief? (No response) Lets get some sleep?

(SERGEI lies back down and adjusts the covers. ALLIE is sitting where his legs need to go, he gently kicks her, no response so he kicks her a little harder, no response so finally he decides to be playful and kicks her hard enough to move her but then he kisses her quickly. Realizing she is not going to move, he again sits up and faces her. He moves her hair from her eyes, takes her hands and kisses them. He is trying to come up with the right words. She is silent and remains so, waiting for him to give it up.)

SERGEI

There's no easy way to say this...I've fallen in love with someone else.

(ALLIE is taken back by what she has just heard. Not knowing whether to go get a gun and shoot him or just cry. She decides upon neither.)

ALLIE

Who's the scant?

SERGEI

Oh, so she must be a scant?

ALLIE

What's her name?

SERGEI

What? So you can go and shoot her.

ALLIE

She should be so lucky.

(ALLIE gets out of bed and goes for the closet to dress thinking she will find out who this person is. SERGEI watches her as she dresses pulling up her pants. He begins to laugh. ALLIE looks at him and realizes he has played her. She is furious with him but love wins out and she runs and jumps on him on the bed pinning him down. He does not try to get away.)

ALLIE

May you burn in hell for that.

(Holding his face and kissing him.)

SERGEI

As long as you're there with me...and you probably will be.

(Playful)

ALLIE

Time to answer my question.

SERGEI

What question?

(ALLIE immediately hits him in the ribs.)

Ouch!

(She takes aim again.)

Okay, okay... Let me up first. I want to be able to get a running start for the door or my guns, if I have to.

(ALLIE gets off of him and positions herself at the foot of the bed. SERGEI sits nervously and then stands. He decides to remove the guns from the equation and gets them from both his and hers bedside stands and puts them in the bathroom. Then he positions himself in front of the dresser where she keep her other weapons.)

ALLIE

Really?!

SERGEI

I don't want you acting on first impulse, or second.

ALLIE

Just bloody tell me. What's going on?

SERGEI

You know what my dream is?

(Pause, ALLIE looking confused.)

ALLIE

You talk about many... What?

(Not believing she does not know, he starts to pace, never leaving the dresser.)

ALLIE

(Impatiently)

Sergei stop pacing! Tell me. You already had me in a jealous rage, about to shoot some made up scant. You know my level of tolerance...so?

SERGEI

I want us to quit our agencies.

(ALLIE is stunned, at a loss for words and this is new to her.)

ALLIE

Say again? Just so I don't imagine I've heard you incorrectly.

SERGEI

I want us out - out of the cloak and dagger business.

ALLIE

And do what!?

(Silence from SERGEI. Thinking she knows.)

Oh, no. I told you when we first realized we were serious about this relationship that I was not mother/parenting material and you said...you said...

SERGEI

I said neither was I. But a person can change.

ALLIE

Damn you! You have no right to do that, no fucking right. Who said you could change? (Pause) Me a mother, God, how far off base can you get?

SERGEI

Well you said you wanted to get a dog.

ALLIE

Are you nuts!? Never mind, I already know the answer to that. I must have sliced off more than your hand.

SERGEI

You did say it - about the dog, I mean. You wanted a big guy to lay with you when I was out on assignments, remember, to keep the bed warm.



(ALLIE gets up and begins to pace. Goes for the gun, not there, looks over to his side, not there.)

SERGEI

Good thing I thought this through, hey?

ALLIE

Oh, if you had thought it *through* - then you would know we'd be - *through*.

SERGEI

Allie!

(ALLIE grabs a pillow and blanket and tosses them to SERGEI.)

ALLIE

You're on the sofa tonight and...

SERGEI

Don't say something you'll be regretting.

(Collects linen and goes to the sofa, leaving the door open. ALLIE looks at the open door, wipes a tear from her eye and goes to the bathroom and gets her gun, placing it on her bedside stand. She stops, looks at his gunless bed side stand and goes in to get his and put it on his side. She is visibly upset and she hears him making up the sofa. After a few moments, ALLIE sees the light going out in the living room. She continues to look at the open door. She tries to lie down, puffing up the pillow, but can't get comfortable. Exasperated, she sits up and calls out to him.)

ALLIE

I thought you were happy.

SERGEI

I am...but we're not going to be in our thirties forever, as much as you would like to think that.

ALLIE

Is it the hand? Or lack of?

SERGEI

I'll be honest ALLIE this (holding up hand) made me start thinking. What do old spies do? The French have a way of respecting their elders that the U.S. does not. Henri will last forever but us? And you don't even want to know what Russia does with them.

ALLIE

Do you want to punish me for your hand?

SERGEI

No just the opposite, I'm grateful in a way. This has made me take a long hard look at our lives and our future.(Pause)  
Allie, I'm tired, I want us out. I want us to be able to be a couple that we can be seen and not have to worry all of the time.

ALLIE

I think you're dreaming, we will always have to worry.

SERGEI

Maybe not.

(Pause)

Depends...

ALLIE

What would we do?

SERGEI

Now don't laugh, I thought about opening up a restaurant.

ALLIE

(Amused)

Not laughing. Where?

SERGEI

On an island where there's no extradition to the States or Russia.

ALLIE

That's adorable. And while you're playing at next top chef what the bloody hell am I'm suppose to do?

(SERGEI gets up and stands in the door way.  
He sees that she has retrieved her gun.  
Decides to wait there.)

SERGEI

Allie, isn't there something you always dreamed of doing?

ALLIE

(Picks up her gun.)

Yes...

(Holds out her gun, points at him then lowers

I've been doing it.

SERGEI

Killing people? That's been your dream from when you were an 'itty bitty'?

ALLIE

Well...yes. But always the bad guy. I love saving the day. I must have been a Robin Hood in a former life.

SERGEI

With all the carnage, more likely a gladiator.

(ALLIE puts her gun back on the bedside table. She starts pacing. SERGEI wants to come in and finally does. He puts his hands on her shoulders and stops her. She does not resist and she leans her head on his chest as he holds her tight.)

ALLIE

I would be bored to death - and you know it.

(ALLIE breaks away from him gently, kissing him as she pulls away.)

SERGEI

I was thinking of one of the islands off of Morocco, no extradition and egress and ingress being readily available. Of course we would have to have our own plane.

ALLIE

Good thing I renewed my pilot's license - oh wait - that's in my old life.

SERGEI

So? I'll just have a license made up in your new name...

