

Lenin's Body

Written by Alan Nafzger

www.screenplay.biz

alan.nafzger@screenplay.biz

TITLE SEQUENCE

We hear patriotic Soviet era music.

FADE IN

As the opening credits flash, we see black and white film footage (and then color) of the entire history of the Soviet Union - chronological from 1917 to 1991.

The music is slowly replaced with the sounds of a busy Moscow restaurant.

The P.O.V. shifts and a different series of images appear -- the interior of a contemporary Moscow restaurant, well dressed successful Russians sitting down for a meal, the men's watches, the ladies jewelry, fine leather shoes, a few close up shots of nearly gourmet quality plates presented expertly, the amounts and types of liquor on shelves behind the bar. Nothing is gray in contemporary Russia. Also people are talking, the level of noise in the restaurant tells us we are in a different era. Clearly this isn't the USSR anymore!

As the credits complete the following words appear on the screen, "Most people don't know the history of Lenin's last night before burial."

END TITLE SEQUENCE

INT. BOLSHAYA LUBYANKA 5, RESTAURANT GLAVPIVTORG - NIGHT

The restaurant is designed to feel like a Soviet bureaucrat's office from the late 1960s. Complete with Soviet times live music, you can nearly feel the secret service KGB watching over your shoulder. There are mysterious customers of the restaurant who work in the area and they happen to be people watching. They appear to be making mental notes as they wait for their food, but even also while eating.

Waitresses are dressed in old-fashioned clothes which gives us the impression that we are in the 1960's. The band in the main room is playing nostalgic 1970 music.

The story begins with two well dressed but drunken men entering the bar in the restaurant Glavpivtorg at Luybyanka. We will soon come to know the men as ALEXEI and DMITRY. It appears they have been drinking before arriving.

DMITRY waves as he walks past tables on his path to the bar. He seems to know personally a good number of important people. DMITRY is an idealistic political (Don Quixote) being.

ALEXEI has two cases of vodka. The label is a dangerous looking North American Rattlesnake coiled up in front of the Kremlin's Senatskaya Tower. The bar keeper takes one case and puts it behind the bar. The other case is put on an empty bar stool. ALEXEI is a common-sense business (Sancho Panza) being.

ALEXEI and DMITRY are quasi-successful small businessmen (the owners of a small Vodka distillery). Both are disgruntled Russian citizens.

There are three strange older TYCOONS at a table near the bar. Our first impression of them is that they have so much money and are so bored they revert to high stakes gambling with each other for entertainment. Apparently they have gambled and are watching the end of a sporting event on TV.

ALEXEI

Who will win the Mayor's election next week?

DMITRY

How should I know?

ALEXEI

Don't you work for the Mayor?

DMITRY

Forget you!

The sporting event has ended and the television news has begun. The two men are drinking at the bar and soon

watching the news of LENIN'S BODY being removed from the tomb and relocated for burial.

TV NEWS

The Kremlin is getting ready for a burial, the body of Vladimir Ilyich Lenin will now be leaving its Moscow mausoleum, early tomorrow morning. The body of the Communist icon is to be buried near Lenin's mother in St Petersburg.

CUT TO shots of the St. Peterburg grave site.

CUT to the interview of a key GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL.

VLADIMIR MENDINSKI

I will not sugarcoat my language. Lenin and his ideology both are extremely controversial historic relics and I along with millions of others call his Red Square tomb an absurd, pagan-necrophilic cathedral. A monument to national stupidity. Russia is a great country but we had a bout with momentary insanity.

CUT TO shots of a WAITRESS, sympathetic with communism, who seems agitated by the media name calling. She has stopped working to listen.

CUT TO the television news is interviewing a LADY on the on the street. She is between 50 and 60 years old.

MIDDLE AGED LADY

Well, if it were any sensible Russian's grandfather, he would be in the ground within perhaps three days. It's not natural above the ground. I viewed Lenin's body as child in a school and haven't been back.

CUT TO the television news interviewing a YOUNG MOTHER.

YOUNG MOTHER

Communism is over. Get over it,
people.

JOURNALIST

Anything else to add?

YOUNG MOTHER

Yes, and it isn't coming back.

CUT TO the television news interviewing a TEENAGE BOY on the on the street. He is between 18 and 20 years old. The Glavpivtorg WAITRESS is on the verge of becoming emotional.

YOUNG MAN

Who that dead guy they got down there?
Sure let him stay; it is a tourist
attraction and some people get their
kicks from seeing dead people.

The Glavpivtorg WAITRESS is in a fog about this. Young people are idiots. And they chose a horribly inept young man to explain a sensitive point of view. The WAITRESS says nothing but she wishes the media had interviewed her; she feels that she would have been more articulate. Probably not but the WAITRESS thinks she could, if asked, save LENIN.

CUT TO shots of the Red Square mausoleum.

TV NEWS (V.O.)

The body of Lenin will now be leaving
its Moscow mausoleum, though many
Russians have called for the leader of
the Bolshevik Revolution to remain in
Red Square.

CUT TO communist WOMAN being interviewed on the street.

COMMUNIST WOMAN

The President of Russia accepted the
decision to take the body of V.I.

Lenin from the Mausoleum and bury him in Leningrad. The initiator of this provocation is the hierarchy of the Russian Orthodox Church. Our Soviet comrades in Russia, plus other Communist parties of the world have opposed such measures and have moved to towards UNITY in defense of Lenin. But, it appears that the present Mafiosi regime that is running the Kremlin shall have their way. It is a sad day.

CUT TO shots of a WAITRESS and communist WOMAN who nods in agreement. There is almost a tear and the funeral isn't until tomorrow.

TV NEWS (V.O.)

During the funerals of past Soviet leaders there was a custom of displaying their decorations on velvet cushions, which were carried in the procession behind the coffin. This task was traditionally given to an escort of senior officers, each carrying a cushion with one decoration on it. The current members of the Central Committee have been invited to participate.

CUT TO footage from Brezhnev's funeral.

TV NEWS (V.O.)

Tomorrow morning around 10 am, the Moscow militia will seal off parts of downtown Moscow during the funeral. Large avenues will be tightly guarded by the police and the Moscow military garrison. The coffin will be carried from the Mausoleum by Russian military officers to the railcar that will take the body to Saint Petersburg. In Saint Petersburg, as Lenin's body is lowered into the grave a military squad will

salute while an orchestra plays the
Soviet national anthem.

CUT TO footage of Latin American leaders stepping off the
plane after arriving.

TV NEWS (V.O.)

The funeral will be attended by the
heads of state of Cuba, Equator,
Venezuela and the United States.
"Four" heads of state have agreed to
attend.

CUT TO shots of the Russian FOREIGN MINISTER at
a rostrum speaking to reporters.

FOREIGN MINISTER

You have to understand why there
aren't more dignitaries in attendance.
This isn't an insult to Russia. It is
simply that when I was in school 1/3
of the nations were communist and now
there are only a handful. It's a thing
from the past, totally unrelated to
today's foreign relations.

REPORTER

Who will meet the heads of state at
the airport?

FOREIGN MINISTER

The Communist Party has insisted that
they be allowed to greet the arrivals.
And by the way they have insisted that
no member of the current government be
in the burial party. It is totally
their sceptical.

CUT TO shots of the St. Petersburg Church and Cemetery.

TV NEWS (V.O.)

Ironically the body will be laid to
rest in a cemetery owned by the
Russian Orthodox Church. Lenin ordered

the arrest of priests as the enemies of revolution and saboteurs, executed them without mercy. Lenin Ordered that churches should be shut down. The cathedrals have to be sealed and used as warehouses. Strangely, the man who unleashed a massacre of Orthodox priests was a baptized Orthodox Christian. Throughout 1922 alone at least eight thousand priests, monks and nuns were executed according to Lenin's orders.

DMITRY

Criminal egotist, that will serve him right. Eternity in the shadow of a church.

ALEXEI and DMITRY are increasingly drunk and toast to LENIN being buried in a church yard. They chuckle a bit at that.

ALEXEI

And NEXT to his mother!!!

ALEXEI and DMITRY laugh loudly and drunkenly. Now we know they are VERY VERY drunk.

COMMUNIST WAITRESS

You people are pigs. It was audacious to suggest that Vladimir Lenin's body be moved from its mausoleum in Red Square.

ALEXEI and DMITRY have this unbelieving blank look on their face. One meets communists in the strangest places, but it is increasingly rare.

DMITRY

(Oink Oink)

Хрю-хрю

COMMUNIST WAITRESS

Lenin presided over one of the most ambitious socio-political transformations in history. To build a new society based on proletarian internationalism. He created a Bolshevik state, instituted the social justice, and evicted and punished Russian nobility, property owners, clerics and other "old world" classes.

ALEXEI and DMITRY are so drunk they simply stare at her. Perhaps they are too drunk to respond, but there is also the old adage, "If you are debating an idiot and want to win, simply let the other talk."

COMMUNIST WAITRESS

The great Lenin left us a socialist country, and you have pissed it away. And YOU want to falsify history. You want to bury not just his body, but his ideas. I am a Soviet citizen! This isn't my country.

The WAITRESS wants to debate but she's not aware of how drunk the men are. She waits for their response. And even if sober I'm not sure if they would argue with her. Neither men acknowledge the legally insane they encounter on the streets of Moscow. They simply observe. They are certain that Russia has tired of the debate, it is pointless. The men simply stare.

COMMUNIST WAITRESS

This is a decision for all Soviet nations to make together. No one asked the Belorussians or the Ukranians.

DMITRY

I called the Uzbeks and the Kazakhs.

ALEXEI

I called the Tajiks.

ALEXEI AND DMITRY

No one answered the phone. Perhaps they were out of the office, BURYING THEIR DEAD?

Tonight, ALEXEI and DMITRY are too drunk to debate a communist, but they will always lampoon her. The tycoons all chuckle. The waitress spins around and gives the wealthy men at the table a scornful look.

For the waitress this only confirms her ideas about the new Russia and she returns taking drinks to various tables. She is angry.

After a laugh, ALEXEI and DMITRY look at each other they go back to drinking. Today and tomorrow are just like any other day in the new Russia. One TYCOON seems to be watching and are near enough to hear the conversation. Why is he so interested in the conversation?

ALEXEI

Do you remember in school stealing Kirilenko's 27 volume Complete Works of Lenin?

DMITRY

That old communist. The worst teachers were ideology teachers. How is that? Is he dead yet?

(pause)

If he didn't want them stolen and placed in the children's library on the other side of town, then he shouldn't have mentioned them to us EVERY SINGLE DAY.

(mockingly)

"I own. I have in my possession. Someday you might have a complete set."

ALEXEI

We should steal Lenin's body and leave it at his door.

The OLDEST TYCOON has excellent hearing and motions for the others to listen. It appears that the TYCOONS have been contemplating something along these lines.

DMITRY

I was just thinking this. He would die! He would have a heart attack.

ALEXEI

Or, hold the body for ransom.

DMITRY

Oh, I am a facebook friend of the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Russia. We will post him a photograph of Lenin in front of your vodka factory.

ALEXEI

Why are you friends with him?

DMITRY

Occasions come up and I think he enjoys the ridicule. But lets do it. I need to poke him in the eye for this week.

ALEXEI

I need the ransom.

DMITRY

It will be in the newspapers.

ALEXEI

Will they become angry at Facebook?

DMITRY

Yes, the American's will be more angry than the Communist Party of Russia. Obama worships Lenin.

ALEXEI

Really?

DMITRY

Odd. We are free and the Americans are now slaves to the government.

ALEXEI

Your account will be suspended.

DMITRY

A small price to pay.

ALEXEI

How much do you think we can get?

DMITRY

About 20 years.

ALEXEI

That isn't very much money.

DMITRY

They are communists. You won't get any money from them. They don't have any.

ALEXEI

But they have a building.

DMITRY

They won't ever trade that.

ALEXEI

Maybe we can get the government to pay.

