

## ACT TWO

### SCENE ONE (Ty, Sasha, Nick, Lilya, Tara)

Ty. Sasha, are you in Act Two at all?

Sasha. I don't think so. You?

Ty. Nope. But what about a second date? Второе свидание, да?

Sasha. Свидание. Ну и слово. Where would we go?

Ty. To the movies? В кино?

Sasha. OK. Or let's just watch Harry Potter at home.

Ty. That works. Хорошо.

*Enter Nick, Lilya and Tara*

Nick. Лилля, ты будешь играть русалочку?

Lilya. Я не могу! Как только выхожу на сцену, у меня колени подкашиваются. А ты?

Nick. Я-то в порядке. Ты будешь классно на сцене смотреться.

Tara. Попробуй! Try it! If you have stage fright, you need to act! You'll get over it!

Sasha. Попробуй! Чего ты так боишься? Не съедят тебя эти марионетки. Потанцуй, попей.

*Nick and Tara almost drag Lilya off stage.*

### SCENE TWO (Blue Muppet, Green Muppet, Pink Muppet, Cat)

Blue Muppet. I feel kind of out of place here.

Green Muppet. Me too. All these Russian tunes, Russian outfits, Russian ballads.

Pink Muppet. Let's hum our favorite, shall we?

*All three Muppets sing Mana Mana:* <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=li-L3YTeJJM>

*Cat enters.*

Cat. What's going on here, guys? Are you Muslim, or what?

Pink Muppet. We are practicing... eh... opera singing.

Blue Muppet. Yes, yes! Glinka's famous opera, Rouslan and Lyudmila, 1837. It feels very modern.

Green Muppet. Wouldn't it be cool to sing an aria? An aria would be awesome!

Cat (severely). Put on your burkas. It's Chernomor's harem scene.

*Muppets look at each other and put on the burkas. Cat leaves.*

*CHERNOMOR MUSIC (Glinka)*

### SCENE THREE (Lyudmila, Three Muppets playing harem servants in burkas, Pushkin)

*SCREEN: "Л" (L) ЛЮДМИЛА (Lyudmila) "Ч" (ch) ЧЕРНОМОР (Chernomor)*

*Lyudmila lies down under a canopy on an elevated bed. Three muppets dressed up like Moslem women bring her three pieces of a nice garment (headdress, scarf, belt). She is dressed up. Then they offer her a chest of jewels with a mirror in it. She turns away but finally looks into the mirror and fixes her headdress. Muppets look at her from a distance. Pushkin enters unnoticed. He is eavesdropping.*

*MUSIC (The rest of Думя, сестра моя).*

Possibility: three muppets sing a song. Possibility: choir sings upstage.

Под тонким льдом стекла бездонны зеркала.

Восточный блеск играет каждой гранью.

Всё говорит, в тиши, на языке души,

Еди́нственном, досто́йном понима́нья.

В кана́лах корабли́  
В дремо́тный дрейф легли́.  
Бродя́чий нрав их голу́бого цве́та.  
Сюда́ пригна́л их бриз,  
Исполни́в твой капри́з.  
Они́ пришл́и с друго́го кра́я све́та.

Дитя́, сестра́ моя́,  
Уе́дем в те кра́я,  
Где мы с тобо́й не разлуча́ться смо́жем.  
Где для любви́ – века́,  
Где да́же смерть легка́,  
В краю́ желанном, на теб́я похóжем.

*Lyudmila walks into the magic garden. River. Stepstool. Lyudmila goes up a step over the water.*

Lyudmila.

Вдали́ от ми́лого, в нево́ле,  
Заче́м мне жить на све́те бо́ле?  
О ты, чья ги́бельная страсть  
Меня́ терза́ет и леле́ет,  
Мне не страшно́ злоде́я вла́сть:  
Людми́ла умере́ть уме́ет!

*Lyudmila tries to jump into the water. Pushkin catches her. He behaves with her like a father with a child. His gestures are showing his disapproval of her attempt at a suicide.*

Pushkin (to the audience).

В волна́х реши́лась утону́ть —  
Одна́ко в во́ды не прыгну́ла  
И да́ле продолжа́ет путь.

*Pushkin nearly leaves then decides to linger. Muppets serve food.*

Lyudmila (throws food at them). Не ну́жно мне твои́х шатро́в,

Ни скучных пе́сен, ни пиро́в —  
Не ста́ну есть, не бу́ду слу́шать,  
Умру́ среди́ твои́х садо́в!

*Lyudmila begins to eat.*

Pushkin (eavesdropping then throwing her an apple). Поду́мала — и ста́ла ку́шать.

*Muppets exit stage.*

*Pushkin gently pushes up Lyudmila's chin, then feeds Lyudmila and gestures her to behave (waves his finger).*

Lyudmila. I won't kill myself only if you promise me that Rouslan will find me and kill Chernomor.

Pushkin. I can't promise that much, my lady. Look, the book's already written.

*Pushkin hands Lyudmila the book.*

*Lyudmila and Pushkin browse the book, find the right page.*

Pushkin. Ну что? What do you think?

Lyudmila. Хорошо́... This will do.