(Pause with concern saying it)

(Decides to step back from her before saying it.)

Ernestine.

(As soon as he says this name, ALLIE gives him that look and he backs away from her, knowing what's coming.)

ALLIE

What the hell?!

SERGEI

I had to come up with something that would not draw attention a...nd it was either Edwina or Ernestina.

ALLIE

And where pray tell did those two names come from?

SERGEI

Wikipedia.

ALLIE

Honestly?!

SERGEI

It's one of the least used names.

ALLIE

Wikipedia?

SERGEI

Of course.

ALLIE

And you thought of me instantly - when you read them?

SERGEI

No, not really...

ALLIE

Then why?...

SERGEI

Because no one else will either, no one that knows you. It's a great cover name. Think about it - your agency will come looking for you and any aliases you've used in the past and think you would use if not one of them at least a similar one. They won't be looking for an Ernestina.

ALLIE

You're lucky that all of that makes sense. What's your new handle?

SERGEI

Now don't split a rib laughing - Artemus...

(ALLIE immediately starts laughing, big laughs.)

ALLIE

Well your only saving grace in all of this is that, yours is worse than mine.

SERGEI

I'd hoped you'd feel that way

ALLIE

I bet you did.

SERGEI

You'll never know how hard it was to find that. I knew I'd better have a handle that was dreadful.

(Still laughing, she comes over and puts her hands on his shoulders and leads him to the bed to sit. She kneels in front of him. She needs to say something but is having a hard time with it. Finally...)

ALLIE

(Amused)

Sergei, I mean Artemus, what are you expecting from me?

(Silence, he caresses her hair.)

What do you want from me? Because if it...if it's children, then no... You really don't know who I am.

(Silence from him. She gets up and stands leaning on the dresser.)

ALLIE

I'm not the mothering kind. Look at me. I mean it. I can't have you thinking that I will change - that you can change my mind on this. (Silence) I mean it....Artie. (Smiling)

SERGEI

Look, I know that your being an orphan gave you no idea of what a real family could mean to you and if you can never see beyond that...well I know your rules...but that doesn't mean we can't have a dog, does it?

(ALLIE smiles with head down.)

Besides, you have a family right here.

(Comes to her, holds her and kisses her.

Still holding her.)

You have to know that no one or thing or idea is as important to me as you. I don't know what I'd do if you weren't there with me, wherever we go. You're my family and I'm yours, period... Ernestina.

(She pinches him playfully)

(ALLIE walks around thinking. She sits on the bed and extends her hand out to him. He takes it and sits beside her.)

ALLIE

We have to do more than just get new identities, we have to bloody die and in such a way that our bodies could never be found and identified. It's the only way we will ever be free of our agencies.

SERGEI

(Calmly)

I thought as much.

ALLIE

You're too calm... Do you have a plan for this?

SERGEI

Well...for everything but our deaths. I thought I'd leave that up to you. (ALLIE gives him that look.) What?! You're better at these kinds of details.

ALLIE

I'm better at killing, period, right?

SERGEI

It's a skill that you have perfected. Now all you have to do is harness, reverse that...talent and fake our deaths. Oh, I get to name the dog.

Blackout

**ACT II**  
**SCENE 1a**

At Rise: Later that same night.

Setting: Bedroom. Both Allie and Sergei in bed. Allie is awake but not moving and Sergei is sleeping apparently. Allie kisses Sergei, strokes his hair and kisses him again. He does not stir. She gets up, goes to vanity dresser with mirror, sits and looks into the mirror. We hear her thinking.

ALLIE

What in hell is he thinking?! Look at me...How could he possibly think that *this* could ever be domesticated. He had no right to change, to want more - more... Ozzie and fucking Harriett! God! what are you thinking.

(He stirs, she goes over to his side of the bed, kneels down and touches his face.)

You've no right to change - you have no fucking right to want me to change. Fucking expect me to change.

(She sees his gun on his bedside table, looks at it, looks at him, picks up the gun and freezes.)

(Sergei wakes up and takes the gun from her and guides her back to bed.)

SERGEI

As pissed off as she is right now about the whole life style changes I want, she would never, could never kill me - unless I betrayed her, than maybe.

(He leans over and kisses her and strokes her hair.)

But I haven't betrayed her - maybe us, okay absolutely us, but she has to have known that I wanted more - wanted out. Hell, I dropped enough hints and well, she is a spy.

(He wraps his arms around her and she responds likewise.)

Lights Out

**ACT II**  
**SCENE 1b**

At Rise: Next morning.

Setting: Bedroom, next morning with both Sergei and Allie wrapped around each other.

SERGEI

How did you sleep?

ALLIE

You mean after your little bomb shell?

SERGEI

Well I was hoping that after....

ALLIE

Oh...it helped.

SERGEI

Me too.... (Silence from both) We have to talk about this.

ALLIE

Oh, no I don't.

SERGEI

Allie?

(She moves to get out of bed, he grabs her and she picks up her gun from her side of the bed.)

ALLIE

Clearly I don't.

(Sergei lets her go. She places the gun back on the table and moves sitting to the foot of the bed.)

Do you remember what we both agreed on when we decided to continue seeing each other? Our rules?

SERGEI

You mean your rules.

ALLIE

Whose ever the fuck they were, you agreed!



SERGEI

I was so hot for you Allie, I would have agreed to anything.

(He sits grinning at her. He knows that that line has won her over.)

ALLIE

You may get to name the dog, but I get to pick it out.

(They both come to the middle of the bed and fall into each others arms.)

LIGHTS OUT

**ACT II**  
**Scene 2**

At Rise: Two weeks later.

Setting: SERGEI is busying himself in the kitchen. He is trying different recipes and pots are everywhere in the kitchen. ALLIE has an assortment of wigs of various colors and styles out on the dining room table. They are both on edge. The buzzer rings and unlike both of them, they jump, look at each other as if to say 'WTF'. SERGEI holds up a spoon, grinning and ALLIE goes over to the intercom.

ALLIE

Yes?

HENRI  
(O.S.)

Henri...

(ALLIE buzzes him in but does not go to leave the door open as they usually do. She stands waiting for him. SERGEI looks on. After a minute we hear a knock. ALLIE looks through peephole and opens the door.)

HENRI

None too careful these days?

ALLIE

No. Hope you're hungry because Sergei is fixing every damn dish he can think of.