DMITRY

The civil unrest angle is good. If the communists will pay for enough protesters, then we can argue, "we better give these crazy people their dead body back or there will be a riot." True?

ALEXEI

Riots can be expensive.

DMITRY

Elections are nearing.

ALEXEI

You will be our spokesperson. You are good at that. You talk and I will ransom them Lenin's body for something...

DMITRY

Don't say "ransom". In fact, it isn't a good idea to ask for money.

ALEXEI

You are probably right there. They are the criminals. We are only temporary law breakers.

The THREE TYCOONS have been very near the entire time, unnoticed by the men. But during the conversation they have discussed things and they have now stood up and approached ALEXEI and DMITRY.

TYCOON

Gentlemen, I have a proposition. We have a proposition.

CUT TO five minutes later...

EXT. BOLSHAYA LUBYANKA 5, SIDEWALK - NIGHT

ALEXEI and DMITRY charge out of the restaurant's front door onto the sidewalk. The TYCOON hands ALEXEI a wad of rubles, rather a lot of money. DMITRY falls down the steps leaving the restaurant, a YOUNG WOMAN, in expensive shoes, almost steps on him.

DMITRY

Help. I've fallen and I can't get up.

The WOMAN steps over him and walks past. ALEXEI and DMITRY have been friends since their kindergarten days and they have picked each other up numerous time in the past.

Almost sleepy drunk inside, the men have now been invigorated by an idea. The body language shows them to be drunk still but they are quickly making their way to a taxi.

ALEXEI

Can this be done?

DMITRY looks down the street and motions for a taxi when one is already waiting for them to step in. DMITRY, looking down the street and motioning for a taxi, walks into the rear quarter panel of a taxi. Once they realize there is a taxi only feet away, ALEXEI turns quickly to get in and bangs his the side of his head against a light pole. How will they steal a political icon, when they can't even load into a taxi?

DMITRY

We will go see if it is possible.

ALEXEI

How many guards?

DMITRY

Historically many. But tomorrow he is to be buried. And I think the communists already have control of him. They insisted the entire country be handed back to them, I think. But we only gave them a dead body instead.

(pause)

Besides, who would steal his body the night before burial?

ALEXEI & DMITRY

Us!

ALEXEI puts the remaining vodka case in the seat between them as they take the taxi toward the centre of Moscow.

The TAXI DRIVER looks oddly like Timur Bekmanbetov. However our first impression of him is a somber and unemotional robot type of a driver. He is not cheerful or

flamboyant at this time. His eyes are totally fixed on the road before him. Has no expression on his face and he obeys all the traffic laws. He drives slower than the speed limit.

He appears to be a very careful driver. There are several opportunities for the TAXI DRIVER to pull out into the traffic but he decides to play it safe and wait for a better opportunity. Finally a chance presents itself and the TAXI DRIVER gently eases into traffic.

A few blocks and the TAXI DRIVER says nothing. They are traveling in the direction of Red Square anyway, so nothing is said. ALEXEI and DMITRY are trying to calculate the risk involved in their adventure but they have had far too much to drink. Ten blocks into the ride ALEXEI has a question for the TAXI DRIVER, ALEXEI tapping the driver on the shoulder.

ALEXEI

Excuse me sir.

TAXI DRIVER

AHHHH!!!

The startled and screaming TAXI DRIVER, swerving the taxi across three lanes of traffic, narrowly misses six cars and a very large truck.

Finally he stops the car on the opposite shoulder. The Moscovites keep going on about their business.

ALEXEI and DMITRY are thoroughly shaken.

ALEXEI

What the heck was that all about?

TAXI DRIVER

I'm sorry; this is my first day on the job, I've been driving a hearse for the last thirty years!

The men think about that. Evidently the driver thought a corpse had risen. There is a pause as they contemplate. DMITRY sees the irony.

DMITRY

He is the man for the job.

ALEXEI

Have you ever crashed on the way to the crematorium?

TAXI DRIVER

Never with the coffin occupied.

DMITRY

Near enough. You are hired!

ALEXEI doesn't want to hire him. He shakes his head no.

DMITRY

Look how many cars he just narrowly avoided. Clearly he is a skilled driver. Any less skilled we could have been easily killed.

ALEXEI relents and agrees, nodding his head.

TAXI DRIVER

Where to?

ALEXEI

Somewhere to sober up!

Now that he realizes his cargo is alive, the strange TAXI DRIVER is VERY talkative. He is no longer the careful hearse driver but a charming and cheerful host.

TAXI DRIVER

Oh, who wants to be sober. It is still early. Let's party! You are in the right taxi. I know everything to do.

DMITRY

I thought you were a hearse driver
until today.

TAXI DRIVER

It is true; and now I have a lot of
living to do.

TAXI DRIVER

My duties included picking up deceased
persons from their homes, hospitals or
other places and delivering them to
the funeral home, physically lifting
deceased persons into coffins,
assisting mourners at the funeral home
or at the cemetery, arranging mats and
other equipment at the burial site or
cleaning up after a wake. I've seen
all that.

TAXI DRIVER

Now, lets go pick up some half naked
girls from their homes, schools, bars
or other places and delivering them to
the your apartment.

(very talkative)

Hey is the government crazy? Why
focus on prostitution on Tzverskya
Street? They say the citizens are
hostile to prostitutes and they burned
the care van, which offers sex workers
condoms, sandwiches and social
services.

If citizen groups in the Putin section
of Tzverskya pushed the women off the
traditional stroll along the avenue,
the women will move to yet another
street.

DMITRY

What is wrong with that?

TAXI DRIVER

How will I find them?

We spent at least \$30 million in 2013 arresting and prosecuting streetwalkers in Moscow. Each arrest for "loitering with intent to prostitute" costs taxpayers about 10,900 rubles. Arresting Johns in a sting operation costs even more.

Russia could put a prostitute on the moon for that kind of money!

The TAXI DRIVER is becoming angered and begins to shout.

TAXI DRIVER

AND what is with the mayor? He signed a bill that slaps a fine on cabbies who transport hookers.

DMITRY

The mayor?

TAXI DRIVER

These communists are worse than the last bunch. Everything is against the law and they like it that way.

DMITRY

He isn't a communist.

TAXI DRIVER

(The devil rebuking sin)

Ахал бы дядя, на себя глядя.

TAXI DRIVER

Drivers could mistake scantily clad women – including unfortunately my own daughters – as working girls. Some of the taxi drivers will have to decide who is a prostitute or not when they pick them up and I would like to point out in this day and age, you know, our

young people go out clubbing and they wear very risqué outfits.

DMITRY

This job is a little more complicated than your old job?

The taxi has slowed because of heavy traffic and stop lights. The window is down and the TAXI DRIVER is excited and shouting.

TAXI DRIVER

How do you know? Is that woman a hooker?

The WOMAN on the sidewalk looks quickly. The taxi moves to ANOTHER WOMAN.

TAXI DRIVER

What about that one? Is she a prostitute?

The DRIVER pauses for a breath. ALEXEI and DMITRY's brains are traveling about 50 km per hour. The driver's mind and mouth are traveling 200 km per hour. They can't get a word into the conversation.

TAXI DRIVER

As many as 60,000 women work in the sex trade in Moscow. About 15% of the street prostitutes are HIV+. In my hometown, I know a girl. Natasha earned 500 roubles a month (25 dollars), a pittance compared to the 25,000 roubles she is now paid for performing sexual acts in Moscow.

He pauses for a breath. Instructions are almost given, but the driver begins again.

TAXI DRIVER

The Bible had Babylon, Sodom and Gomorah. Taxi drivers have Moscow.

The TAXI DRIVER is smiling and confident like a young man, just out of school and at his first days work. Cheerfully he looks to the future of his endeavour. He pauses for a breath.

DMITRY
(rapidly)
Red Square.

TAXI DRIVER
Prostitution in Russia became common after Peter the Great's military reforms that created a sizable class of unmarried men who were serving in the military. These soldiers started generating a demand for prostitution.

DMITRY
You seem to know a lot about this.

TAXI DRIVER
Sure. Every woman's price is different, however most tend to charge: phone calls, cuddling, eating out, jewelry, living together, "having a relationship", marriage, listening to her feelings, flowers, new clothes and other assorted trinkets. However, there is a magical, wonderful, very special kind of women who will have sex with you and never expect to see you again, who will never expect you to call again (though she will be happy if you do), who, after sex.... will leave! These angels of god are called "Prostitutes" and the special art form they perform is called "prostitution." Auteur theory!

The TAXI DRIVER might not be totally normal but he is cheerful and he might simply be a lonely man. This taxi ride may be the first time in months he has had a live audience and he will talk about anything. Despite the

dialogue and repugnant nature of prostitution, chiefly the TAXI DRIVER is a charming man. As long as he is telling the truth what is the harm in the TAXI DRIVER's philosophy?

AND, this is a man's film. Women will not be crazy about this movie. The film is about two (or three if you count the TAXI DRIVER) drunk men who steal a dead body; there isn't anyway to make it more appealing to women, so don't try. The man is buying the two tickets to this film and it is simple economics. ☺

EXT. NOT NEAR LENIN'S TOMB ON RED SQUARE

The taxi stops near a kiosk and both men get out of the taxi. The TAXI DRIVER is still talking. He is now talking to himself.

TAXI DRIVER

The hearse has an odd relationship with the public. On one hand the hearse is seen as highly symbolic, wrapped up in meaning and significance, representing a variety of things from death to tradition.

Yet at the same time, the public only takes a short glance at the hearse, looking upon it briefly and noticing little past the color. The hearse is iconic, bound up in so much significant symbolism; it is so much more than just a car for carrying coffins about.

ALEXEI and DMITRY stand in line.

DMITRY

Do you think that guy is okay?

ALEXEI

Who?

DMITRY

The taxi driver.

CUT TO the TAXI DRIVER who it appears is still talking, to himself. He has been driving a hearse his entire life and is a man without a wife? But perhaps crazy? We don't know for certain yet.

DMITRY

You think he will drink your vodka?
It's in the back seat.

ALEXEI

The best cabbies can shoot a goofball in their neck going eighty in heavy Moscow traffic so that the passengers won't even notice.

They buy two common generic bottles of vodka. There is a case, rather a lot, of ALEXEI'S Rattlesnake Vodka now in the taxi but they buy a different brand. Why?

They enter the cab and the driver is still talking.

The TAXI DRIVER has changed his tone. Seeing Red Square has made him think. As he is parked, he talks to passersby on the street's sidewalk. He has a phrase for each person who walks past his taxi.

TAXI DRIVER

Don't steal, don't lie and don't cheat. The government hates competition!

Communism is inequality, but not as property is. Property is exploitation of the weak by the strong. Communism is exploitation of the strong by the weak.

It was wrong to allow Stalin to shape the European landscape of the 20th century. It would be even more wrong

to let him shape the landscape of the 21st century.

We Communists are men on leave.

Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred.

Most people who read "The Communist Manifesto" probably have no idea that it was written by a couple of young men who had never worked a day in their lives, and who nevertheless spoke boldly in the name of "the workers".

CUT TO five minutes later..

EXT. VERY NEAR LENIN'S TOMB ON RED SQUARE

They exit the cab. ALEXEI takes a bottle of the Rattlesnake Vodka with him.

ALEXEI

Don't drive away and don't drink my vodka.

(pause)

Here take this. Drink this instead.

ALEXEI hands one of the common vodka bottles to the TAXI DRIVER.

ALEXEI

(to DMITRY under his breath)

We might need him to get us out of here.

(to the TAXI DRIVER loudly)

Don't drink my vodka. Okay?

INT. METRO CAR NEAR LENIN LIBRARY METRO STATION

A group of OLD COMMUNIST MEN, dressed in black and wearing far too many medals, are riding the Metro toward

the mausoleum. The medals however aren't insignificant; they are the highest orders of the USSR. They are all nearly 90 years old; the other occupants of the Metro car are young hip and have no idea who they are, or who they were. However they intimidate and are creeping out the people around them.