Pushkin. Умница. Good girl. I have to go now. See you in a couple of chapters! (Kisses Lyudmila good-bye and hands her a small bottle).

*Lyudmila yawns. Muppets/Moslem servants enter and take her back to bed. She throws pillows at them.*

## SCENE FOUR (Chernomor, Servants in burkas, Lyudmila)

*MUSIC CHERNOMOR MARCH GLINKA* <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gDVIPNg1DNs>

*Chernomor enters. Three servants carry his beard.*

*Chernomor walks across the stage, approaches the bed. Three servants follow carrying his beard. Chernomor gives Lyudmila flowers, she rejects them. He gives her a ring, she rejects it. He gives her his beard and gets onto the bed. Lyudmila jumps off and pulls his beard. He grabs the beard and shouts. She wraps him in his beard. The three servants try to unwrap him. Lyudmila runs away with his hat.*

*MUSIC: OVERTURE FROM GLINKA* <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gDVIPNg1DNs>

Chernomor (pointing at a place where he believes Lyudmila is hiding).

Туда, невольники, бегите!

Туда, надеюсь я на вас!

Сейчас Людмилу мне сыщите!

Скорее, слышите ль? сейчас!

Не то — шутите вы со мною —

Всех удавлю вас бородою!

*Chernomor stomps his feet angrily.*

*Lyudmila enters with the mirror and the hat. She takes invisibility hat that Chernomor dropped and puts it onto herself, then takes off, then on again. She claps and becomes very joyful.*

## SCENE FIVE (Naina, Chernomor, Three servants (holding Chernomor's beard))

*SCREEN: "Б" (b) БОРОДА (Boroda) BEARD: The power of Chernomor is in his magic beard. As long as he has it, he is invincible.*

*Chernomor is still angrily fixing his beard and outfit, unhappy that he lost his hat. Naina enters ceremoniously. Chernomor bows.*

*POSSIBLY BACKGROUND MUSIC: Glinka, Chernomor march.* <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gDVIPNg1DNs>

Blue Muppet/Servant to Green Muppet/Servant. The girl just wants to die, she'll drown herself or starve. And now she's disappeared and the servants can't find her.

Pink Muppet/Servant. Look, it's our master's friend, Naina the witch. She must have been spying on Lyudmila's husband. The poor couple has no chance, these two wizards are too powerful.

Naina.

Собрать мой, рок соединяет

Теперь нас общею враждой;

Тебе опасность угрожает,

Нависла туча над тобой;

Руслан в твой владения мчится,

Тебя он вызовет на бой!

Chernomor.

Противник слабый мне не страшен;

Узнай чудесный жребий мой:

Сей благодатной бородой

Недаром Черномор украшен.

Доколь власов её седых

Враждебный меч не перерубит,

Никто из смертных не погубит

Малейших замыслов моих;

Моёю будет век Людмила,

Руслан же гробу обречён!

Chernomor and Naina. Погибнет он! погибнет он!

*MUSIC: Chernomor march. Naina and Chernomor engage in a cute little dance to the march.*

## SCENE SIX (Cat, Rouslan, The Head)

*Rouslan approaches the Head, the Head sneezes (confetti), Rouslan falls. Rouslan tries to fight the Head with his sword.*

The Head.

Ну что? Ай, витязь! ай, герой!  
Куда ты? тише, тише, стой!  
Эй, витязь, шёю слóмишь даром;  
Не трусь, наездник, и меня  
Порáдуй хоть одним удáром.

*Rouslan tries to fight the Head again.*

Cat. Some giant's head! A live head! What's the point in fighting it, it doesn't even have any arms. I think we'd better talk to it.

Rouslan.

Хотёл тебе я мóжет быть  
И нос, и ўши обрубить,  
Но б́уду я великод́ушен:  
Ты здесь стойшь по во́ле злой.

Head.

Я б́уду днесь тебе послу́шен.  
И я был витязь удалóй!  
Ковáрный брáт мой Черномóр,  
Ты, ты всех бед мо́их вино́ю!  
Мечóм мне го́лову как вор  
Срубил, завидуя геро́ю.  
Стоит, тайнственно живá  
Моя без те́ла голо́ва.  
Обречена́ навéк стерéчь  
Ему́ грозящий смéртью меч.  
О витязь! Ты храни́м судьбо́ю,  
Возьми сей меч, и Бог с тобо́ю!  
Быть мóжет, на своём пути  
Ты встрéтишь злóго Черномóра  
Тогда́ кова́рству отомсти́!  
Знай, в бороде́ его́ опóра.  
Докóле борода́ целá —  
Измéнник не страши́тся зла.  
Тогда́ мой скóрбный дух утéшь,  
Скорéй мечóм её отрэжь!

*The Head howls. Cat tilts the Head, Rouslan takes the sword.*

Cat. I told you Chernomor's power is in his beard, he is invincible unless a magic sword cuts his beard. What would we do if you didn't talk to the head?

Rouslan. Don't say I never told you, you make me mad!

*Rouslan exits. As he exits, he nearly hits Pushkin. Pushkin enters.*

Cat. You make me mad, you make me mad! This is the thank you you get from the arrogant knights when you help them on their quest!