(HENRI looks at SERGEI who is standing in a kitchen piled with pots and pans smiling.)

SERGEI

Boy do I have a treat for you.

HENRI

And you Marta Hari, what are you attempting to do?  
(Pointing to the table.)

(ALLIE grabs several wigs and piles them on her head.)

HENRI

Not really you.

ALLIE

That's the point?

HENRI

Look you don't have to keep the color and style. Just use it to get the 'hell out of Dodge.'

SERGEI

He's right, you know.

ALLIE

Says the man who wants to pass as a chef by cooking up every concoction he knows.

SERGEI

I want to be ready for when we get there. Henri, you brokered the deal on the place, no glitches?

HENRI

None. Artemus and Ernestine Flatwell are the proud owners of a restaurant and adjoining house on an island off of Morocco as requested. I have secured the boat and plane. Shame you have to crash it.

(ALLIE gives him a look.)

Yes, I understand why. I had no idea what American spies make. Much more than the French and I dare say the Russians, hey Sergei...

ALLIE

Who said I earned it?

HENRI

Oh, a little payoff for your retirement. Very good of you to think ahead. I have to say it was nice not to be accosted by your overly friendly neighbor. Did he move or...?

SERGEI

Allie, not another one?

(Silence from ALLIE)

Allie...

HENRI  
Trouble in paradise already?

ALLIE  
I said no loose ends, didn't I?

SERGEI  
Was he a mercenary for sure?

ALLIE  
Not exactly.

HENRI  
Oh, this is getting good.

SERGEI  
We don't need the police coming here looking for him.

ALLIE  
That's not happening.

SERGEI  
Allie, what did you do?

ALLIE  
I had no choice. He was one of us or to be more clear, from my agency.

HENRI  
You sure?!

SERGEI  
She's sure. How long did you know?

ALLIE  
It doesn't matter now. We're clear to go.

SERGEI  
Allie, how long?

ALLIE  
Eight days.

SERGEI  
When will they find him, if ever?

ALLIE

In about a month. I shipped via cargo ship to Madrid with a note to my superior.

SERGEI

So they know about us? My agency too I suppose.

ALLIE

We have to presume so.

(ALLIE shakes her head, comes over to him and touches his face tenderly.)

SERGEI

Whatever it takes.

(She smiles)

HENRI

Do they know about our relationship?

ALLIE

No.

HENRI

Are you sure?

ALLIE

Trust me on this.

(Changing subject)

So now my darling can be the great chef of the island at his own restaurant.

SERGEI

I guess this was a good time to make our exits.

ALLIE

We have plenty of money to start our new life. I want that with you.

HENRI

Just how much money did you steal?

(SERGEI goes back to the kitchen and comes over with a spoon wanting them to taste something.)

ALLIE

A girl doesn't kiss and tell.

SERGEI

Now HENRI, she only stole from the evil ones, not her employer. Taste this babe. (ALLIE does) Need more...?

ALLIE

Nothing. Let Henri try it. Besides one of us had to and Sergei is too honest.

(HENRI comes over and does. He smiles approvingly.)

HENRI

But not you?

ALLIE

*Moi?* - no.

(ALLIE goes to the mini bar and opens a bottle of wine.)

ALLIE

Wine?

HENRI

I'm French.

(This says it all.)

(ALLIE pours three glasses and takes one to HENRI and then one to SERGEI who is still intensely involved with cooking.)

HENRI

Do you have a time line in mind for exits?

(Both ALLIE and SERGEI look at each other and HENRI notices this. HENRI gives them both a confused look and puts his hand/arms up in the air as if to say, WTF.)

HENRI

Unless you both have learned to fly, after crashing your plane...?

SERGEI

The thing is...

(ALLIE quickly interrupts.)

ALLIE

Henri we're rethinking the 'meet us' thing.

HENRI

Allie I've seen you do some remarkable things in the past, but flying without a plane isn't one of them.

ALLIE

This only works if our agencies think we went down in the plane.

HENRI

I am also a spy - I get that. Now I feel insulted.

(SERGEI brings over plates and flatware, etc. to set table for dinner and motions to ALLIE to set the table.)

SERGEI

No, not at all, but Allie brought up something, satellites?

(ALLIE talks while setting the table and retrieving the bottle of wine from the mini bar.)

ALLIE

We can't risk the satellite feed showing a boat near the crash site.

HENRI

So what are you going to do?

(ALLIE goes to the coffee table and sifts through some papers and comes back with a sheet and hands it to HENRI while talking.)

ALLIE

These are the coordinates we want you to meet us at.

HENRI

How far from the crash site is this?

(Both SERGEI and ALLIE give each other a look.)

SERGEI

Three hundred miles.

HENRI

What?!

ALLIE

The pick up point has to be far enough away that there will be no suspicion. At that distance your boat will blend in with others. No red flags should sound and that's the whole idea...or why bother?

HENRI

But darlings, dolphins you are not.

ALLIE

Well I am counting on his bionic hand to help with that.

(SERGEI holds up his bionic hand and kisses it.)

ALLIE

Don't get carried away.

SERGEI

This is going to allow us to reach freedom. Let me gloat a little.

(ALLIE smiles at him.)

HENRI

You're sure this will work?

SERGEI

It's our best shot.

ALLIE

Yes - it will work. Failure is not an option.

(SERGEI brings dinner over. He sits down and pours himself another glass of wine.)

HENRI

So when?



(Both SERGEI and ALLIE look at each other.  
SERGEI smiles and picks up her hand and kisses  
it. ALLIE tries to smile and kisses his hand  
back.)

SERGEI

In two days, Thursday. We each have assignments in  
Uzbekistan.

HENRI

You're back at work?

SERGEI

I have to be to make this work.

HENRI

Since when?

SERGEI

Nearly two weeks but I was waiting for an assignment that  
both our agencies wanted covered.

ALLIE

I've been dragging my feet on a couple of assignments saying  
I twisted my ankle until this one popped up on both our  
radars.

HENRI

So Uzbekistan?

ALLIE

You didn't get orders for it? Suppose to be big.

HENRI

No, I didn't.

SERGEI

Don't be the hurt spy now. I'm sure your agency had their  
reasons.

(The next piece of dialogue is rapid.)

SERGEI

Don't let this spoil your appetite.

HENRI

(Anxiously)

They want to retire me, I just know it.

ALLIE

Calm down. You don't know that.

SERGEI

There's not too much turmeric, is there?

HENRI

What will I do?