The film's director and art director can paint a very nice picture here. The old Soviet Russia looks out of place standing next to the new Russian youth on a Metro car at 11:55 am. The OLD MEN see young people making out, doing drugs, dancing to modern music. This is a good rule for this entire film; there must be "culture clash" in each and every scene.

EXT. NEAR LENIN'S TOMB ON RED SQUARE

ALEXEI and DMITRY stand around a bit. People at the square begin to thin out and go home or to hotels. Working up their nerve, drinking more of the common vodka, they stand and watch. They take a step in the right direction once every ten minutes. They become more drunk than they already were and finally stumble up to the entrance to the tomb.

EXT. NEAR LENIN LIBRARY METRO STATION

The group of OLD COMMUNIST MEN are walking toward the mausoleum. It appears they are late. They are checking their wristwatches. They speed up but they are all nearly 90 years old. They are going to be late.

EXT. NEAR LENIN'S TOMB ON RED SQUARE

ALEXEI and DMITRY look like incompetent boobs but, this early in the movie, but fate may be on their side. Films have a funny way of finding an unlikely pathway for heroes. Of course the audience expects them to be arrested.

GUARD'S RADIO

Five more minutes and then we can leave
this work forever.

Red Square is almost empty. As ALEXEI and DMITRY inch their way nearer to liver failure and the tomb, we see there are several guards, but they are all watching their wristwatches. They don't appear very attentive.

However, ALEXEI and DMITRY have ventured too near the tomb. The guard's supervisor confronts them.

SUPERVISING GUARD
(to the ALEXEI)
You aren't allowed to drink this near the tomb. I could arrest you.

GUARD
(over the radio)
Do you see Tanya waiting for me?

We see that there is a beautiful young woman apparently waiting for a soldier. The guard waves to her, against the rules.

SUPERVISING GUARD
(to the radio)
Knock it off and stay focus. Four minutes of duty and then you can play your games.

SUPERVISING GUARD
(to the ALEXEI)
Now about you two. You are drunk at a national monument.

ALEXEI
But your job is almost finished.

DMITRY
And technically we won't be drunk until four more minutes.

SUPERVISING GUARD
I could confiscate your vodka.

ALEXEI shows the guard that he is holding an empty bottle of the common vodka.

SUPERVISING GUARD

We shall see.

The supervising guard searches ALEXEI and finds the bottle of Rattlesnake Vodka in his coat pocket. The guard confiscates it.

DMITRY

It's not even opened yet.

The guard opens the bottle.

SUPERVISING GUARD

It looks open to me.

The guard is about to drink.

ALEXEI

I wouldn't do that.

The supervising guard raises his gun, looks at them with a hateful look, like the guard might be willing to arrest or beat them. ALEXEI relents.

ALEXEI

Okay. Okay. You can have it.

The supervising guard takes a long hard drink. He suddenly has a cheerful warm smile come across his face. He has turned from angry to jolly in a few seconds.

DMITRY

What time is it?

SUPERVISING GUARD

(to the radio)

Friends, compatriots, lovers.

ALEXEI and DMITRY worry about the use of the word "lover". Has the Rattlesnake Vodka had an effect?

SUPERVISING GUARD

(to the radio)

We have reached the end of a long journey guarding Comrade Lenin and now I invite you to my location to share a

drink of confiscated vodka to wish ourselves happiness and a job well done. You are off duty now officially. Come and have a drink.

ALEXEI and DMITRY are relieved.

The guards crowd around and pass Rattlesnake Vodka to and from each other. They shake hands hug each other and suddenly all five or six guards simply walk off the job. Their orders have been satisfied and they all walk off their post.

Some walk toward Metro stations. Some walk to cars, some simple walk off with their girlfriends who have been waiting for them. One gets on a bicycle and rides off.

There aren't any replacements. Momentarily, there is no security. The old guard communists have not arrived to take charge of the body.

ALEXEI

The body is already gone.

DMITRY sees a faint light through the tomb entrance.

DMITRY

Perhaps not.

INT. LENIN'S TOMB ON RED SQUARE

The tomb is empty but the light source is coming from a secret door that opens into a stairwell down.

ALEXEI

See it is gone already.

DMITRY

(imitating guards)

Talk is forbidden! Go!

The two men walk carefully down the stairs. Under the vault is a treatment room and we see LENIN. He is under glass and there are many monitoring devices on the walls.

It is all very high tech. It looks like the control room of a nuclear power plant. Everything is very white and sterile.

ALEXEI

(chuckling)

Tomorrow the body will be in the ground, who would disturb the corpse at this late moment?

They go deeper into the underground complex. They can see through large glass windows. There is an outer office with a technologist and then a larger room that opens up into the Metro-2 tunnel system.

There are at least 6 FPS guards there. No one is watching the 12 security camera monitors, but they are all gathered in a group, smoking and it appears they are telling jokes. The supervising guard brings them the bottle of Rattlesnake Vodka. He appears to be wishing them all the best of luck.

The security are now all having a drink; it makes them blind to ALEXEI and DMITRY. They check their watches and gather their gear to leave. The last soldiers walk away and down a tunnel, out of the mausoleum area.

The scientist in the office who supervises climate, chemicals and the mortuary technology is viewing pornography on the internet.

There is a slight din with all the machines turning. But it is also very quiet.

ALEXEI and DMITRY stare at the body for a very long time. There is a large fly in the room.

DMITRY

(whispering)

The fly is walking on the glass. Look he has a skilled indifference to the world. This is not an insignificant insect. He has the dream to enter the

nose of the leader of the world
proletariat.

ALEXEI

(whispering)

Yes it is very difficult to trick a
fly.

ALEXEI and DMITRY motion to each other which end of the glass they will lift. They are successful removing the glass. The body is like a store manikin and is basically plastic. DMITRY thumps it with his finger. It makes a hollow sound much like a watermelon. The elated fly enters the nose of LENIN.

They stand the body up and take a photo with DMITRY's smartphone. The photo is posted to Facebook friends and sent to the phone of the Communist Party leader.

INT. THE MODEST APARTMENT OF COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER

The Communist Party LEADER is there at the kitchen table. His WIFE is nagging at him to take out the trash. The phone signals a text message. Relieved at the interruption, he picks up the phone and the man's eyes become very large. He then makes a phone call.

EXT. JUST OUT OF SIGHT OF LENIN'S TOMB ON RED SQUARE

The COMMUNIST MOB that is coming to guard LENIN through the night gets a phone call. They become panicked, as they are clearly late. They try to pick up the pace and aren't able.

EXT. FROM RED SQUARE TO TVERSKAYA

ALEXEI and DMITRY walk out of the tomb with the body like a manikin and it looks remarkably light.

LENIN has arrived in public for the first time since 1924! Vladimir Ilyich. COMRADE LENIN! There are no proletarian cheers!

TOURIST

Hey there is one of those street impersonators. It's Lenin and he's drunk.

ALEXEI and DMITRY smile but don't stop walking.

DMITRY

Show some compassion. Lenin is being buried tomorrow. This is a great performer and actor and tomorrow his career is over. Of course he is drunk.

It is dark of course; night in Moscow, but ALEXEI fumbles to takes out his hip looking sunglasses. They accidentally drop the LENIN'S BODY but manage to put the glasses on LENIN..

DMITRY, drunk and trying to walk a straight line with a dead body, takes out his cell phone. They accidentally drop the body again.

GIRL

National Hotel. This is Anya. How can I help you?

DMITRY

I need a room in about 10 mins.

ANYA

What date are you looking for?

DMITRY

Now! I have a very important government dignitary who has arrived for the funeral and for some reason we didn't book a room.

ANYA

Don't worry. We can take care of that. Oh, here it is. How long will he be staying?

DMITRY

Tonight.

ANYA

How many adults will be in the room?

DMITRY

One.

ANYA

There are is only one vacancy left. It is a non-smoking room.

DMITRY

Non-smoking. Fine.

ANYA

Great. This is a visiting head of state?

DMITRY

Only here for one day. Yes.

ANYA

That will be room 107. At the desk just say, 107 and we will have everything ready.

DMITRY

Great we will be there in about two mins.

ANYA

The dining room is open from 4 pm until 10 pm. We have an indoor swimming pool and sauna. We serve a continental breakfast. Cable television is included, but the movie channel is extra.

DMITRY

No movies, thank you.

ALEXEI

Lenin liked movies.

LENIN, ALEXEI and DMITRY walk through the front door of the hotel.

ANYA

The rate I can give you is 16,560 with tax. How will you be paying?

INT. HOTEL NATIONAL LOBBY

DMITRY hangs up the phone. He is now standing at the desk talking to ANYA. She assumes that DMITRY is from the Russian government.

DMITRY

Cash. Room 107.

ANYA

Oh, that was fast.

ALEXEI is standing with LENIN, their backs turned away, in a corner of the lobby. They look discreet. ALEXEI seems to be admiring the architecture. LENIN is staring at a painting on the wall.

DMITRY pays with most of the cash he was given by the tycoon. At this moment, a huge number of loud and obnoxious Americans rush into the lobby. It is the American presidential detail -- young white socialist American girls in tight skirts, who think they are important, Democrats and huge black American football sized Secret Service for protection. We can see the presidential flag on the limo outside.

There are probably thirty or forty people in the group and they surround a black man we can't clearly see. But cigarette smoke is rising up from the middle of the Americans. They don't stop moving. They pass through the lobby, oblivious.

Anya produces a key but DMITRY is too slow taking it. A U.S. Secret Service Agent lightening quick grabs the key to room 107 and keeps walking.

DMITRY is dumbfounded and thinks about explaining to the hotel that there is a problem. But, he can't. He looks at LENIN. He looks down the hall. One of the young White House interns has already changed into some rather sexy pajamas and enters room 107. She has some ice and a Coke. There are far too many large black security people between DMITRY and room 107 and the American president seems to be already in room 107. All is lost!

CUT TO ALEXEI, DMITRY and LENIN's faces. All three expressions read: "Please kill me".

DMITRY and ALEXEI, and LENIN also, are shell-shocked. They have come so close to being safe and out of sight in a hotel room. And, at the last moment, success has been snatched from their hands by the ugly Americans. The dead body and ALEXEI leave out the front door.

The last of the Americans to arrive, a small accountant type walks to the desk.

WHITE HOUSE CPA

Hi, I guess we need to settle up.

ANYA

No need sir; it has already been taken care of.

WHITE HOUSE CPA

Why thank you. I appreciate that. We appreciate that.

A committed socialist, the White House CPA's chest swells with pride. This not having to pay makes the CPA feel good about his politics/religion. He thinks to himself, "The American President, leader of the world proletariat doesn't have to pay."

ANYA

No problem. Have him give us a ring if he needs anything.

EXT. TVERSKAYA STREET

ALEXEI and DMITRY are weaving left and right and moving at a relatively defeated speed as they move away from the Hotel National. They are dejected and depressed.

At this point in the movie, they encounter a passersby who comments that ALEXEI and DMITRY's friend doesn't look too healthy.

PASSERSBY

Your friend doesn't look healthy.

DMITRY

He just needs some sleep.

They are walking in the direction of the nearest hotel. They say nothing.

DMITRY

(seems to be praying)

Next hotel, five minutes.

They don't have a plan but the logical thing to do would be to walk to the next hotel and be quickly out of sight. However their plan is disrupted. It seems there are a group of Cuban security personnel moving their way. It's the Cuban leader. Certainly he will recognize LENIN. ALEXEI and DMITRY turn on a dime and head back toward the waiting taxi and Red Square.

INT. LENIN'S TOMB ON RED SQUARE

The group of OLD MEN enter the tomb and discovers no body. They say nothing but instinctually pull a few tables together and begin a meeting.

Only one member of the group leaves to go outside. He is an ex-KGB agent. YURI KRYUCHKOV is the very old former First Deputy Chairmen of the KGB. He is the illegitimate

son of Yuri Andropov. He is the only ex-policeman in the group the rest were bureaucrats/propagandists. KRYUCHKOV is watching/studying everything and everyone.