Pushkin. Leave him. You are nowhere in the book except the introduction. You came here because you wanted an adventure.

Cat. Not at all. I just wanted to meet Finn and become his apprentice. I will study magic and become a Magic Learned Cat. Волшебный Ученый Кот, это звучит!

Pushkin. Have you seen my Quill?

Cat. No. You know, the Head and Chernomor, they were brothers, and Chernomor beheaded his brother so he could hide the magic sword under his brother's severed head. It's gross and doesn't make sense to me.

Pushkin. You know where I learned all these Russian folk tales? From my nanny. Go ask her where she heard all this crap.

### **SCENE SEVEN (Rutmir, Count (Dracula).)**

*COUNTING SESAME STREET SONG: Count (Znak) counts.* <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q1ZXbwqE2UM>

Count. Another one on a quest! Here, please, here. In order to continue your quest, you have to prove you are worthy of the fair maiden you are seeking. Can you count?

Rutmir (in disbelief). Count?

Count. Count. In Russian. Раз, два, три, четы́ре, пять, шесть, семь, во́семь, де́вять, де́сять!

Rutmir. Раз, два, три, четы́ре, пять, шесть, семь, во́семь, де́вять, де́сять!

*COUNTING SESAME STREET SONG: Count (Znak) counts.* <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q1ZXbwqE2UM>

*Count blocks Rutmir's way.*

Rutmir. Let me go.

Count. And, in particular, can you add fractions? Дроби, а?

Rutmir. In fact I can. After all, I am Asian. It's just not socially acceptable to flaunt your knowledge.

Count. OK, two thirds plus five sixths.

Rutmir. One and a half.

Count. It's a pass. Go on, son, you deserve the fair maiden. Достоин!

### **SCENE EIGHT (Cat, Rouslan, Count (Dracula).)**

Count. Another one on a quest! Here, please, here. In order to continue your quest, you have to prove you are worthy of the fair maiden you are seeking. Can you count?

Rouslan (in disbelief). Count?

Count. Here is a prompt.

*COUNTING SESAME STREET SONG (CONTINUED): Count (Znak) counts.*

*Count blocks Rouslan's way.*

Rouslan. Let me go.

Count. Count in Russian. Раз, два, три, четы́ре, пять, шесть, семь, во́семь, де́вять, де́сять!

Rouslan. Раз, два, три, четы́ре, пять, шесть, семь, во́семь, де́вять, де́сять!

Count. And, in particular, can you add fractions? Two thirds plus five sixths.

Rouslan. Не могу́ я. I can't.

Count. Another one from an American university. Sorry, I can't let you go. You don't deserve the fair maiden. Недостоин!

Cat. Excuse me, sir, my master knows very well it's one and a half. He is just in too much of a hurry to talk to you. You see, someone kidnapped his wife. If we don't act quickly we can lose her forever.

Count. Well, at least one of you knows how to count. You may go.

### **SCENE NINE (Cat, Rouslan, then Rutmir)**

Cat. Rutmir will win, he is too smart. I will stay here and you go on. I will offer Ratmir a riddle, and he'll fail this one.

*Rutmir enters.*

Ратми́рчик, отгада́й зага́дку!

Rutmir. Зага́дку?

Cat. В воде́ ро́дится, воды́ бо́ится. Чтó это?

Rutmir. Соль. Salt is born in water and is afraid of water.

Cat. Ну ты у́мный, гад.

Rutmir. Пусти́ меня́!

*Cat is trying to keep Rutmir from moving on now flirting, now scoffing. Rutmir finally runs away from the Cat.*

**SCENE TEN (Undina, First Mermaid, Second Mermaid, Rutmir, Zulfia)**

*LIGHTS: dark*

Leshij. Русским духом пахнет. A human. (Blows and throws small pieces of paper into Rutmir's eyes and exits).

Rutmir stops walking. He is looking around.

Rutmir. Что за ветер? Прямо в лицо.

*Undina, Mermaids and Zulfia dance THE MERMAID DANCE.*

Undina.

Приди, о путник молодой!  
Ложится в поле мрак ночной.

First Mermaid. От волн поднялся ветер холодный.

Second Mermaid.

Уж поздно, путник молодой!  
Укройся в терем наш отрадный.

Zulfia.

Здесь ночью нега и покой,  
А днём и шум и пированье.  
Приди на дружное призванье,  
Приди, о путник молодой!

*Undina, Mermaids and Zulfia dance THE MERMAID DANCE.*

Undina.

Приди, о путник молодой!  
Ложится в поле мрак ночной.

First Mermaid. От волн поднялся ветер холодный.

Second Mermaid.

Уж поздно, путник молодой!  
Укройся в терем наш отрадный.

*Dancing stops.*

Rutmir.

Я хан хазар, избранный славою,  
Дитя любви, войны кровавой,  
Я не могу для вас оставить  
Тревоги жизни боевой.

Zulfia (pushes the Mermaid away and goes in circles around Rutmir).

Прекрасный витязь будет мой!  
Ратмир, в пустыне безмятежной  
Людмилу, славу забыв  
И им навеки изменив  
Останься здесь с подругой нежной.