ALLIE

You're jumping to conclusions.

SERGEI

What about garlic, too much.

HENRI

What will I do?! And with you two gone, who will I drink with?

SERGEI

Well if no ones going to eat?

HENRI/ALLIE

(Both look to SERGEI)

What the fuck!?

ALLIE

Wait! Wait! Sergei, do you have something you want to tell us?

SERGEI

I'll just clear the dishes.

HENRI

Have you heard something?

(Silence from SERGEI. Both ALLIE and HENRI stare at him. ALLIE is about to lose her temper. HENRI is as nervous as a cat.)

ALLIE

What have you heard?

SERGEI

(Pats HENRI on the shoulder)  
I'm sorry old man, bad choice of words.

HENRI

Tell me what you heard. I can take it.

ALLIE

Are you sure?

HENRI

I'm a bloody spy, of course I can.

ALLIE

Well your behavior...?

HENRI

It's the not knowing that drives me mad.

(Both turn to SERGEI who only wants to clear the damn table. ALLIE comes over and gently take the plates from him and guides him to the chair.)

ALLIE

When did you hear and what did you hear?

SERGEI

My first day back.

ALLIE

You've known about this for two weeks?!

HENRI

The hell with telling you, what about me!

SERGEI

Guys, can we not play the hurt lover/friends? I just didn't know how to tell you, Henri and Allie...I know how this would hurt you and I didn't want anything to interfere with our plans.

HENRI

You selfish bastard.  
(Hurt)

HENRI (Cont.)

You were going to let me arrange everything and pick you two up and deposit you on some bloody island and leave me to rot.

ALLIE

Henri, Sergei wouldn't do that.

(SERGEI is trying to busy himself not wanting any part of this next part of the conversation.)

ALLIE

I'm sure he has a plan.

Both ALLIE and HENRI look to SERGEI but get nothing.

SERGEI

What!?

HENRI (Hurt)

I told you so.

ALLIE

Sergei! How could you?! Henri is like a, a...

HENRI

Don't you dare say father.

(Both ALLIE and SERGEI looking at each other.)

ALLIE

Like family.

SERGEI

Oh, I was thinking more like a brother.

ALLIE

Actually the way he's acting, I'd say more like a son.

(Both SERGEI and ALLIE laugh.)

HENRI

That's what I get, after all the arrangements I've made for your escape. All the hours I put into this, thinking of you two.

ALLIE

Actually, it was our plan. Sergei just wants to leave, I put it all together for you, remember?

SERGEI

(Hurt too and childlike)

Well, that's your thing, always has been.

HENRI

(Childlike)

Well who arranged all of the other stuff?

ALLIE

Are you both twelve? Stop it and let me think.

(SERGEI and HENRI look at each other and then to ALLIE, who is pacing around with her arms crossed, thinking. She goes to the bedroom and comes back with her Glock. She continues to walk around holding the gun thinking. Both HENRI and SERGEI look ominously at her.)

(ALLIE has gone to one side of the room and the boys the other. HENRI is worried, 'is she going to shoot him or me?')

(The boys are whispering to each other trying to figure out Allie's next move.)

HENRI

What is she doing?

SERGEI

(Worried)

Not sure. Thinking?

HENRI

With a gun?

SERGEI

Well, that *is* a little odd, but entirely.

HENRI

Is she going to shoot one of us because I don't think it's me, I'm supposed to pick you guys up after the crash.

SERGEI

Well, it's certainly not me! I'm the lover.

HENRI  
(Sarcasm)

And that never happens.

SERGEI

Shut up.

HENRI  
Do you know the statistics on the odds of that happening?

SERGEI  
She's not going to shoot either one of us.  
(ALLIE looks at them and smiles)  
Are you honey?

HENRI  
I don't like it when she smiles.

SERGEI  
That's because you're not used to seeing it.

HENRI  
You told me once she smiles when she kills.

(ALLIE gets up from the sofa and repeatedly  
slaps her hand with the barrel of the glock.)

SERGEI  
No I didn't.

(ALLIE stops and turns to them.)

ALLIE  
Perfect!

SERGEI  
She has a plan!

HENRI  
Yes, but do I survive in that plan?

ALLIE  
Yes, and we all survive beautifully - *if* everyone plays their  
part, well.

(Looking at HENRI, he doesn't see this but SERGEI does with great concern. The guys are anxious to hear. ALLIE motions them to the table and she joins them, placing the Glock in front of her.)

ALLIE

In order for this to work Henri, you have to die, that is leave everyone from your past and never contact them, ever again. Can you do that?

HENRI

I've given France most of my life and now they want to discard me like day old bread, and my family and I haven't been close for some time, not since...

ALLIE

They found out you are gay?

HENRI

(Totally surprised)

What?!

SERGEI

What? Did you think you could hide this from us? Especially Allie?

HENRI

Since when?

ALLIE

What did you think, because you're French you are supposed to be this great lover?

HENRI

No, not so much the French part, but the French and spy part, yes.

ALLIE

Well, there's that, I guess.

HENRI

Don't talk like the agencies are running amuck with gay spies.

(Both SERGEI and ALLIE look at each other and snicker.)

SERGEI

Oh, you'd be surprised.

ALLIE

You haven't heard of 'don't ask, don't tell', etc. We are spies, give us some credit.

HENRI

For how long?

SERGEI

A few years.

HENRI

How? Was I that obvious?

ALLIE

No. You're very good at concealing it.

HENRI

Then what gave me away?

(Both ALLIE and SERGEI look at each other and smile.)

SERGEI

Dude, you've never made a pass or a despairing remark to her, ever.

HENRI

I was being respectful.

ALLIE

You're a guy and I'm a girl who has been naked in front of you.

HENRI

I prefer women with their clothes on.

ALLIE

Exactly my point.



HENRI

I've made comments before, just a few weeks ago, when you were showering and Sergei told you to come out dressed and I said 'or not', or something to that effect.

ALLIE

Maybe I should remind you.

HENRI

Of what?

SERGEI

That time in Berlin.

HENRI

(Not wanting to remember)

What, I don't recall.

SERGEI

You don't recall sleeping next to my naked girlfriend?

HENRI

You told him!?

ALLIE

Yeah? Why not?

HENRI

I thought your code was not to share intel of your missions?

ALLIE

Us lying naked together was hardly intel.

SERGEI

If I was going to be upset, it would have been five years ago.