KRYUCHKOV is very old but he is a bloodhound of a policeman.

EXT. RED SQUARE, OLD COMMUNIST PARTY HEADQUARTERS

After a long walk, ALEXEI and DMITRY reach the Old Communist Party Headquarters. Fortunately the security people aren't paying too much attention and they are at a good distance. No one notices them.

EXT. SIDEWALK 4 STARAYA SQUARE

ALEXEI and DMITRY, with LENIN, make it to the street in front of 4 Staraya Square, they take a photo with LENIN. In the background is the former Communist Party Headquarters and all the newspapers being sold there now.

But before long, they are approached by a policeman. ALEXEI and DMITRY see him first and they manage to throw the body in the back of a newspaper delivery truck. The truck drives away unaware of the body in the back.

ALEXEI and DMITRY are approached by the policeman, who look at their identification. He looks at their clothes and their watches, their expensive shoes.

POLICEMAN

Go home and sober up.

We faintly hear KRYUCHKOV. He is yelling at a distance.

YURI KRYUCHKOV

They have stolen the glorious leader;
arrest them. мурак! Arrest them.

But KRYUCHKOV is too feeble to be heard. He is too old to catch them. But still he is a fine figure of a man and certainly the epitome of Soviet toughness and perseverance.

ALEXEI and DMITRY are rescued by the TAXI DRIVER. They can now follow the newspaper truck. We have a very special TAXI DRIVER. However, he is still talking.

TAXI DRIVER

And you should never say anything to a woman that even remotely suggests that you think she's pregnant unless you can see an actual baby emerging from her at that moment.

ALEXEI AND DMITRY

Follow that truck.

TAXI DRIVER

Why? I don't need any James Bond shit. Okay?

DMITRY

No. No that is our Uncle Vladimir.

TAXI DRIVER

Good, because I'm in the mood for any night long madcap hare-brained adventure. You damn kids are gonna make me old.

ALEXEI pulls out a load of cash from his pocket.

ALEXEI

We have money.

TAXI DRIVER

Okay, lets go!

ALEXEI and DMITRY are too nervous to listen to their DRIVER. Their eyes are darting left and right. They are afraid of being caught. The TAXI DRIVER begins to talk to himself complaining. He is drinking the common brand of vodka but he is making perfect sense. He just talks a lot.

TAXI DRIVER

(slightly drunk)

You want to know what is wrong with Moscow? The taxes, the government, the people, the television, the traffic. If you had to identify, in one word, the reason why the human race has not achieved, and never will achieve, its full potential, that word would be "traffic"; will you just look at all these mother lovin' cars.

He pauses. Of course it is 1:00 am and there aren't that many people out.

TAXI DRIVER

The utilities, I hate the electric company, the crime, losers, winners, the immigration rules, whores less than \$250, the rude people, fast food, self-esteem, lesbians now many times that is a perfect waste (sometimes not), American movies, imported liquor.

The TAXI DRIVER talks non-stop until later in the film. This film needs a true Muscovite actor that can adlib.

EXT. TVERSKAYA STREET

The taxi passes the Hotel National. There are ten or twelve black and Hispanic American Secret Service protection agents standing on the sidewalk at the Hotel, they are joined by at least thirty Moscow working girls. They are having conversations that look something like negotiations. It looks to the passer by as if there is a call girl convention. The taxi drives past but looking over the agents' shoulder we can see a short glimpse of the young intern bouncing up and down. The American president didn't pull the window shade.

The newspaper truck makes a u-turn to make its next delivery. While the driver unloads some newspapers,

ALEXEI and DMITRY jump in the back of the truck and retrieve the body of LENIN.

But while crossing Tverskaya Street to get back to the taxi, there is an accident. DMITRY drops his side of the body runs for the sidewalk and LENIN's body is hit by a speeding police car, which doesn't stop. It is a glancing blow much like a bull running past a matador. One leg is badly broken. ALEXEI is unharmed.

ALEXEI and DMITRY watch the police car as it races out of sight.

ALEXEI

What did you do that for?

DMITRY

You wouldn't come on and I didn't want to get hit.

ALEXEI

I didn't hear it.

DMITRY

We are drunk.

They look for the police car which has disappeared in the distance. DMITRY hopes and wishes.

DMITRY

I wish, for Russia's sake, the car would stop and be accountable.

ALEXEI

Yes, so we can leave the body and run?

DMITRY

This is wishing for too much? That a police car would stop after injuring a citizen.

DMITRY seems on the verge of a long poetic speech about government and politics and public accountability. He

seems to be creating some words, but they never materialize.

ALEXEI

He isn't a citizen anymore and this is Russia. No police car has ever stopped.

DMITRY

Perhaps you are correct.

They look around and the taxi isn't to be seen.

EXT. SIDEWALK TVERSKAYA STREET

There is a YOUNG COUPLE leaving a gym on Tverskaya Street. They turn and progress down the sidewalk. The man is a BODY BUILDER and he has been lifting weights and working out on a Saturday night. The woman is his FIANCÉ. She has had to come fetch him from the gym. They are arguing with each other. He is a Neanderthal type of Russian man. She is the unsophisticated urban type of Russian woman.

FIANCÉ

Come on lets go dancing.

BODY BUILDER

No, I would be embarrassed.

FIANCÉ

You won't be embarrassed; it will be fun.

(smiling)

You can show off your body.

BODY BUILDER

I'm not going to dance. I want to eat.

FIANCÉ

(angry)

Forget you.

The FIANCÉ runs down the sidewalk looking for a night club without a waiting line. She is having a hard time getting in. Many people are waiting to enter.

FIANCÉ

(to the night club staff)

Guys you have to let me in. I've had it and I want to dance! This guy won't leave me alone. Can you help me?

BODY BUILDER

Where are you going?

FIANCÉ

I'm going to have a good time.

BODY BUILDER

You want a good dancer?

FIANCÉ

I want to have fun.

BODY BUILDER

I'm having fun.

FIANCÉ

Yes, you eat and you lift weights.
Tons of fun for me.

BODY BUILDER

So, I can lift a Hyundai over my head.
Get over here.

The FIANCÉ looks at LENIN, just a random face on the street. But she gives him a sexy look.

FIANCÉ

You guys want to go dancing?

The BODY BUILDER becomes insanely jealous and picks LENIN up over his head (clean and jerk). He is in a rage from his testosterone overdose. LENIN's broken leg swings down and hits (kicks) the body builder in the face. His nose

begins to bleed. His tough guy image is destroyed for about two seconds.

The body builder throws LENIN and ALEXEI and DMITRY catch him. They stand LENIN up and the body builder punches LENIN in the face. LENIN is unfazed by the punch, so the body builder hits him again and harder.

The DOORKEEPERS at the club find a place for the girl to escape the scene.

CLUB STAFF

Lady, you can go in now.

She enters the night club. The BODY BUILDER pushes his way through the club staff. The STAFF has watched the man punch LENIN twice and don't resist too much. The BODY BUILDER follows his FIANCÉ inside.

Mysteriously from down the street, shaking his cane at them, the former KGB official KRYUCHKOV is suddenly there. The taxi reappears just in time to save them.

KRYUCHKOV

You have pushed the leader in front of a speeding police car and broken his leg. He has been attacked by the athlete. You are going to prison. Ты чертовски вырождается!

They throw LENIN in the back of the taxi with his head sticking out the window.

TAXI DRIVER

(slightly drunk)

And I hate those cops that think they are above the law. They speed and don't follow the traffic laws. Well who will give them a ticket? I would like to give them a ticket.

INT. TAXI

The TAXI DRIVER turns around to look at LENIN.

TAXI DRIVER

I told you guys no bull shit.

DMITRY

Oh, you think this is a dead body.

TAXI DRIVER

Yes. I do have some experience.

DMITRY

It's a manikin from a store window.
Look see how light he is.

DMITRY bounces LENIN up and down and LENIN's head hits the car door a few times.

DMITRY

He is plastic. See made in China.

DMITRY pulls up his pants leg pretending to show the driver the "Made in China" stamp. There isn't one, but the driver can't turn around and also drive. DMITRY is a very talented bullshit artist, a brilliant politician.

ALEXEI simply hands the driver an entire bottle from the case of Rattlesnake Vodka. ALEXEI is a give and take realist, a businessman. ALEXEI knows that the magic vodka will solve all the problems.

The TAXI DRIVER gives ALEXEI a curious look.

ALEXEI

Rattlesnake Vodka. I make it.

TAXI DRIVER

We don't have rattlesnakes in Russia.

ALEXEI

A Western Diamondback. Texas.

The TAXI DRIVER tries to give the bottle back.

TAXI DRIVER

I don't drink American stuff.

ALEXEI refuses to return it to the box.

ALEXEI

Oh, no the vodka is Russian. I own the company. I assure you, only the finest Russian ingredients. We only import the snake venom from the U.S.

TAXI DRIVER

This is your Vodka? You make it and add Rattlesnake venom?

The TAXI DRIVER worships entrepreneurs and especially Vodka makers. The TAXI DRIVER looks at ALEXEI as if he were a rock star. ALEXEI is a good friend to have if you enjoy vodka.

ALEXEI

Sole proprietor. In fact, take the entire case. Please have it.

ALEXEI moves the case of vodka from the back seat to the front seat and smiles.

TAXI DRIVER

Why aren't you drinking it?

ALEXEI and DMITRY are drinking a different brand.

ALEXEI

Are you kidding? It has snake venom in it.

The TAXI DRIVER, unaffected by this warning and information, takes a nice long tug on the bottle.

ALEXEI

What do you think?

There is a long pause. The TAXI DRIVER might be contemplating some review of the quality of the vodka but he doesn't.

TAXI DRIVER
(raspy voice)
Genius.

This is the last time the TAXI DRIVER speaks in this film. Drinking the vodka laced with snake venom robs him of his speech, a good development. He appears normal and having fun on the adventure but his jaw seems frozen. The TAXI DRIVER's jaw will quiver at times but words are impossible. There are very slight guttural noises when he tries to speak. He isn't alarmed. Perhaps the TAXI DRIVER thinks he is speaking, but to the filmgoer and to ALEXEI AND DMITRY, he is silent.

EXT. HOSPITAL NEAR TVERSKAYA - TAXI ARRIVES

Fortunately, there is a hospital near. DMITRY goes to the hospital looking for a splint to keep the leg attached. There is an obvious alcoholic on a bench outside the hospital. He has an injured foot also.

DMITRY
What happened?

MAN
I broke my foot.

DMITRY
I bet that hurt.

The man shrugs. Perhaps it would have hurt a great deal.

MAN
Drunk.

DMITRY
Listen my uncle Vladimir over in that taxi. He did the same thing.

MAN

So?

DMITRY

Well, he is afraid of hospitals.

LONG SHOT of ALEXEI taking out a bottle offering it to the man. They drink. ALEXEI hands him some money and the bottle. The man takes the splint off his leg.

KRYUCHKOV appears in the distance.

KRYUCHKOV

У вас нет яички! Stop running and submit to the power of the state.

The taxi drives to a nearby park.

EXT. PARK - NIGHT

They get LENIN out of the taxi and they put on the splint under his pants leg to keep the leg attached. But they notice that LENIN'S BODY has lost weight in death and his pants keep falling down. LENIN has no belt.

ALEXEI

They didn't put a belt on him!

DMITRY

Budget cuts.

ALEXEI is near a panic as they are on the verge of an uncomfortable moment. Realizing he might accidentally catch a glimpse of LENIN'S private parts.

ALEXEI

No, he NEEDS a belt.

DMITRY

My brother will loan us one.

They leave in the taxi.

EXT. HOUSE ON THE EMBANKMENT

ALEXEI and DMITRY travel to Bersenevskaya Nab to ask their family and friend to lend them a belt. The taxi pulls up.