Undina.

Скучны затеи бранной савы.  
Поверь: невинные забавы,  
Любовь и мирные дубравы  
Милее сердцу во сто крат.

Undina and Mermaids. Ты будешь счастьем богат!

*MUSIC Song* <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iq0988vC0pA>

Zulfia (sings, sitting in front of Rutmir).

Бóгу равным  
ка́жется мне по сча́стью  
Челове́к, кото́рый так бли́зко–бли́зко  
Пред тобо́й сто́ит, твой звуча́щий не́жно  
Слу́шает го́лос  
И преле́стный смех

Rutmir (raving, looks at the Undina and Mermaids, then at Zulfia).

Как э́та де́ва мне ми́ла.  
Она́ мне се́рдце отдала́!  
Она́ мне жизнь, она́ мне ра́дость!  
Дитя́, ты возвраща́ешь вновь  
Мою́ утра́ченную мла́дость,  
И мир, и чи́стую любо́вь.

*Rutmir gives his sword to Zulfia, she throws it to Undina, then he gives his shield to her and she throws it to Undina.*

Zulfia.

Иде́м, о ви́тязь неизве́стный,  
Оста́нься в сча́стливой глуши́,  
И я с тобо́ю, друг преле́стный,  
С тобо́ю, свет моёй души́!

*Zulfia wraps her burka around Rutmir and pulls him away.*

*Undina and Mermaids play with the armor.*

## SCENE ELEVEN (Leshij, Cat, Rouslan, Undina, First Mermaid, Second Mermaid, Third Mermaid)

*LIGHTS: dark*

*Rouslan is riding the Cat.*

Leshij (sniffs, blows confetti into Rouslan's eyes). Русским духом пахнет!

*Leshij leaves.*

*Undina and Mermaids dance.*

Undina.

Приди́, о пу́тник молодóй!  
Ложит́ся в по́ле мрак но́чной.

First Mermaid. От волн подня́лся ве́тер хла́дный.

Second Mermaid.

Уж по́здно, пу́тник молодóй!  
Укро́йся в те́рем наш отра́дный.

Undina.

Приди́, о пу́тник молодóй!  
Ложит́ся в по́ле мрак но́чной.

First Mermaid. От волн подня́лся ве́тер хла́дный.

Second Mermaid.

Уж по́здно, пу́тник молодóй!  
Укро́йся в те́рем наш отра́дный.

*The four Mermaids/enchantresses surround and lift Rouslan. They kiss him. Rouslan is enchanted.*

Cat. My lord, what about your wife? Her being kidnapped and stuff.

Rouslan. Thanks for reminding me, these creatures are really a nuisance. (Waves them off).

Cat (ironically).

И та́йным про́мыслом храни́м,  
Бесстра́шный ви́тязь невре́дим!

## SCENE TWELVE (Naina, Leshij)

Naina. Hey, what kind of forest spirit you are! Just sitting here eating a cookie.

Leshij. Why can't I have a cookie, madam? It's my five o'clock tea.

Naina. A Russian forest spirit does not have any five o'clock tea. He needs to get as many people as possible lost in the forest! Currently, a knight is walking on your premises with an unlawful desire to kidnap your witch of a wife, Baba Yaga.

Leshij. Oh good. I hope some devil takes her! I am sick and tired of her with her chicken-legged hut! She drives like crazy, hits forest creatures, and she is far from the faithful wife I hoped she would be.

Naina (flirting). And me? Just go do that guy in. I will be waiting for you here.

## SCENE THIRTEEN (Rouslan, Baba Yaga, Cat, Leshij, Hut on Chicken Legs)

*Rouslan encounters Baba Yaga's chicken-legged hut.*

Rouslan. Избушка на курьих ножках, встань ко мне передом, а к лесу задом.

*The hut turns to Rouslan.*

Baba Yaga. Русланчик! Давай я тебя в своей новой избушке на курьих ножках покатаю! Это новый бренд, безо всяких там летучих мышей и жаб. Круто! Поговорим о том, о сем. Хошь по-русски, хошь по-английски.

Cat. Do you hear? She thinks you absolutely need to ride her new chicken-legged hut! It has a new design, no more bats and frogs, very elegant... She wants to talk to you.

Rouslan. Да некогда мне, старая...

Cat. Ну что ты так грубо! Может она знает, как к Черномору пройти. Давай с ней по-английски, так повэжливей будет. Они вообще повэжливей народ, англичане. My dear lady! I am a Learned Cat, if you haven't heard of me, I am a well known bilingual intellectual... Oops, we have very little time, my lady, and we need directions to Chernomor's castle. He kidnapped this gentleman's wife on his wedding night. You may well understand it's very inconvenient to have waited for months for the sweetest moment of your life and embrace air instead of a fair maiden!

Baba Yaga. Да знаю Черномора я. Как проехать, тоже знаю. Да вам его не одолеть. Силён он. Всех чародеев сильней. Он себе целый гарем из чужих невест собрал.