HENRI

And that stuff doesn't bother you?

ALLIE

We're spies, SERGEI knows that comes with the territory.

SERGEI

(Takes her hand and kisses it)

Not any more.

ALLIE

(Kisses his cheek)

No sweetie, not any more.

HENRI

And that never bothered you, either one of you because I suppose that Sergei also had those opportunities.

ALLIE

(Pulls her hand away)

Yes he did.

HENRI

And that was okay by you, ALLIE?

ALLIE

Why do you say it like that?

HENRI

Because you have shown a jealous streak at times.

SERGEI

Lets not go there HENRI.

HENRI

Why not?

(ALLIE picks up the Glock.)

HENRI

(Subject changing)

So on that night five years ago, when I behaved like a perfect gentlemen, you decided I was gay?

SERGEI

Dude!?

ALLIE

I was coming on to you. Please...

HENRI

So you've never been rejected by a guy before?

ALLIE

Not by a straight one.

(HENRI feels that this whole persona he has put out there was a complete waste of his time and energy.)

HENRI

Why didn't you tell me sooner?

SERGEI

We figured if you wanted to - you'd say something to us.

ALLIE

It wasn't our place to out you - even to us.

(ALLIE puts her gun down and goes to HENRI, standing behind his chair and puts her arms around his neck and kisses him on the cheek.)

ALLIE

But now, if you're going to join us, well...it's important that you know that we know, don't you think?

(HENRI is upset and starts pacing. Both ALLIE and SERGEI look at each other and at him. They are confused by his reaction.)

SERGEI

Henri, I'm confused by your behavior. I, we thought you'd be relieved that you didn't have to hide your preference from us any longer.

ALLIE

Henri, you're free - what is the problem?

HENRI

Do you know how many of those Goddamn macho movies I've had to watch? I'm sick of watching Bruce Willis in those damn Die Hard movies.

(Both ALLIE and SERGEI start laughing. HENRI's feminine side starts to show, first slowly and by the end of the scene he is so obviously gay.)

ALLIE

Never again, dear.

SERGEI

I think Cher's 'Moonstruck' is on the tellie tonight.

HENRI

Really?! She got the Oscar for that.

(Again ALLIE and SERGEI laugh and this time  
HENRI joins in.

Forever the good host, SERGEI goes for their  
glasses and the wine, pours and brings each a  
glass.)

SERGEI

I say we have a coming out party for HENRI.

(Both HENRI and ALLIE look at each other  
worried and SERGEI grins.)

SERGEI

A coming out party with just the three of us, here at home.  
Henri, I'll make your favorite dishes. It will be our  
farewell dinner.

(HENRI gets sad and stop drinking. They  
notice.)

ALLIE

None of that HENRI. You've always been able to out party  
both of us, even with only one glass of wine.

HENRI

You're going to take me with you, right?

ALLIE

Yes my dear. But first you die.

(Using her fingers, she shoots him and he  
fakes a death on the sofa and they all repeat  
the toast.)

SERGEI

To the death of three of the best spies ever.

Blackout

**ACT II**  
**SCENE 2a**

SETTING: A couple of days later, late afternoon.

AT RISE: ALLIE and HENRI are in the living room relaxing drinking wine. Allie's mood slowly changes to one of regret that HENRI perceives as inebriation.

HENRI

You wouldn't have shot me the other night at dinner, right? Allie? Allie?

ALLIE

Henri do you remember when I first met you? Nicaragua - actually Popoyo to be exact. Remember that sweaty seedy bar on the beach. Damn even there you wore a turtleneck.

HENRI

Cotton - sheer cotton. Cotton breaths you know.

ALLIE

(Sarcasm)

It was a hundred and ten in the shade with hundred percent humidity. Nothing was breathing.

HENRI

Your point?

ALLIE

(Pours herself another glass. Looks at HENRI's glass still full.)

How do you do it?

HENRI

What?

(Silence)

Do what?

(Silence)

Allie I don't remember you ever allowing yourself to be inebriated in front of me. I always thought you had two hollow legs.

ALLIE

Don't mistake my mood for inebriation.

It's just...

HENRI

That would be a mistake.

ALLIE

Point taken.

HENRI

(Beat)

Allie, why were you remembering our first meeting?

ALLIE

Just reflecting.

HENRI

Not like you.

ALLIE

Oh?

(Beat)

Henri do you believe in redemption?

HENRI

In what regard?

(Silence)

ALLIE

You know how we met was no accident.

HENRI

I thought as much. You know Allie, I too am a spy - all-be-it a French one.

(Slight laugh and takes a sip of wine.)

Allie

And therefore not up to...?

HENRI

Only in your mind.

ALLIE

Hum...

(ALLIE finished off her glass and pours another one. Offers HENRI more who holds up

his glass pointing to it being mostly full still. ALLIE puts the bottle down.)

ALLIE

You know what my first thoughts were when you first spoke to me?

HENRI

Not sure I want to know.

ALLIE

Really?

HENRI

Okay dammit - what?

ALLIE

Inspector Jacques Clouseau.

HENRI

But if I recall, he was just a bumbling idiot.

ALLIE

Is that how you saw it? Oh, well...I always thought that you would make a great dad, always caring and sensitive.

HENRI

To make up for your lack of...

ALLIE

Sort of.

HENRI

Well...you can certainly think of me as such.

ALLIE

Papa Henri.

(She goes over and kisses his cheek.)

HENRI

I was thinking more on the lines of a big brother. I'm hardly old enough to be you papa.

(Hear SERGEI at door. ALLIE goes to open for him. SERGEI stands there with bags of take-out and groceries. Both go to help him. HENRI

takes the fresh cut flowers and ALLIE the bag with wine bottles.)

HENRI

Sergei how sweet of you, and my favorites.

(SERGEI and ALLIE look at each other and laugh. ALLIE takes wine to bar and SERGEI takes bags of groceries and take-out to the kitchen.)

SERGEI

I didn't feel inspired to cook tonight so I grabbed some take-out from that new Chinese place around the corner.

(Takes out Allie's favorite ice cream. ALLIE sees this and goes for this. SERGEI has a spoon ready for her. She starts eating from the container. She kisses SERGEI on cheek.)

ALLIE

Thanks love. Henri you want some?

HENRI

I'll wait my dear.

SERGEI

(Confused)

My dear?

HENRI

I've decided to adopt Allie.