As the men are walking into the building, they encounter a passerby who comments that ALEXEI and DMITRY's friend doesn't look too healthy.

PASSERSBY

Your friend doesn't look healthy.

DMITRY

He had an important job and now drinks formaldehyde like it is water.

This is a large apartment block overlooking the Moscow river. It became infamous for the number of night-time arrests made here during the purges.

The residents might still be wary, when the taxi pulls up many look out the window.

ALEXEI and DMITRY take a photo of LENIN in front of the building and DMITRY sends it to his online friends.

INT. HOUSE ON THE EMBANKMENT

ALEXEI drinks Vodka with the night SECURITY GUARD.

DMITRY takes LENIN up to the third floor. He knocks on his brother's door. The BROTHER inside is half asleep and WIFE is frightened. LENIN's pants keep falling down and when the BROTHER looks out the peephole in the door, DMITRY is bending down to hoist them back up. The BROTHER only see's LENIN as DMITRY is ducking out of sight.

WIFE

Who is it?

BROTHER

(puzzled)

Lenin.

CUT TO HALLWAY: DMITRY bends over to pull up the pants.

CUT TO BROTHER'S P.O.V.: It looks like LENIN is knocking.

WIFE

Move out of the way. Let me look.

CUT TO HALLWAY: DMITRY stands up.

CUT TO WIFE'S P.O.V.: The WIFE looks out the peephole. She sees DMITRY who has stood up now.

WIFE

It is your brother, you dope.

CUT TO HALLWAY: The pants fall down. DMITRY bends over to pull up the pants.

CUT TO BROTHER'S P.O.V.: He looks once more and still it looks like LENIN is standing there.

They open the door. DMITRY is bending over reading a tattoo on LENIN's ass. The tattoo reads, "Nadya."

DMITRY

Krupskaya!

DMITRY and LENIN enter the apartment. There is absolute silence.

DMITRY

I need to borrow a belt.

The BROTHER, without a word, leaves for the bedroom. There is an odd silence. The WIFE, who by chance looks a bit like Krupskaya, looks very disapproving.

DMITRY

(to the sister-in-law)

Don't ask.

WIFE

Don't tell and don't ask to stay.

EXT. HOUSE ON THE EMBANKMENT

The ninety year old KRYUCHKOV arrives two blocks away waving a pistol. The SECURITY GUARD runs to hide. ALEXEI runs upstairs to warn DMITRY. The security guard hides behind a car.

INT. STAIRS OF THE HOUSE ON THE EMBANKMENT

They meet in the stairwell and ALEXEI and DMITRY run up to the roof with LENIN. KRYUCHKOV follows pointing the gun. KRYUCHKOV is shouting obscenities.

EXT. ROOF OF HOUSE ON THE EMBANKMENT

ALEXEI and DMITRY are forced to the edge of the roof. They look down and there is the street and also the river.

KRYUCHKOV, who has a slight dementia but sever Parkinson's, begins to shot at the men. With each shot he curses at them. His Markov has 8 shots.

KRYUCHKOV
Гомосексуалистов.

KRYUCHKOV
Вы достали меня.

KRYUCHKOV
Принимая инъекционные наркотики.

KRYUCHKOV
Сукин сын.

KRYUCHKOV
Паразита; ленивый человек.

KRYUCHKOV
Глупый деревни.

KRYUCHKOV
Перейти запах нижнего белья.

KRYUCHKOV

Джок ремень.

Actually, they are able to dodge his bullets because he is so slow and his gun hand shakes uncontrollably. By the time the old man fires the weapon ALEXEI and DMITRY are a few inches out of the bullet's path. The weapon is emptied and our heroes are not dead. But, they have let go and LENIN's body falls from the roof into the river.

KRYUCHKOV begins to reload his gun. ALEXEI and DMITRY run downstairs.

As ALEXEI and DMITRY exit the building and begin looking in the river, KRYUCHKOV has reloaded his pistol and shouts down to them.

KRYUCHKOV

I see what you are doing. You can't
drown Lenin. ВЫ МЕРТВЫ!

EXT. THE RIVER

DMITRY

Where is he? Which way?

ALEXEI

I think the river flows this way?

DMITRY

You don't know? I don't know.

ALEXEI

Southeast.

DMITRY

Which way is that?

They think a second. ALEXEI finishes a vodka bottle and throws it in the river... it is flowing to the left. So they motion for the taxi and they slowly drive in that direction looking in the river.

EXT. RIVER ACCESS

ALEXEI and DMITRY, in the taxi, set off to retrieve the body again. But before they reach the body, it is fished from the river by some FIREMEN, with a rope and grappling hook.

ALEXEI and DMITRY watch from a distance. An over zealous rookie FIREMAN begins CPR but is stopped by his more experienced captain. They don't realize that it is LENIN with the sunglasses on.

Hardly anyone in this film recognizes LENIN. They are too young, too drunk, too sleepy, too busy or simply not paying attention. Perhaps they are self-absorbed. Perhaps in their mind, LENIN is already buried? Whatever he isn't relevant to them.

The FIREMEN call the police on the radio but they are slow to arrive and the FIREMEN must quickly put the body in their fire truck because they get a call to respond to a major fire. The fire truck gets the call that a major and symbolic structure is on fire. It causes a panic in the FIREMEN. They simply throw the body in the back of a fire truck and leave with lights and sirens blaring. The taxi follows the fire truck.

EXT. RUSSIAN STATE LIBRARY

The FIREMEN make entry to the smoking building. While this isn't a major fire, this is still a national emergency. All attention is put into finding the fire and putting it out. While the FIREMEN are occupied, ALEXEI and DMITRY retrieve the body from the fire truck.

An EMS "ambulance/bus" careens around a corner, tires squealing, lights flashing, siren whoop-whooping, through central Moscow. LENIN, ALEXEI and DMITRY are making their way to the taxi. But, the ambulance crew stops and they insists that the body be placed on a gurney and they place it in the ambulance.

ALEXEI and DMITRY run for the taxi.

INT. AMBULANCE

The RESCUE CREW are young and they don't recognize LENIN. They quickly put an oxygen mask on him and transport him. The short ride to the hospital is wild. LENIN and the ambulance RESCUE WORKER are thrown about the space. The FEMALE AMBULANCE CREWMEMBER is very prim and she unbuttons LENIN's shirt to attach heart sensors. She bangs the electronics of the heart monitor on the side of the ambulance, thinking that it is malfunctioning. She is far too pretty and far too stupid to have this job. She would make a far more successful Aeroflot flight attendant.

Someone pulls a car out in front of the ambulance and the driver must screech to a stop. The FEMALE AMBULANCE CREWMEMBER is knocked unconscious and into the floor. LENIN lands on top of her in the missionary position. The ambulance arrives and HOSPITAL PERSONNEL open the door to the ambulance.

INT. HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM

The emergency room is bedlam. Drunks, car crash victims, shootings, hypochondriacs, all sorts of people are wanting attention. One new DOCTOR is on the phone with his mother.

YOUNG DOCTOR

Yes, mom. I know. I know you are proud of me. I will make you proud.

LENIN's gurney is wheeled in and the CHIEF NURSE nods to the young DOCTOR that this is his responsibility now.

YOUNG DOCTOR

Oh, mom I have to go. My first patient.

YOUNG DOCTOR

What happened?

Timing is everything in comedy. Simultaneously, ALEXEI says, "Drowning". DMITRY says, "Fire".

YOUNG DOCTOR

What?

This time they are telling exactly the opposite. ALEXEI says, "Fire". DMITRY says, "Drowning". It is all too much for the DOCTOR to sort out and he examines the patient.

This young DOCTOR, clearly his first day of work and his first patient listens to the heart with his stethoscope. The emergency room is noisy and the DOCTOR at first shakes his head reassuringly. The noise in the room dies down, as some ARGUMENTATIVE DRUNKS leave. The DOCTOR then listens more carefully. His eyes become large; he realizes his first patient might be dead.

NURSES are busy everywhere else. The DOCTOR's training takes over: he finds a vein, injects epinephrine, followed by atrophine, followed by another epi no response from the heart.

He calls for defibrillator paddles. They aren't readily available so the DOCTOR leaves. He comes back with the machine.

YOUNG DOCTOR

Clear! Clear!

The DOCTOR activates the defibrillator, a shock. Lenin's body heaves up, and his eyes open for a fraction of a second. Sweat drips from the DOCTOR's nose onto Lenin's chest.

LENIN is shocked two times, each time his eyes open. ALEXEI is standing behind the DOCTOR drinking his vodka. DMITRY takes a few photos of LENIN being defibrillated. He posts them on Facebook.

Finally the CHIEF NURSE joins them and the oblivious DOCTOR declares LENIN dead. The DOCTOR is needed in another room. The DOCTOR signs some official papers on a clipboard. LENIN is covered by a sheet and left to be retrieved by the morgue.

ALEXEI

(to Lenin)

What do you know friend, your heart
has officially finally stopped beating
and they say you are dead.

Everyone is running around and the hospital is very busy.
It seems that Saturday night there are many injuries.

INT. HOSPITAL MORGUE THIRD FLOOR

The body has been removed from the commotion and taken to
the third floor of the hospital.

ALEXEI and DMITRY must steal the body again. On the third
floor they find the body on a gurney and begin to roll it
to the elevator.

However down the hall, ALEXEI and DMITRY see the elevator
door opening and a policeman begins to exit.

ALEXEI

Wait.

DMITRY

Push the body down there.

The policeman is chatting up a nurse and doesn't notice,
but ALEXEI and DMITRY have panicked and have pushed the
gurney down a hall. There is a large window at the end
of the hall.

The policeman and the nurse turn and aren't interested in
anything but solitude. THE COUPLE enter a room. ALEXEI
and DMITRY have shoved the body out of the way for no
reason.

LENIN'S BODY flies out of the third story window at the
end of the hall. Glass is broken and flying everywhere.
The body lands in what we soon learn is a tree in the
park next to the hospital. A cat screams. LENIN has
landed on a cat in a tree.

EXT. HOSPITAL STAIRWELL

ALEXEI and DMITRY now must race down stairs, as the out of breath 90 year old former Politburo member is struggling up the stairs. They pass in the stair well. KRYUCHKOV is holding his heart but takes a swing at them with his cane. He is too slow.

EXT. HOSPITAL PARK

ALEXEI and DMITRY arrive downstairs. They find the body high in a tree. They climb the tree and free the body. LENIN'S BODY falls into the back of a flower delivery truck parked beneath the tree. Before ALEXEI and DMITRY can climb down, the truck then proceeds away on the next delivery. They again must run for the taxi.

The chase for LENIN'S BODY is on again. Back into the taxi as the DRIVER follows the flower truck.

EXT. FRONT OF ELISEEVSKY GASTRONUM

The flower truck makes it to the Eliseevsky Gastronom, the most important grocery store in the USSR. The delivery truck drives around back to the loading dock. The taxi remains out front. There is a police car in the ally and the TAXI DRIVER wants to remain unincarcerated. ALEXEI and DMITRY walk past the police car to the back of the store. It seems the POLICEMAN has a WOMAN in the car with him.

EXT. ALLEY BEHIND ELISEEVSKY GASTRONUM

In the alley of the store there are empty shelves. Perhaps they are new and installation will be the next day or they are old and are due to be removed.

ALEXEI and DMITRY retrieve the body from the flower truck.

The WOMAN suddenly exits the police car and it seems they have had a tiff. She is yelling at him and he is trying to keep her calm. THE COUPLE, still arguing, are moving down the alley. ALEXEI and DMITRY have nothing to do but place LENIN on an empty shelf. They stand idly by,

nonchalant. The POLICEMAN looks at them, figures they are well dressed and perhaps the managers of the store, and he chases after the WOMAN.

EXT. FRONT OF ELISEEVSKY GASTRONUM -- TVERSKAYA SIDEWALK

LENIN, ALEXEI and DMITRY arrive out of the dark alley and they look both ways for the taxi. It has disappeared. Both characters comment on their loss.