Cat. I know Chernomor is a very powerful magician. And I know he steals girls on their wedding nights for his harem, the collector of brides. He is rendered invincible on the account of his magic beard; but as a matter of fact we have obtained a magic sword that will cut off the beard. What's also lucky, the three rivals are no longer a problem: Ruslan killed one, the other, a coward, hid in his castle; as to the third one, he decided to discontinue this quest for personal reasons. Ruslan is ready to pay or otherwise please you if you show us the way.

Baba Yaga. Мешок денег и поцалуй твоё рыцаря.

Cat. Did you hear? A bag of golden coins and one kiss, even. She thinks the price is a bargain.

Rouslan. Ладно.

Cat. I am out of cash currently, but we will give you the bag of coins after we defeat Chernomor.

Baba Yaga. Ладно, тогда покáмест поцалуй.

Cat. See, she will agree to just a kiss. I suggest that you appease the lady, my lord.

*Rouslan spits then kisses Baba Yaga.*

*Leshij enters and sees Rouslan and Baba Yaga kissing.*

Leshij. АГА!

Cat. Just a friendly kiss with an old acquaintance. This is Prince Rouslan, the defeater of dragons and the permanent threat to the enemies of Kiev.

Rouslan. Это кто такой?

Leshij. Русским духом пахнет!

Cat. He doesn't like you. He doesn't like how humans smell.



Baba Yaga (to Cat). Вишь препятствия чинит людям, не любит он их, не переваривает. Лешенька, я тебе котá али лыцаря скормлю.

Cat. Why, I know. Russians don't sweep the floor after someone leaves the house because otherwise Leshij would throw feathers and earth into the travelers' eyes so he'd be lost. A very superstitious people. Take Pushkin who wrote this tale. He missed an important anti-government uprising because a rabbit crossed his path on the way there. However I am alerted at you words about feeding me and my master to your husband. Do you really mean it?

Rouslan. Слушай, может ты помолчишь хоть минуточку? И так голова кругом идёт.

Baba Yaga. Муженёк у меня свирепый. Не съест так напáкостит. Но подслеповáт он, и глухой почти что. Обмануть его — раз плюнуть.

Cat. Maybe he won't eat us but he'll hurt us anyway. I'll distract him. Господин Леший, позвольте переговорить. Вы личность известная. Плюньте на суевéria. Вы защитник, можно сказать, наших лесов. Вáша кнйга о защите природы, "On avoiding pollution, poaching and other violations of order in the forests of Russia," by Leshij, переведенá на английский язык. (Cat kneels admiringly) Нельзя ли получить автограф?

Leshij (flattered). Агá, у меня там в занáчке есть ещё пáрочка екземпляров. Подпишу, пойдём, потолкуём, ты вроде дельный кот.

Baba Yaga (to Rouslan, with wide gestures). Спервá налево, до дуба, потом направо, до берёзы, потом снова значить налево, а потом значить опять направо... Ох, милóй, не сильнá я дорогу ука́зывать. Мóжет в избушке на кúрьих нóжках поедём? Лúчше стúпы бúдет. Сейчáс продúкция значить вся в Китáе дéлается, а это нáшего, мéстного производства.

Rouslan. Давáй, бáбушка, поспешáй к Черномóру! Не трепи́сь!

Baba Yaga. Чевó ты давáй, давáй, я и так даю. Приказчик нашёлся!

*Baba Yaga gives Rouslan a ride, then kicks him off.*

Иди к своему Черномóру, тóлько зарáди нóвого трáнспорта довезлá тебя, грубиянá! Ни пожáлста тебе, ни спáсибо тебе. О́дним слóвом, рúсский богатырь. А́нглицкий лыцарь мне бы рúчки целовáл.

*Baba Yaga and Rouslan exit.*

#### SCENE FOURTEEN (Chernomor, Green Muppet, Pink Muppet in burkas, Lyudmila)

*Chernomor and his servants chase Lyudmila. Finally the servants put a net onto her. She falls onto the ground. Chernomor takes her hat off. She drinks something from a bottle.*

Green Muppet. She stole your invisibility hat and put it onto herself, that's why we couldn't find her! But now she is yours!

Chernomor. О́нá мóя! О́нá мóя!

*MUSIC (Glinka?) Chernomor dances and sings "О́нá мóя" and "She is mine;" his staff joins him. Then he stretches out his arms as if trying to do magic and bends over Lyudmila. He tries to wake her up but she is asleep.*

Pink Muppet. Master, she must have had some sleep potion, she is alive, but asleep.

Chernomor. What fun it is to make love to a sleeping maiden! Wake her up!

*Two Muppets beat Lyudmila on her cheeks, shout, but all in vain. Chernomor is angry.*

#### SCENE FIFTEEN (Cat, Rouslan)

Cat (panting). Leshij is quite a character... I thought I would never catch up with you.

*The Cat spies on Chernomor, while Rouslan falls off the back part of the long Cat and looks around.*

Rouslan. Кто там такóй?

Cat. It's the bearded man all right. Challenge him.

*Rouslan blows a horn. Cat does the same.*

Rouslan. Сюдá, злодéй, бесчéстный вор!

Cat. Get out you villain!

Rouslan. You didn't translate "вор."

Cat. One moment, my lord... Get out you thief and villain!