(ALLIE is all smiles eating the ice cream, sitting on the arm of the sofa. HENRI has finally finished off his glass of wine and she offers him more wine.)

ALLIE

Henri, more wine?

(SERGEI looks up. HENRI shakes his head no. ALLIE sees that SERGEI did take notice but quickly returned his attention to the food. ALLIE continues to eat her ice cream.)

Blackout



**ACT II**  
**Scene 3**

AT Rise: Next evening.

Setting: Dining table filled with passports, papers, official documents, etc. SERGEI keeps looking at ALLIE who is pacing in the living room. He is concerned but knows this is her method of thinking and figuring out a plan.

ALLIE

Henri coming with us really does put a wrench in our plans.

SERGEI

We can't discard him like his agency plans on doing.

ALLIE

I'm not saying we should or will. It just complicates things, that all.

(pause)

I'm starved. When will dinner be ready?

SERGEI

Now. Clear a space on the table and come fill your plate.

(ALLIE goes to the table and stacks some of the papers, leaving a space for the two of them to place their plates down. She goes to the bar, grabs a bottle of wine and two glasses. Pours both full, very full, and goes to the kitchen where SERGEI has filled her plate for her and gives it to her. She smiles and kisses him. Both go to the table and sit. They start eating, both are starving, and drinking.)

SERGEI

What do you think?

(ALLIE looks at him not sure if he means the food or their escape.)

SERGEI

Our exits.

ALLIE

I keep going back to one I've used before, for my informant, but I know that we need to use one that's not been done before. It's more difficult now that we're three. We can't do it, not all at once. He has to die first and it has to be really believable, funeral and all.

SERGEI

We can't have another lost at sea death, that's belongs to us.

ALLIE

I know, too much suspicion will come to light about ours later.

SERGEI

We need a dummy body that is the same build and coloring as Henri, preferably one that is already dead.

(ALLIE gives him a look)

Me? You're better at this than I am.

(ALLIE just keeps looking at him.)

Shoushiling

(Places hand in hand to play rock scissor paper game)

ALLIE

Really?

(SERGEI nods yes and is ready to play. They play and he does paper and she does rock. She is pissed and he is all smiles.)

ALLIE is thinking and walking around. SERGEI clears the table.)

You still have that cold storage locker?

SERGEI

A must if you're a Russian spy.

ALLIE

Yeah, I never understood that. Old school.

SERGEI

It's a Russian thing. Kill them here then ship them back frozen to Moscow. Dead bodies don't have to be explained there.

ALLIE

Whatever. Okay I'll start looking in the city morgue and hopefully it won't take too long to get a pretty good match for Henri. We need to tell Henri what our plan is but let's wait until I have a body double for him. You know how impatient he gets.

SERGEI

Right. He needs to get killed on the job and have his body disposed of afterwards.

ALLIE

He needs to be on a mission. Did he mention anything to you about a new job?

SERGEI

No, he says it's almost too quiet.

ALLIE

Damn! Well, we'll just have to make an incident involving our French friend - then kill him.

SERGEI

It has to be convincing.

ALLIE

I know.

SERGEI

What would be good is, if his own people could see his death.

ALLIE

Yes.

(Both are thinking out loud.)

But even better, Henri not knowing about it.

SERGEI

What? No? You can't do that to him.

(ALLIE is thinking and walking around. She is concerned.)

ALLIE

You know as well as I that he's not the actor he thinks he is.

He'll have a heart attack. SERGEI

So? ALLIE

Allie?! SERGEI

I love him too, but... ALLIE

But what? SERGEI

ALLIE  
You can't tell me you're not a wee bit concerned about him. If we are to have this life, this freedom, all ties need to be severed, all.

SERGEI  
Allie, he's our dearest friend.

(Gives SERGEI the look).

ALLIE  
He's our only friend.

SERGEI  
And you want to take him out?

ALLIE  
I don't want to SERGEI.

SERGEI  
Then what is this discussion all about?

ALLIE  
Upping our chances for survival.

(SERGEI is visibly upset with ALLIE. ALLIE goes to him and faces him with his face in her hands.)

ALLIE  
If it's a question of him or us?

(SERGEI breaks away from her and sits on the sofa defeated and pouting.)

SERGEI

I had this great idea that he could be the maitre d' at my restaurant. He would be great at it and he'd love it. He's such a people person.

(ALLIE gives him the look and throws up her hands.)

SERGEI

What?! Not like you'd be any good at it.

ALLIE

Shut up! I'm going for a walk.

(ALLIE grabs a coat from the hall tree.  
SERGEI is obviously concerned. He goes to her.)

SERGEI

Allie, do you really want to go that dark?

ALLIE

To ensure that we survive?

(Exits)

Blackout

**ACT II**

**Scene 4**

At Rise: A couple of hours later that same evening.

Setting: SERGEI has fallen asleep on the sofa with the TV on. A spy show is on, 'Nikita'. ALLIE recognizes it and smiles. She hangs up her coat. Goes over and before she turns off the TV watches for a few moments.

ALLIE

Nikita, great show.

(She clicks off the TV and goes over to SERGEI and sits on the sofa beside him. She brushes back his hair. He stirs and smiles. She kisses him. She has to tell him something he will not want to hear. He senses this and sits up. She gets up and goes to pour herself a glass of wine and holds up the bottle and he nods to pour him one too. She brings it over, hands it to him and backs up. This is hard for her.)

SERGEI

Lets have it.

ALLIE

You're not going to like it.

SERGEI

Do you like it?

ALLIE

It's the only plan I can come up with.

SERGEI

That's not what I asked.

ALLIE

(Gulps down the wine.)

No.

(Silence. ALLIE refills her glass, goes over to offer him more but sees he has not touched his. She turns her back to SERGEI and places

the bottle back on the bar. She does not turn to face him. This is too hard. He senses this. Goes to her and puts his arms around her. She cannot face him.)

SERGEI

Lets have it.

ALLIE

After he picks us up and takes us to the shore, he has to leave and come back to the States. He isn't the actor he thinks he is.

SERGEI

What are you not saying ALLIE? And besides you said he has to die first.

ALLIE

Look I've run so many scenarios through my head and the only way we make a clean break is...if he dies.

SERGEI

You mean a fake death, right?

(ALLIE pulls away from him. He can't believe he is hearing this.)

SERGEI

Allie! No!

ALLIE

It's the only way we make it. I don't like it but I will not jeopardize our lives or freedom.