DMITRY

The taxi.

ALEXEI

The vodka.

There is nothing to do but move forward. It is very late and there is very little traffic. Another taxi isn't anywhere to be found. But the men know to keep moving. So they walk.

They encounter a passersby.

PASSERSBY

Your friend doesn't look healthy.

DMITRY

He will look better tomorrow.

But soon, walking down the sidewalk, LENIN's leg is attacked and bitten by a small dog. ALEXEI and DMITRY force the dog to stop chewing the leg by screaming at it. It is very small Italian Greyhound, but it has a bulldog's bite and a terrier's attitude.

ALEXEI

That dog is a capitalist.

But a moment later ALEXEI and DMITRY look down as they stop to wait for the traffic light to change and the dog is urinating on LENIN's pants leg and shoe.

DMITRY

No, the dog is an oligarch.

They chase the dog down the street, leaving the body to fall to the sidewalk. LENIN is dropped 36 times in this film.

They chase the dog perhaps a block. When they return to the body, they get LENIN up and have sympathy and they offer him a drink.

ALEXEI

Friend you need a drink. You have been through a lot in ...

(pause)

How many years?

DMITRY

He was born in 1870.

They are drunk and certainly not going to do mathematics.

ALEXEI

Life is hard.

DMITRY

No. Life was easy. Krupskaya's laundry, chicken dinner. Nothing to worry about except how to make poor people even more unhappy than they already are. A merchant of hate and envy; that was a great life. It is death that takes its toll.

ALEXEI

He died in 1924.

DMITRY

See! And look at him.

Making sure the bottle's Rattlesnake Vodka label is toward the camera, ALEXEI holds the body. DMITRY takes a photo and posts it on Facebook.

In the movie's second drunken hallucination, LENIN suddenly takes a gulp of vodka that is offered to him by

ALEXEI. The men are so drunk, they imagine seeing him drink as they hold the bottle to his mouth. Or it is magic. Who knows?

They encounter a passersby on the sidewalk who comments that ALEXEI and DMITRY's friend.

PASSERSBY

Your friend doesn't look healthy.

DMITRY

Yes, he has been separated from his wife. He has just gone to the devil.

KRYUCHKOV, the old communist, shouts at them from two blocks away. He still has his pistol.

KRYUCHKOV

Lenin doesn't drink Vodka. Тупой ебать!

And ALEXEI and DMITRY are now in a pickle. KRYUCHKOV begins firing his pistol again. They are standing in front of an XXX adult sex shop and video store... a bullet hits the wire holding the neon penis shaped XXX sign and one end of the sign swings down and hits LENIN in the head. If this profane sign doesn't exist in Moscow, hire an art director who can fabricate a risqué sign. There isn't any sense having Lenin on the sidewalk in front of a porn shop and not have him hit by the penis sign.

ALEXEI

You missed!!!

KRYUCHKOV

That was a warning shot. Мошенник, уголовное!

We see the taxi leisurely moving down the street to rescue the men. Of course, the driving is perfectly accurate but it is done at the speed of a hearse. This is a problem because of the flying bullets. The TAXI DRIVER arrives to save them. They drive off.

INT. TAXI

DMITRY

That guy never fired a warning shot in his life.

ALEXEI

How does he even know that warning shots exist?

They drive a bit.

ALEXEI

Are you getting hungry?

DMITRY

Lenin has left me famished, said the Ukrainian farmer!

ALEXEI pauses. Thinks. Looks at DMITRY. ALEXEI doesn't laugh. Remember, ALEXEI is Sancho Panza and DMITRY is Don Quixote.

ALEXEI

That is very witty.

The taxi hits a large pothole in the street and the entire car is shaken. The TAXI DRIVER slams on the brakes. He gets out and runs back in the road about 50 yards. LENIN's ear has fallen off into the street.

The Rattlesnake Vodka has made the TAXI DRIVER a mute but it has heightened his senses. Vision and hearing are doubled. He has and will continue to be able to magically avoid police cars for the rest of the night. He hears them, the sees them, he senses the police cars.

The TAXI DRIVER retrieves the ear. The ALEXEI and DMITRY are oblivious to a solution but now there is a major problem. The men look very worried, dazed and confused which is to be expected of drunk men.

But they see an all night convenience store and drive there.

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE

ALEXEI buys glue. DMITRY buys a pair of stereo headphones.

EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE

They encounter a passersby.

PASSERSBY

Your friend doesn't look healthy.

DMITRY

He has been awake too long. Tomorrow he will sleep all day.

ALEXEI and DMITRY come from the store with glue and a pair of stereo headphones. The ear is glued on and the headphones hold it on temporarily as the glue dries.

INT. SLUZHEBNY VHOD ON TVERSKAYA

ALEXEI and DMITRY have become hungry and are in the Sluzhebny Vhod, the best Soviet style all night cafe. The TAXI DRIVER is happy in the taxi drinking vodka and eating pickles. LENIN sits in a café booth with his captors but eats nothing. The waitress looks to take ALEXEI and DMITRY's order.

DMITRY

We are not eating.

WAITRESS

You should.

DMITRY

My friend is famished. He hasn't had anything to eat in a while.

The waitress doesn't look up at LENIN. She is a drone.

DMITRY

Caviar, sturgeon, chocolate with red-hot nuts.

WAITRESS

Okay.

DMITRY

We might share?

The waitress finished making a note of their order but comments. She never looks at LENIN. She is not happy with her life. She has a tattoo that says "Eat the Rich!". It shows a fork and a sickle.

WAITRESS

This table reeks.

DMITRY turns his head slowly toward LENIN. He inhales through his nose slightly. There is a pause.

WAITRESS

You smell of vodka. Horribly.

ALEXEI and DMITRY are relieved. If LENIN begins to smell then their mission will all become more difficult?

The waitress walks off.

ALEXEI

He doesn't smell.

DMITRY

There is nothing left to smell. Heart, as well as the lungs and other internal organs, nimble hands of anatomists scraped out of him back in 1924, and then washed with distilled water, filled with a mixture of a caustic chemical stuff. He is a sort of plastic.

ALEXEI

Actually you are right, he smells like
a new toy.

The food has not arrived yet.

DMITRY

And that isn't even mentioning his
brain.

ALEXEI

What about it?

DMITRY

They measured, studied, calculated and
microscoped, re-educated, tattooed,
photographed, lab irradiated,
homogenized, fictionalized, sliced and
diced and more. Scientists!

ALEXEI

What did they find?

DMITRY

Nothing.

The food arrives. THE COOK brings it out to the table.
THE COOK understands what is going on. However he doesn't
seem to care.

COOK

You know Alexander the Great conqueror
of the universe, after his death was
embalmed in a barrel of honey,
preventing the decomposition of the
body.

THE COOK is offered some vodka. They toast; LENIN does
not drink. DMITRY seems to be leading the toast but THE
COOK'S expression seems to say that he is toasting them
for the night's brave political and social protest.

DMITRY

Every cook must learn to rule the
State.

Perhaps to antagonize the waitress. The glasses are
filled again. ALEXEI raises his glass.

ALEXEI

Peace to the people. Land to the
peasants. Food to the hungry.

DMITRY tempts LENIN with forks of food placed under his
nose. DMITRY and ALEXEI eat LENIN's food!

The waitress is so detached and fatigued, she only
notices they don't leave a very good tip. This is typical
of the people in the movie; it is the middle of the night
and ALSO the city of Moscow has made them blind to
anything unusual.

Maybe she thinks Lenin is simply drunk.

EXT. SIDEWALK ON TVERSKAYA

They exit the café and encounter a passersby.

PASSERSBY

Your friend doesn't look healthy.

DMITRY

He feels no pain.

KRYUCHKOV is coming again. He may be out of bullets
because now he has a large stick.

KRYUCHKOV

Антисоветская подростка рывков!

The Russian presidential motorcade drives past the group,
but none of the cars stop. P.O.V the back seat of the
limousine sees only two drunks helping another drunk get
into a taxi. This is what it looks like to someone
driving by and in Moscow, and it happens half a million
times a night. Not odd to the Russian President.

EXT. ARBAT STREET

The taxi stops for some Moscow nightlife to cross the street near the headquarters of oil company TNK-BP - a modern building at the beginning of the street. ALEXEI and DMITRY exit the taxi and buy some more common vodka. An American convertible with two Russian street thugs pulls up next to the taxi. If not for the cyrillic letters on the shop signs and street advertising, one would think we are in East Los Angeles. The criminals are blasting rap music from huge speakers in the car. They are going to kidnap someone.

THUG #1

This guy?

THUG #2

Sure why not?

THUG number #1 gets out and puts a gun to the temple of the TAXI DRIVER, who (of course) says nothing and is perfectly still. The thug #2 goes to the back window of the taxi and points a gun at LENIN.

THUG #2

Get out!

LENIN is obstinate and his body refuses to leave the taxi. THUG #2 hits LENIN with the butt of gun a few times, then drags his body from the taxi and tries to throw it in the back of the convertible. He isn't able and the body flies head first into the trunk of the car. LENIN falls to the ground.

THUG #1

Look, now you have knocked him out.

Together THE THUGS now succeed in throwing the body in the back seat of the convertible. LENIN lands head down near the floor with the legs spread-eagle in the air.

THE THUGS are about to get back in convertible but THUG #1 has seen the case of vodka sitting beside the TAXI

DRIVER. He reaches into the case and takes a bottle. He takes the bottle back to the taxi and they speed away.

ALEXEI and DMITRY look up from their vodka purchase. Two street thugs are driving off with LENIN'S up-sided-down BODY.

DMITRY

What sort of low life character would steal a dead body?

ALEXEI

We did.

The TWO STREET THUGS, celebrating their success, open the Rattlesnake Vodka bottle and drink. Instantly the car begins to slow. The drivers control of his right foot has been altered by the snake venom.

The magic vodka alters everything and everyone. I'm not sure this is actually happening; this story might be ALEXEI and DMITRY's imagination.

The TAXI DRIVER seems to be contemplating the entire episode; he is unmoved and blankly looking ahead. ALEXEI and DMITRY chase on foot after the convertible.

They run 800m and catch the convertible and LENIN. The convertible has slowed to 3 km per hour. The transmission is engaged but the accelerator isn't pushed in. The car is idling along down Arbot Street. It isn't swerving left or right it is going perfectly straight but the magic vodka paralyzes THE THUGS.

ALEXEI and DMITRY run beside the doors and observe the state of the thugs.

THUG #1

Drive faster.

THUG #2

I can't. My leg won't move.

THUG #2 seems to be mashing his entire body weight into the accelerator pedal but his foot isn't moving an inch. The emotionless TAXI DRIVER is beginning to pull out into Arbat Street. THUG #1 has his gun in hand but it is laying limp on the car seat.

THUG #2

Shot him.

THUG #1

I can't my hand won't move.

ALEXEI and DMITRY slow and run behind the car. In front of the Hard Rock Café, ALEXEI and DMITRY grab LENIN's legs and as the car moves foreword LENIN is dragged across the trunk and onto the pavement. LENIN hits the pavement with a hollow bounce. But ALEXEI and DMITRY pick up him up and dust off the dust. They straighten LENIN's tie.

By now the taxi has caught up to them and LENIN, ALEXEI and DMITRY get in. The TAXI DRIVER is speechless.

INT. TAXI

We begin a montage to the music of The Kings, And the Beat Goes on / Switching to Glide. True excellence will be achieved in film making if you can find a Russian band to cover the song well.

INT. TAXI

As the men drive, at a very far distance there is a police car. It seems to be following them. It doesn't have its flashing lights on and it isn't in any rush. The TAXI DRIVER takes action and the police car is avoided. The taxi leaves the street for Poklonnaya Hill.

EXT. POKLONNAYA HILL

The TWO MEN and LENIN are at a deserted hill top memorial. DMITRY does a web search of "Lenin's Body".