*SCREEN 3 Z злодеѹ злодеј BV вор vor*

### **SCENE SIXTEEN (Chernomor, Rouslan, Cat)**

*Chernomor comes out and hits Rouslan with a palitsa. Rouslan falls.*

Cat. Meow!

*Rouslan gets up and grabs Chernomor's beard. Chernomor is trying to escape but Rouslan holds the beard and follows Chernomor. Both leave stage.*

Cat (looking up). They are up there now, flying! Hold onto it! Держись, хозяин!

*MUSIC "FLIGHT"*

*Cat leaves the stage.*

### **SCENE SEVENTEEN (Rouslan, Chernomor)**

*MUSIC "FLIGHT"*

*Rouslan is pulling Chernomor, holding on to his beard.*

*MUSIC STOPS*

Chernomor.

Послушай, князь, уж вечер скоро.

Спустишь — но только с уговором...

Rouslan.

Молчи, коварный чародей! —

С мучителем жён свой,

Руслан не знает договора!

Сей грозный меч накажет вора.

Лети хоть до ночной звезды,

А быть тебе без бороды!

Chernomor.

Едва дышу; нет мочи боле;

Оставь мне жизнь, в твоёй я воле;

Скажи — спустишь, куда велишь...

Rouslan.

Теперь ты наш: агá, дрожишь!

Смирись, покорствуй русской силе!

Неси меня к моёй Людмиле.

### **SCENE EIGHTEEN (Chernomor, Rouslan, Cat, Lyudmila, Two Muppets in burkas, possibly Volchok)**

*Chernomor and Rouslan approach the sleeping Lyudmila. Rouslan cuts off Chernomor's beard. Chernomor runs away. Chernomor's servants bow to Rouslan. Rouslan tries to wake Lyudmila up. The Cat approaches. Rouslan is weeping; he lifts Lyudmila.*

*Cat tries on accessories of Lyudmila's Moslem outfit.*

Cat. Don't despair, my lord. Some kind of spell will wake her up. Take The Sleeping Beauty, the Prince had to kiss her... I guess you've already done that, to no avail... but there are other stories with the same problem. There are only around forty plots in all fairy tales all over the world, you know. We'll figure it out. Let's take her back to Kiev, I really don't like it here. This forest is full of wizards and witches I don't really trust.

*Rouslan and Lyudmila ride on the Cat. The servants bow and wave. Rouslan tears burkas off their faces.*

Rouslan. Свободу жёнкам Востока!..

Cat. А хотят они её, свободу-то?

Rouslan. Помолчи, а? Людмила! Проснись! (Begins weeping again) Она никогда не проснётся.

Cat. All he is thinking about is waking up Lyudmila. He can't focus on anything positive. We are somewhere around the place where the old Finn lives. I'll go get him so he can help us wake her up.

Rouslan (yawning). Я бы и сам поспал.

Cat. OK, поспи. Take a nap. If I get lost, I'll whistle, and I you blow your horn. Good night! (leaves).

Rouslan. Спокойной ночи!

*MUSIC: GOOD NIGHT OR VOLCHOK* <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bbfQkMEsosE&feature=related>  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5mKJjAOVOTg&feature=related>

*Undina, Mermaids, Lesbian, Baba Yaga and Hut on Chicken Legs DANCE to this music in the dimmed light. Moon goes down.*

*Rouslan lays his head onto Lyudmila's feet and falls asleep.*

## SCENE NINETEEN (Pushkin, Quill)

Pushkin.

Меж тем, по долам, по горам,  
И в белый день, и по ночам,  
Наш витязь едет непрестанно.  
Ещё далёк предел желанный,  
А дева спит. Но юный князь,  
Бесплодным пламенем томясь,  
Ужель, страдалец постоянный,  
Супругу только сторожил  
И в целомудренном мечтанье,  
Смирив нескромное желанье,  
Свое блаженство находил?

*As Pushkin recites the poem looking at a paper, the Quill bends over his shoulder and he stretches his arms back to her.*

## SCENE TWENTY (Farlaf (finishing his chicken and drinking with Nenila), Nenila, Naina)

*SCREEN: Ф (ф) ФАРЛАФ (Farlaf) Federation, Russian, founded in 1921 by communists then in 1991 as a result of anti-communist uprising.*

Naina.

Фарлаф, за мной! княжна твоя!  
Тебя веду к Людмиле я!

Nenila. Фарлафчик! Куда ж ты, радость?

*Farlaf throws away his wine goblet to Nenila and follows Naina.*

## SCENE TWENTY ONE (Naina, Farlaf, Rouslan, Lyudmila)

*Farlaf sees Rouslan and Lyudmila sleeping on the ground.*

Naina. Убей его! (Lowers her voice) Kill him!

*Farlaf is hesitant.*

Naina. Не бойся! (Lowers her voice) Have no fear!

*Farlaf hits Rouslan first with his fried chicken, then realizes his mistake and hits Rouslan with a sword, piercing him three times. He lifts the sleeping Lyudmila and leaves.*

## SCENE TWENTY TWO (Cat, Finn)

*Cat whistles. Cat and Finn enter and see the dead Rouslan. Volchok follows them.*

Cat. I told you all Russian stories end unhappily. So while I was out someone killed Rouslan and kidnapped Lyudmila.