(He goes to her and grabs her by the upper arms and stands in front of her. She angrily pulls away from him.)

SERGEI

We don't have to do this.

ALLIE

There is no we.

SERGEI

Allie...

ALLIE

I don't expect you to do it.

SERGEI

I couldn't...

ALLIE  
(Softly)

I know.

SERGEI

And you can?

ALLIE

To keep you safe? Yes.

SERGEI

You have thought up some of the most ingenious plans I have ever seen. My own superiors wanted to know if you'd defect.

ALLIE

I have gone through so many in my head and none of them work.

SERGEI

Why not?

ALLIE

Because it's Henri and he just can't keep a secret.

SERGEI

Are you nuts?! He's an agent and has been one forever.

ALLIE

He will let his guard down later at some point, when he feels safe.

SERGEI

No he won't. He's a pro.

ALLIE

A pro grown tired of the cloak and dagger of it all...who's own country is rejecting. A man who wants to finally be who he is.

SERGEI

You're talking about the gay thing?



ALLIE

Look you know how he gets when he's had too much wine. He's the only Frenchman who's a cheap date.

SERGEI

You've lost me.

ALLIE

You've never noticed that he never finishes that second glass of wine?

SERGEI

No...no... Really?

(ALLIE shakes her head yes firmly.)

SERGEI

But he's French. He was weaned on it.

ALLIE

You'd think.

SERGEI

So your theory is that he'd out himself...

ALLIE

Or us...

SERGEI

I just don't believe that. No, not Henri and not to us. We're the only family he really has.

ALLIE

I'm not saying he'd do it intentionally.

(She sees the sadness in his face. She goes to him, gently touching his face.)

ALLIE

Who or what would you die for?

(SERGEI knows the answer without thinking about it.)

SERGEI

You - us.

ALLIE

That's all I'm saying.

(Kissing him)

You are the only thing that really matters to me and I won't  
- can't risk that.

(Both defeated, they hold each other.)

SERGEI

But what do we have if we do this? What do we become?

ALLIE

There is no we - I'll do it.

SERGEI

I can't let you do this alone.

ALLIE

You have no choice. Look, we both know you're not capable and  
well, I am.

(ALLIE goes and turns off the lights, takes  
his hand and leads him to the bedroom.)

Blackout

**ACT II**  
**Scene 5**

At Rise: The next morning.

Setting: Sunlight in bedroom finds SERGEI all alone in bed. He turns to find ALLIE not in bed or in the bedroom. He hears papers in living room and goes sleepily to door and peers at her. She is on the floor with a laptop, papers, map, etc. She does not hear him. He goes to the kitchen and sees she had been drinking coffee all night. He holds up the empty pot. Then he turns the water on to make fresh coffee and she finally hears him.

ALLIE

Yes, please more coffee.

(He smiles at her and starts a fresh pot. She continues to go over papers and ideas. She leans back on the sofa, still sitting on the floor. She is visibly tired.)

ALLIE

I had a dream.

SERGEI

Oh, so I did go to bed with you after all.

ALLIE

Shut up.

(Pause)

The dream was about the Cairo case when the three of us were trapped in that cellar and chained.

SERGEI

And you conveniently had a hairpin.

ALLIE

I always have a hairpin when I'm on mission.

SERGEI

And weren't we all glad you did?

ALLIE

My dream?

(SERGEI brings the coffee to her. She accepts it and smiles at him half-heartedly. He sits beside her, him on the sofa. She leans her head on his leg and he strokes her head.)

ALLIE

Thank you. We thought that we were all goners then but Henri kept saying how smart and ingenious I was to always find a way out of a trap. He would *not* let us give up.

(SERGEI brings the coffee to her. She accepts it and smiles at him half heartedly. He sits beside her on the sofa. She leans her head on his leg and he strokes her head.)

SERGEI

Well my genius, have you come up with a plan for the three of us to escape with all our heads in place?

(ALLIE looks up at him and shakes her head no. She looks down and smiles to herself.)

Blackout

ACT II  
SCENE 6

SETTING: On a boat, in the ocean off of the island they are going to.

AT RISE: ALLIE and SERGEI are both in wetsuits. ALLIE has a small pouch around her waist. HENRI is dressed in a colorful island shirt (no turtleneck). HENRI is drinking and eager to get the party going. ALLIE pours herself and SERGEI a glass of wine. All hold up their glasses to make a toast.

HENRI

To the second, third and fourth glasses of wine starting from now.

(He finishes off his glass. ALLIE and SERGEI look with concern and ALLIE just half smiles.)

SERGEI

To Alley's Cantina.

ALLIE  
(Stunned)

What!?

HENRI

You named your restaurant after Allie - ah...that's sweet.

ALLIE

Have another drink Henri.  
(To SERGEI)  
Why would you do that?

SERGEI

I think a better question is, why wouldn't I?

ALLIE

Fuck you!

HENRI

Ah, your first fight as Ernestine and Artemus.

ALLIE/SERGEI  
(Together)

Fuck off Henri!

(HENRI continues to drink his wine. ALLIE gives SERGEI another look which he tries to ignore and refills his own glass.)

ALLIE  
I *really* wish you had consulted me before...

SERGEI  
It never dawned on me that this would upset you.  
(He takes her aside.)  
Allie, what's going on?

(Not wanting to give it away she changes her entire demeanor. She puts her arms around his neck and kisses him, long and clinging. He responds not wanting to let her go either. He still suspects something is wrong.)

HENRI  
I brought a change of clothes for you both. Why not get out of the Jacque Cousteau gear.

SERGEI  
Allie?  
(Gesturing to cabin.)

ALLIE  
I'm nice and comfy.

HENRI  
You just know you look damn hot in that.

ALLIE  
(Smiles)  
That to. How long before we reach shore?

HENRI  
About an hour, maybe more.

ALLIE

(Touches SERGEI's face.)

You're getting red already. You better change. Henri did you bring the sunblock like I said.

HENRI

Of course! It's down below on the left shelf with your bag of clothes, Sergei. Allie was very specific regarding the level of SPF for her Russian's baby sensitive skin.

SERGEI

Thanks old man.

(He kisses ALLIE)

Thank you for remembering.

ALLIE

Always...(He leaves) Always.

(She calls after him.)

Why don't you take a short nap.

SERGEI

(O.S.)

I might just do that.

(HENRI goes to pour himself another drink but sees the bottle is empty.)

HENRI

Love auto pilot.