DMITRY

(reading from his phone)

During World War II, fearing a direct hit by the Nazis, Soviet authorities secretly shipped Lenin - code-named "Object No. 1" - to a warehouse in central Russia.

ALEXEI

Given his war record of sabotage he was shipped far away from the Great Patriotic War.

DMITRY

Lenin's best years were from July 1941 to March 1945 - as the best time in a coffin.

ALEXEI

Locked in a closet for the war, Object No. 1 couldn't hear any insults.

DMITRY

For Lenin's entourage there was no shortage of anything. For distilled water was immediately sent by aircraft to Omsk. As a result, even in the evacuation Ilyich put on a few pounds, which was promptly painted in a rather boastful medical report to the government commission.

ALEXEI

He was retaining water?

INT. TAXI

As the men drive, at a very far distance there is a police car. It seems to be following them. It doesn't have its flashing lights on and it isn't in any rush. The TAXI DRIVER takes action and the police car is avoided. The taxi parks on the street near the Lubyanka.

EXT. EX-KGB HEADQUARTERS ON LUBYANKA

At the entrance to the building, DMITRY takes a photograph with his cell phone. But they have miscalculated, it seemed clear but now there are several CHECKATYPE MEN in pairs from all directions walking into the building. Now in the new Russia there are CHECKATYPE WOMEN also.

The new FSB will shot you, they will plant evidence and they will blow up apartments in the middle of the night, but they aren't looking for trouble on the sidewalk. They are visiting and smiling joking around, nothing like the previous regime's KGB.

It is the new Russia and several FSB personnel walk within feet of LENIN. They notice nothing. The impression is that the new CHECKA AGENTS aren't absorbed in others and the FSB agents are self-absorbed. The average Vladimir on the street probably isn't on Putin's black list.

ONE FSB AGENT however notices. He points to LENIN's shoe, without looking up. He is the "shoe police" it seems.

FSB AGENT
Your shoe is untied.

DMITRY immediately kneels down and ties LENIN'S shoe lace.

DMITRY
Thank you.

EXT. SOLOVETSKY STONE, LUBYANKA SQUARE

They take a photograph with the phone. DMITRY reads the plaque.

DMITRY
The Solovetsky monument was erected on
30 October 1990 by the Russian NGO
Memorial to commemorate a 1974
initiative by political prisoners to
establish a "Day of Political

Prisoners in the USSR." In 1991, the Supreme Soviet of Russia officially established 30 October as the Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Political Repressions.

ALEXEI

Learn, learn and learn.

DMITRY

(Adversity is a good teacher)

Без муки нет науки.

ALEXEI

Lets' drink!

DMITRY

This rock is for the astonishing cast of saints and scoundrels, soldiers and politicians who found themselves between a rock and a hard place.

Drinks vodka.

DMITRY

Here is to Alexander Solzhenitsyn.

DMITRY has a blank look on his face. He is thinking back in time.

DMITRY

When I was a kid, I was here. It was getting late, and my mom wanted to stop by Lubyanka Square. The city's leading democrats were going to unveil this thing. It was the first major monument to the victims of the regime. I asked her if the KGB would leave their building to come over too. She blushed, but then recovered with an answer that I imagined could have been included in the daily briefing book of the KGB's public relations campaign. She said "Tens of thousands of

innocent KGB men were also killed. And so they might come to the monument tonight."

ALEXEI

I remember your mom.

DMITRY

Yea. She brought me to all the important places. It was snowing and the demonstrators carried signs saying "The KGB Can Never Wash the Blood from Its Hands" and "Bring the KGB to Justice!"

(pause)

I remember priests in dark cassocks were talking about how blessed are those who died in the camps and were hungry and cold. I couldn't understand that. I thought blessed was a good thing.

(pause)

Some guy was yelling, calling for people to pull down the statue of Dzerzhinsky.

ALEXEI

So what has really changed?
Dzerzhinsky is gone?

DMITRY

We have stolen the body of Lenin. We were just on the sidewalk of the Lubyanka with Lenin's dead body and we are not in prison. And we are still alive.

Their hands go in the air as a symbol of victory.

INT. TAXI

As the men drive in Moscow, at a very far distance there is another police car. They are simply patrolling but it was on Lubyanka Square and turned with the taxi on New and Old,

Prechistenskaya and Kitaygorodsky and Moskvoretskaya embankment. The Sofia Embankment. The police seem to be following them. The TAXI DRIVER just can't shake them.

The police car nears. ALEXEI and Demitry have a plan.

ALEXEI AND DMITRY

STOP!!!

The taxi stops only feet from the footbridge. On the other side of the bridge is The Cathedral of Christ the Saviour. It is lit up at night white and gold and it is spectacular.

The TAXI DRIVER steps out, leans against the cab and waits for the police to arrive. ALEXEI and DMITRY leave with LENIN.

EXT. THE CATHEDRAL OF CHRIST THE SAVIOUR FOOTBRIDGE

As ALEXEI and DMITRY help LENIN across the footbridge, a monk, and Fool for Christ, is waiting on them in the middle. FATHER ANATOLY is dressed in an old sun faded and tattered robe. It appears that the priest knew that they were coming and at this exact hour. He speaks only to LENIN. LENIN seems to be heard only by the monk. FATHER ANATOLY pauses to listen to LENIN.

FATHER ANATOLY

(to Lenin)

The gold is gone.

ALEXEI and DMITRY are watching and are worried about the police car that is 600m away.

FATHER ANATOLY

The gold Stalin stole from here.

FATHER ANATOLY leans forward as he is listening to LENIN.. but only the HOLY MAN can hear LENIN.

FATHER ANATOLY

(An open door may tempt a saint)

Где плохо лежит

ALEXEI and DMITRY aren't doing a very good job holding the body straight. LENIN seems to be looking up at the roof cathedral.

FATHER ANATOLY

Yes, Yes it was rebuilt but you people stole the gold. You can't steal something twice.

FATHER ANATOLY

It looks very shiny, true.

FATHER ANATOLY

Can I ask you a question?

The police car is 300m away.

FATHER ANATOLY

What sort of man has no childhood nick name? I want to call you this, so you feel comfortable here in church.

(motions to the bridge and the open space about it)

But you never had a term of endearment, did you?

FATHER ANATOLY

Vladimir? Not Honey, Bunny, Cat, or Fish?

FATHER ANATOLY

Nadezhda called you Vladimir? It isn't a nickname. And I guess you called her Nadezhda as well?

FATHER ANATOLY

1 Corinthians 4:10

FATHER ANATOLY

God cannot be known intellectually.

FATHER ANATOLY

Yes I've endured mockery and humiliation from the crowd just like Christ. Proudly. But you have also been scorned, shamefully.

FATHER ANATOLY

It's not so bad as the mockery and humiliation you have endured the last 90 years in your dark cave.

FATHER ANATOLY

Speaking of mathematics. Mathematically, as all passed by, millions, you have heard far more curse words than there are stars.

The police car is 100m away. The POLICE'S vision of the bridge is obscured for a moment. FATHER ANATOLY, his timing is perfect.

FATHER ANATOLY

What? You have a flea biting your knee?

Suddenly the monk kicks LENIN's knee, his good knee. One knee was damaged in the traffic accident earlier in the film and now the other is damaged. LENIN falls to his knees before the HOLY MAN, on the bridge with the Cathedral in the background.

Judging from FATHER ANATOLY, LENIN is complaining about his poor treatment.

FATHER ANATOLY

(A goose is not a pig's friend)

Гусь сви́ньё не това́рищ.

EXTREME LONG SHOT the monk's P.O.V. the TRAFFIC POLICE arrive and from a healthy distance the TAXI DRIVER only seems to shrug and point to THE MEN on the bridge. The TAXI DRIVER doesn't look drunk; he looks perfectly able to drive. THE POLICE turn to witness the men on the bridge.

EXTREME LONG SHOT the police P.O.V. The TAXI DRIVER can't talk to the police but it appears this is a religious matter. A very sick man seeking late night (last minute) absolution perhaps. It seems to THE POLICE that the man on the bridge, on his knees before a priest and a magnificent cathedral, might be scheduled to die the next day.

FATHER ANATOLY seems to be preaching, blessing and crossing himself. Actually he is lecturing LENIN. FATHER ANATOLY is smiling and making a lot of holy jesters for the benefit of the police who might be watching. LENIN seems to have an excuse for every crime. FATHER ANATOLY listens to LENIN's response to each infraction. LENIN is NOT repentant.

FATHER ANATOLY
Churches.

FATHER ANATOLY
Camps.

FATHER ANATOLY
Mass starvation.

FATHER ANATOLY
Do you refuse to repent?

THE POLICE move on, return to their car and drive away.

Finally, FATHER ANATOLY acknowledges ALEXEI and DMITRY and speaks to them.

FATHER ANATOLY
Are the police gone?

ALEXEI and DMITRY nod yes. The father kicks LENIN in the groin. FATHER ANATOLY again listens to LENIN's complaints.

FATHER ANATOLY
(lip-service; hot air; idle words)
Говорил день до вечера, а слушать
ничего.

Somehow, mysteriously, FATHER ANATOLY knows they want a photo; they have taken one at each stop tonight.

FATHER ANATOLY
Hurry up with your photograph. I have
another appointment in Berlin.

A photo is taken on the bridge with the Cathedral in the background - the Father, LENIN and a spilled vodka bottle. You can however, still read the "Rattlesnake" label. This might be the best image for the movie poster.

ALEXEI and DMITRY begin to return to the taxi, they stop and look back at the church, but the monk has disappeared. He has been an apparition, appearing and now disappearing.

INT. TAXI

As the men drive, at a very far distance there is another police car. It also seems to be following them. The TAXI DRIVER takes action and the police car is avoided. The taxi parks on the street near the Bolshoi.

EXT. BOLSHOI THEATRE

DMITRY
Tsarist coronation celebrations to
Bolshevik congresses. It was from the
stage of the Bolshoi Theatre that the
foundation of the Soviet Union was
proclaimed. It was here that LENIN's
death was publicly announced.

ALEXEI and DMITRY watch from their taxi a STREET CLOWN and PANTOMIME ARTIST on the sidewalk in front of the theatre. THE CLOWN is looking for a lost dog or other pet, but suddenly the dog is found by a small child that doesn't want to give it back. He finally pulls and has a

tug of war with the child. But the dog slips from the CLOWN's hands and he falls on his butt and is distraught. The CLOWN is performing for NO ONE. The street is deserted.

It is LEONID ENGIBAROV. Or a ghost? He looks like Engibarov. He performs like ENGIBAROV. The MEN and LENIN exit the taxi.

The CLOWN is a silent CLOWN. The CLOWN looks up and see's LENIN and becomes overjoyed. He runs to hug LENIN... there is a long pause. The mime freezes, he is about to lose his character when he realizes that it is the body of LENIN. But he regains his composure. In pantomime, he dusts the dandruff LENIN has fought for the last 90 years, but slips and smacks LENIN in the face with the invisible brush.

The clown, in pantomime, takes out an imaginary stethoscope and fails to find a heart. Or a brain.

DMITRY

Leonid Engibarov was the greatest circus clown in history.

ALEXEI

I never heard of him.

DMITRY

Of course not. The job of "star" went to a clown who knew how to play the regime card better.

ALEXEI

What was so special?

DMITRY

My mother knew him and she went to the Circus on Tsvetnoy at every opportunity. She taught me about him. There are films of him of course. He was a fiercely independent young clown, pretending to sabotage their acts, mischievous, belligerent, in

constant revolt against the powers
that be – whether the ringmaster in
the circus ring or other performers.
It was comedy, but I got in trouble in
school once for saying he was telling
us how to live politically.

They watch the clown lampoon LENIN. ENGIBAROV understands
that LENIN is hot and tries to get his coat off. The coat
can be put on backwards, inside out, upside down, over
the head and even on one arm of ENGIBAROV and the other
arm of LENIN in the coat.