Finn (pointing at the book). We're not done yet. The book has ten more pages.

Cat. But what is there to read? The main character is murdered.

### SCENE TWENTY THREE (Muppets, Pushkin, Cat)

Muppets (pull Pushkin onto the stage). He is trying to free himself.

Green Muppet. I'm not playing in this crappy play anymore! Small children are watching the show, and the noble hero is killed by a cowardly rival! So VERY, VERY Russian!

Pushkin. Пустите! Let me go! Who are you, anyway? Пустите, уроды! Let me go, ugly monsters!

Pink Muppet. We're UGLY MONSTERS? Уроды???

Pushkin. If you hold me, the play will end real bad.

*Muppets free Pushkin. He feels his hands.*

Cat. Could you make an exception... just for tonight? Счастливей конец, а?

Pushkin. The story is not over yet. Where's my Quill? She ran away, as always. Help me find her.

*Muppets rush off stage looking for the Quill. Cat lies down lazily and reads a book.*

*DANCE, MUSIC. The Quill enters and flirts with Pushkin. Pushkin and Quill leave stage.*

*Everyone but the Cat leaves.*

### SCENE TWENTY FOUR (Finn, Cat, Rouslan, Volchok)

Finn (bend over Rouslan). Murdered, indeed. But there are such things as dead and living water. Живая и мертвая вода. A magician goes to a spring, takes one jug of dead and one jug of living water and pours both over a dead person's wounds, and the dead person is alive again.

Cat. Do you know where the spring is?

Finn. Actually, I always keep a jug of each type of water on me, just in case there's a hero to rescue. Here. Вот.

Cat and Finn treat Rouslan with the two types of water and see him slowly coming to his senses.

Cat. Мёртвая вода!

Finn. Живая вода.

Cat (bending over Rouslan). Would you take me as an apprentice? I've always dreamed about becoming a magical learned Cat and not just the learned cat.

Finn. Sure! Right after the play is over. You know how to find me.

Rouslan.

Но где Людмила? Я один!

Мой кот учёный! Вещий Финн!

Finn.

Судьба свершилась, о мой сын!

Твой меч преграды одолеет,

Врагов смутит твоё лицо.

Возьми заветное кольцо:

Оно Людмилы сон развеет.

*Finn gives Rouslan the magic ring.*

Cat. The ring will wake her up, that part I understood, but where is she?

Rouslan.

Злодей, мне грудь пронзивший с силой

Он, он теперь жених Людмилы!

И если кончен сон, она

Навек другому отдана!

Cat. He thinks she is in Kiev, and whoever killed him is her bridegroom now. If she is awake, they may have been married! He always suspects the worst! Better go and see. (To Rouslan).

Поёдем в Киев, что томиться

Чем случиться, то случится!

*Finn waves goodbye to them.*

## MUSIC

Volchok.

Баю-баюшки-баю  
Я Людмиле попою,  
Нагоню глубокий сон,  
И туман со всех сторон.  
Спи, русланова княжна,  
Вышла на небо луна,  
Смотрит в горницу твою,  
Баю-баюшки-баю.

*Rouslan rides away on the Cat. Volchok leaves stage on tiptoes.*

## SCENE TWENTY FIVE

*SCREEN showing Putin talking. Words: "The immortal Pushkin's poem can be interpreted in today's world terms. Rouslan is Russia, RUSSKIĭ. Lyudmila is Russia's riches, its natural, so to say, resources. Vladimir is a popular national leader, a patriot. Incidentally, I am also Vladimir. I even think that Pushkin was a clairvoyant and saw me from his, so to say, epoch. He knew who I am. And I know who he is. Pushkin and Putin, we know each other. He would tell me, You know, Mr. Putin, you are a hero. I will tell him, You know, Pushkin, I agree with you. Chernomor is the Western world. His beard is Western capital. Ratmir is Asian, he is an ally, because Russia is Eurasia. You will now see what awaits our world."*

## SCENE TWENTY SIX (Lyudmila, Vladimir, Anna, Farlaf, Volchok)

*Farlaf enters Prince Vladimir's palace.*

Vladimir. Людмила здесь!

Anna. Фарлаф... ужели?

*Vladimir approaches Farlaf, picks Lyudmila and wants to give her a bug, but he sees she is asleep.*

*Vladimir (tryig to wake Lyudmila up, shaking her). Людмила спит не пробужда'ась.*

Farlaf.

Я так нашёл её, скитаясь  
В пустынных муромских лесах  
У злого лешего в руках.  
Три дня мы бились; луна  
Над боем трижды подымалась;  
Он пал, а юная княжна  
Мне в руки сонною досталась.

Vladimir.

Но кто прервёт сей дивный сон?  
Когда наступит пробужденье?

Anna (after trying to wake Lyudmila up).

Неужто скрыт судьбы закон,  
А нам надежда и терпенье  
Одни остались в утешенье?

Vladimir (shouts). Ударьте, скоморохи, в бубны,

Anna (shouts). Пусть раздаются гласы трубны!