(He starts to go down for another one and stops him.)

ALLIE

ALLIE

I'll get it. I want to check on Sergei.

HENRI

Is something wrong?

ALLIE

No, but I want to make sure he covers himself well with sunblock.

HENRI

I don't think I've ever seen you do the worried lover before.

ALLIE

First time for everything.

(ALLIE goes down and after a few minutes comes back up with a bottle. While she is down getting the wine HENRI is enjoying his new freedom from worries. Looks with binoculars for land. ALLIE appears with an open bottle of wine.)

Sit. Let me serve you.

HENRI

I hope this new Allie sticks around for a while.

ALLIE

For as long as your alive - how would that be?

HENRI

I'll drink to that.  
(And does)

ALLIE

It would seem so.

HENRI

I'm so happy for the two of you.

ALLIE  
(Sincere)

I know you are.  
(Touches his shoulder.)

HENRI

This is where you say you're happy for me too.

ALLIE

Oh Henri, I am. To see you finally enjoying your wine.

(She kisses him on the cheek.)

HENRI

You know Allie, I often think of our first meeting with great fondness. You were still a little green.

ALLIE

Henri, I was never green.



HENRI

Well then why did you let slip about the drop-off?

(He thinks about it and then realizes she played him, even back then.)

Really? But...I was the one who chose not to take the package after I saw the Chinese enter the bar. (ALLIE smiles)  
No - no - you did that? But why?

ALLIE

After drinking with you all night, you nursing that one drink...I became fond of you. You were so adorable, I couldn't let you walk into a trap.

HENRI

Here I thought I could ply you with drinks and...

ALLIE

Have your way with me.

(Both laugh.)

HENRI

Did you come out of the womb wearing spandex and holding a Glock?

ALLIE

I wouldn't know.

HENRI

Sorry.

(Acting like he's getting tired and holding his stomach.)

Guess I'm not used to this.

(Holds up wine glass and puts it down.)

I'll have to build up my tolerance.

(Sitting now)

Allie, I'm not feeling at all well...

ALLIE

I know love.

(He looks at her confused - then he knows what she's done and then shock.)

HENRI

Allie! Why!?

ALLIE

Because you are the only thing that would jeopardize his life.

HENRI

But...but I love him and you.

(HENRI is growing increasingly weaker.)

ALLIE

And your wine...

(HENRI makes one last effort and stands clinging to Allie for support. She holds him up, steering him to the edge of the boat, reaches down and pulls her knife from her leg strap. HENRI slumps over her, she feels for a carotid pulse, none there.)

My sweet Henri - I have to make sure you don't float up on shore somewhere.

(She stabs him in the gut with an upward thrust and tosses his body overboard. She is visibly shaken and shakes it off. She pours herself another drinks, downs it and pours another. SERGEI is making his way up, he has not seen anything. She has her back to him, aware of him and collecting herself.)

SERGEI

Where's Henri?

ALLIE

He's sunbathing at the bow. How was your nap?

SERGEI

Okay. Missed you not lying next to me.

ALLIE

Wine?

SERGEI

Maybe later. You aren't really upset about the restaurant name thing - are you?

ALLIE

How can you possibly use my name?

SERGEI

I plan on changing the spelling - street *alley*.

(See doubts in her face.)

Allie we're find. To think we're out, free. You don't know, but this occupation was not my first choice, but with my family's history...well...

ALLIE

Did you always hate it?

SERGEI

No, but it was family first. Great way to pick up the *ladies*.

(She goes to him, arm around his neck. She kisses him.)

I like this new you.

(ALLIE goes to the bottle and pours him a drink with her back to him. She turns and hands him his drink.)

ALLIE

We have to make our toast.

SERGEI

Without Henri?

ALLIE

Yes, a private one.

(He takes the glass but does not drink.)

SERGEI

You know I saw some red caviar with those crackers you like so much in the galley. Henri thinks of everything.

ALLIE

Yes, dear Henri.

SERGEI

Why don't you go down for it. I'm starving.

ALLIE

Caviar is hardly a meal.

SERGEI

We can make it one.

(He stands behind her, arm around her waist, kissing her neck.)

ALLIE

Okay.

(She finishes her glass of wine, hands him her glass.)

I want that filled when I come back.

(He takes her glass.)

SERGEI

You can count on it.

(He pours her another glass and then switches them holding her glass in his hands like it is his. When she comes up she sees him drinking from his glass. She has a small tray with the food and a cracker with caviar in her mouth.)

ALLIE

Guess I was also hungry.

(She puts the tray down and he hands her a glass of wine but she does not drink. He nods to her indicating.)

ALLIE

You're the one who's behind. I had several with Henri while you were napping.

SERGEI

Really? But this is a celebration.

(She takes a sip.)

ALLIE

The first time we met - were you really instructed to let me have a free pass?

SERGEI

Instead of a bullet to that pretty head of your? What do you think?

ALLIE

I think you were getting tired of this even then. What did you tell your superiors?

SERGEI

That you could be an asset.

ALLIE

Did they believe you?

SERGEI

No.

(He takes a sip of wine and she watches him.)  
You'd already developed a reputation.

ALLIE

So, what was your punishment?

SERGEI

Well they didn't believe you would turn or that I could develop you, even though we had been lovers.

ALLIE

You told them!?! That was a bold move. You never told me that.

SERGEI

Well...my ego would not allow me to.

ALLIE

And now you have no ego?

SERGEI

I think now we're beyond egos.

ALLIE

Yes, yes you're probably right.

(Silence, watching him take another sip of wine.)

You know that I value our love beyond anything else.

(She takes a sip.)

SERGEI

You've always said so damn few words on the subject but I've always known.

ALLIE

So you've never doubted...

(He finishes his glass of wine and puts it down and goes to her.)

SERGEI

You're making me feel bad drinking alone.

ALLIE

I've always wanted to dance with you in public.

(She finishes her glass and goes into his waiting arms.)

SERGEI

No time like the present.

(As he holds her, she begins to feel light headed. She slowly begins to realize what he's done.)

ALLIE

Fuck you.

SERGEI

Oh - yes. We'll have plenty of that.

ALLIE

How?

SERGEI

I saw him too. I didn't want to see it, but I couldn't deny it after what I saw.

ALLIE

But how did you know.

(Last words garbled as she passes out in his arms.)

SERGEI

I know you, my love - thank God.

(He kisses her.)

CURTAIN