*MUSIC. Skomorokhs play noisy musical instruments and sing around the sleeping Lyudmila. Farlaf, Anna, Vladimir close their ears. They wave to skomorokhs and the skomorokhs leave. Farlaf, Vladimir and Anna leave. Then Volchok sneaks in and sings his lullaby.*

*MUSIC. Volchok sings his lullaby (or possibly this one).*

Volchok.

Спи, дитя моё, усни!

Сладкий сон к себе мани:  
В няньки я тебе взяла  
Ветер, солнце и орла.

Улетел орёл домой;  
Солнце скрылось под водой;  
Ветер, после трёх ночей,  
Мчится к матери своей.

Ветра спрашивает мать:  
«Где изволил пропадать?  
Али звёзды воевал?  
Али волны всё гонял?»

«Не гонял я волн морских,  
Звёзд не трогал золотых;  
Я дитя оберегал,  
Колыбелочку качал!»

*Volchok covers Lyudmila with a cloak and leaves.*

## **SCENE TWENTY SEVEN (Rouslan, Cat, Lyudmila, Farlaf, Nenila, Valdimir, Anna)**

*Rouslan and Cat enter. Rouslan comes to Lyudmila and touches her with the ring. She wakes up. Rouslan lifts her up and they kiss. Lyudmila pets the Cat.*

*MUSIC.*

Rouslan (and choir?).

Дитя сестра моя  
Уедем в те края  
Где мы с тобой не разлучаться сможем,  
Где для любви века,  
Где даже смерть легка,  
В краю желанном, на тебя похожем.

*Farlaf runs across the stage and sees Nenila.*

Nenila.

Голубчик, миленький, Фарлаф!  
Тебя я дома дожидалась.  
От слёз давно промок рукав,  
И сердце чуть не разорвалось.  
Пойдём, мой суженый, домой,  
Нальём, закусим, всё по чину.  
Что толку в женщине чужой?  
Что радости в чужом мужчине?  
Детишек славных народим,  
Накопим денежек на старость,  
Царям их царства отдадим —  
Нам доля лучшая досталась!

*Rouslan does not notice anything, he is happy to see his bride. Enter Vladimir and Anna, they rush towards Lyudmila and also kiss her.*

Vladimir.

Что ж, бедствий праздная конец,  
Хочу я в гряднице высокой  
Запировать в семье своей.

Vladimir, Anna and all present to audience.

Дела давно минувших дней,

Преданья старины глубокой.  
Cat (dreamily). And they lived happily ever after.

## SCENE TWENTY EIGHT (Pushkin, Quill, Cat, Volchok)

*Pushkin chases his Quill across the stage.*

Quill.  
Делá давнó минúвших дней,  
Преданья старины глубокой.

Pushkin. Хватит! Stop writing my poems!

Quill. Поймай меня! Catch me if you can!

*Pushkin and Quill dance their chase dance. Pushkin catches the Quill and turns her upside down, the Quill stands on her feet and jumps onto Pushkin's lap. Pushkin notices everyone and stares at the actors (maybe through a lorgnette). Everyone bows to Pushkin.*

Cat. Похлопай!

*Pushkin applauds lazily.*

Cat (to the Quill). И ты похлопай!

*Quill stands behind Pushkin, holding him by the neck.*

*Pushkin frees himself from the Quill. He pulls the Cat by his tail.*

Cat (freezes while Pushkin holds her tail, to the public). It's the fact of life, nobody knows why, but poets are disrespectful with cats, even with the learned cats like myself. I am off to the Finnish magician's place.

Volchok. Will you take me with you? Возьмёшь меня с собой?

*Pushkin leaves off the Cat and offers his hand to the Quill.*

Pushkin. Let's go, we need to hurry. I'm gonna be killed in a duel at the age of 37, and after Rouslan and Lyudmila I still need to write a novel in verse, six plays, seven fairy tales, fourteen poems, fifteen pieces of prose, and 783 short lyrical poems. Пойдём скорей.

Cat. If you eventually marry her and not your wife you won't die that early. You will die in a duel with your wife's suitor, won't you?

Pushkin. I'll marry whoever I please. Weren't you going to go to that Magician's place? (Volchok pulls the Cat away).

**CURTAIN CALL MUSIC STARTS (LOW).**

*Muppets, Lilya, Ty, Sasha come out.*

Green Muppet. Marriages between Muppets and humans are legal in California, Oregon, Washington and Vermont.

Lilya. Dating a Muppet is still too American for me. I have not reached that level of political correctness.

Ty. Let's count our dates, Sasha.

Count/Znak. I love to count!

Occupy Girl to Another Occupy Girl. Now we should go ahead and occupy Broadway.

Another Occupy Girl to Occupy Girl. Let's do Hollywood, they pay better there.

*Pairs come out.*

*Pushkin, Cat, Volchok, Quill bow the last.*

*All take off masks and parts of costumes.*

**CURTAIN CALL MUSIC**

1 POSSIBILITY Good night Shelley <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bbfQkMEsosE&feature=related>

2 POSSIBILITY Ulitsa Sezam UP and DOWN <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pfIi377X2Og>