DMITRY

In real life, he had trouble with the
authorities. But I think he wanted it
that way. While in Czechoslovakia, he
heard of a café that happened to be
right across the Austrian border;
according to the place where you were
seating in the café, you could be
either in Czechoslovakia or in
Austria. The clown could not resist:
he went there, and called his boss in
Moscow from the café to say hello-
telling them that, by the way, he was
calling from Austria... The bureaucrat
was not amused and then they never let
him be the star.

ALEXEI

He made movies, right?

DMITRY

Do you think Lenin will like this
movie?

ALEXEI

He's dead!

DMITRY takes a photograph of ALEXEI, a vodka bottle, the
mime and LENIN with his phone.

INT. TAXI

As the MEN drive, at a very far distance there is a police car. It seems to be following them. The TAXI DRIVER takes action and the police car is avoided. The taxi parks on the street near the Gulag Museum.

EXT. SIDEWALK NEAR THE GULAG MUSEUM

As the Soviet system began to collapse under its own weight in the late 1980s, a widespread underground belief in magic and the paranormal flooded into the mainstream, turning Russia on its head. The pinnacle of this scramble for new ideas to replace the certainties that Marxism-Leninism had once provided saw the incredible spectacle of extrasensory experiments carried out on state TV, prime-time viewing spots devoted to psychic healing sessions.

A good distance away ANATOLY KASHPIROVSKY is stopped by a woman and injured daughter. It appears KASHPIROVSKY helps them and then moves forward.

KASHPIROVSKY continues walking down the sidewalk, toward ALEXEI, DMITRY and LENIN. As they pass, without stopping or looking KASHPIROVSKY speaks to LENIN. He speaks in a monotone voice, perhaps he has had to repeat this line 10,000 times.

KASHPIROVSKY

I can not cure soulless former
functionaries of the Communist Party.

KASHPIROVSKY sees DMITRY pull out his camera phone and stops immediately. He wants to be the in photo. KASHPIROVSKY is such a camera hound.

KASHPIROVSKY

Oh, a photo. I would love to.

DMITRY takes a photograph at the Gulag Museum with his cell.

EXT. THE MUSEUM OF REVOLUTION

DMITRY takes a photograph with his cell.

DMITRY

Do you think it is odd that Lenin wore civilian clothes especially black business suits?

ALEXEI

Right. The whole country put on a military uniform, but its leader, reclines in a bourgeois suit and tie with polka dots, like that of a pimp in Odessa.

DMITRY

I once knew a pimp in Odessa that wore an admiral's uniform.

EXT. THE FAÇADE OF THE OLD LUX HOTEL

This is a great symbol of the new Russia. The building has been replaced with a new modern hotel. The historic façade is left in place.

TOUR GUIDE

The bleakly inhospitable hotel was a refuge for international communists seeking asylum, particularly Germans fleeing Hitler. Yet many died in the purges of 1936 to 1938. More high-ranking German communists were killed under Stalin than under Hitler.

DMITRY

There is an all night tour service in Moscow?

There are about SIX TOURISTS being lectured to by the tour guide.

ALEXEI

These people are jet lagged.

DMITRY

Actually this makes perfect sense.

ALEXEI

Isn't capitalism great! You can have a tour in the middle of the night.

The son of one of the American tourists, a 10 YEAR OLD BOY is running around, karate kicking at the other children. He is screaming in English. He clearly is a problem child. The boy gets into the taxi when no one is watching and takes a drink of the Rattlesnake Vodka. His eyes become large and he can't move. He is paralysed. His parent's don't realize. They are listening to the tour guide.

TOUR GUIDE

Bill Haywood, a prominent figure in the American labor movement, lived here. Escaping persecution in America, in 1926 he took a Russian wife, though the two had to communicate in sign language, as neither spoke the other's language.

THE BOY snaps out of his comma. He sees LENIN, almost like LENIN is calling to him. Almost a zombie or perhaps walking like an adult, THE BOY approaches LENIN.

BOY

(in Russian)

Don't blame Stalin.

LENIN is speaking to the YOUNG BOY. We can't hear LENIN. The Rattlesnake Vodka has temporarily transformed the young boy into an intellectual.

BOY'S MOTHER

(in English)

He doesn't speak Russian.

BOY
(in Russian)
You had camps too.

BOY
(in Russian)
It is a myth that you were an
intellectual who resorted to cruelty
only from necessity.

BOY
(in Russian)
Historians know that the myth
originated with Trotsky. He wrote it.

BOY
(in Russian)
Yes, well you will find historians
just as lazy as any other profession.

BOY'S MOTHER
(in English)
I don't understand how is he doing
that? Russian?

BOY
(in Russian)
I knew that in 1921-22 there were in
Soviet Russia some 300 such camps.

BOY
(in Russian)
The first official mention of
concentration camps in Soviet Russia
occurred in a statement made by Leon
Trotsky, the Commissar of War, on May
31, 1918, in connection with the
rebellion of the Czechoslovak Legion.

BOY'S MOTHER
(in English)
What is he saying?

BOY

Okay, to be exact L. Trotskii, *Kak vooruzhalas' revoliutsiia*, I, (Moscow, 1923), 214. "those that refused to give up their arms were to be shot; any unit which was found to possess weapons was to be interned in a concentration camp."

BOY

(in Russian)

"On August 8, 1918, Trotsky issued a directive concerning the railroad linking Moscow to Kazan, which instructed the officer in charge of this line to set up in the towns of Murom, Armavir and Sviazhsk concentration camps to confine shady agitators, counter-revolutionary officers, saboteurs, parasites, speculators, apart from those who will be executed at the location of the crime or sentenced by Military-Revolutionary Tribunals to other penalties." *Izvestiia*, No. 171, August 11, 1918, cited in Trotskii's *Kak srazhalas' revoliutsiia*, I, 232-33

BOY

(in Russian)

"Innovative was also Trotsky's instruction issued in the summer of 1918 that wives and children of ex-tsarist officers mobilized in the Red Army be interned in concentration camps to serve as hostages." Mikhail Geller, *Kontsentratsionnyi mir i sovetskaia literatura*, (Moscow, 1996), 43.

BOY

(in Russian)

I can do this all night.

BOY

(in Russian)

Okay, it is your time.

BOY

(in Russian)

Lenin, you yourself, very early spoke of forced labour for those he considered enemies of his regime. In an article written in January, 1918, you spoke of the necessity to develop a broad diversity of methods to rid the country of "parasites."

BOY

(in Russian)

You didn't say that you wrote that. "... the achievement of the one common goal: the cleansing of the Russian land of all harmful insects, of fleas -- swindlers, of bugs -- the rich, and so on and so forth." V. I. Lenin, *Polnoe Sobranie Sochinenii*, Vol 35, 5th ed. (Moscow, 1962), 204.

BOY

(in Russian)

Comparisons of human beings to vermin implied their extermination. It may be noted that Hitler used similar language in regard to the Social-Democratic leaders -- whom he regarded as altogether as Jews -- in the early 1920's in *Mein Kampf*: they were "vermin" to be exterminated.

BOY

(in Russian)

A few days later you wired V. A. Antonov-Ovseenko, "I welcome with my whole heart your energetic activity and merciless fight against Kaledin. I especially approve and welcome the arrest of millionaires-saboteurs in

the train car of the First and Second class. I advise they be sent for half a year of compulsory work in the mines." V. I. Lenin, Polnoe Sobranie Sochinenii, 5th ed., Vol. 50 (Moscow, 1965), 21-22.

BOY

(in Russian)

On May 8, 1918 Lenin, you signed a decree calling for "the hardest forced labor" as penalty for bribery. 14 And after Trotsky had raised the issue of concentration camps, on August 9, 1918, following the rebellion of peasants in the Penza province, Lenin demanded that "ambiguous" prisoners be placed in such camps constructed outside each province's principal city. Lenin, Polnoe Sobranie Sochinenii, Vol. 50, 143-44.

BOY

(in Russian)

And all this was done BEFORE you were shot. And, it is clear that you taught Stalin everything he knew. Are we done here tonight?

BOY

(in Russian)

Good.

The boy glances to ALEXEI and DMITRY.

BOY

(in Russian)

Gentlemen, have a nice evening.

BOY

(in French)

Mom, I'm hungry. Can we eat now?

The tour guide stops speaking to his group. He walks over to ALEXEI and DMITRY.

TOUR GUIDE

So this is one of the new street performers?

DMITRY

Actually it is, but he is dead tired.

ALEXEI

Hey can we get a group picture?

DMITRY takes a group photograph with his cell.

INT. TAXI

At a very far distance there is again another police car. The TAXI DRIVER takes action and the police car is avoided. The taxi parks on the street near the Serbsky Institute.

EXT. SERBSKY INSTITUTE, PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL FOR DISSIDENTS.

ALEXEI and DMITRY accidentally stumble over a very old man sleeping at the gate. He wakes up. He looks something like VASILY SITNIKOV.

This man has been devastated by life and life on the street. Eyes, skin, teeth, every part of this man is worn. One would never guess he had accomplished anything in his life. He looks like one of the 100 million Russians beat down by the USSR.

DMITRY

I'm sorry.

The sleeping SITNIKOV, wakes and looks at them.

MAN

Waiting.

ALEXEI
Waiting for what?

MAN
What year is it?

DMITRY
Why are you here?

MAN
Punitive medicine or Methadone. What
time is it?

There is a pause. Suddenly the MAN notices LENIN.

MAN
You have Lenin?

The ARTIST's eye has been awoken. ALEXEI tries to
distract the man but he IS SITNIKOV. It is the ghost of
SITNIKOV.

ALEXEI
And vodka.

SITNIKOV shakes off the offer. He is more interested in
LENIN. He gets up from the floor and looks closely at
LENIN.

MAN
It is a fake?

DMITRY
What do you think?

The man also examines ALEXEI and DMITRY. Their clothes,
shoes, watches. He is trying to judge if they are crafty
enough to take the real LENIN.

MAN
Yes, I understand that you must say he
is a fake. But how did you get him?
The soldiers there once beat me for no
reason.

DMITRY

What year was this?

MAN

I don't know. I served 14 years in insane asylums for having drawn a nude woman on the back of a Nazi propaganda leaflet. Upon my release, I married and tried to become a priest. For this I was beaten and sustained harassment by the KGB. I saw a vision of Lenin having sex with Andropov's wife. The party must have been collecting art, because I did two stints in this psychiatric establishment. I was rehabilitated two times. Aminazin is sort of nice, but painting Andropov's wife with Lenin was a serious mistake.

DMITRY

Too bad. I'm sorry.

MAN

It is embarrassing. Me! I was an artist and truly insane. Most people in here were ordinary criminals feigning insanity in order to be sent to a mental hospital, opposed to a work camp.

DMITRY

But they survived. You survived.

MAN

But they didn't calculate. The "tranquilizing" injections. I knew Zombies before the films. We were wakened in the middle of the night, immersed into a cold bath, wrapped in a wet sheet, and put next to the heater so that the sheet would cut into the body when it dried. Punitive medicine, a tool in the struggle

against dissidents who cannot be
punished by legal means.

ALEXEI

Well, lets take a photo. You will pose
with Lenin?

The OLD PAINTER is almost a contortionist, but mostly a
free spirit. He pulls up into the most awesome ballet
"grand temps releve". DMITRY takes a photograph with his
cell.

KRYUCHKOV arrives. ALEXEI and DMITRY, with LENIN, jump in
the taxi. They drive away but look back. SITNIKOV and
KRYUCHKOV are rolling around in the street punching each
other.

EXT. YAUZA HOSPITAL - YAUZSKAYA ST

The cemetery of Yauza Hospital was used for the victims
of Stalin's Terror in his first years of power after
LENIN's death until 1926. These were largely people that
Stalin regarded as potential political enemies.

LENIN has his photo taken in front of the building.

INT. TAXI

It appears that there is a police car more than 20 blocks
back. The taxi turns left, turns right; it looks as if
the police might finally catch them.

EXT. OUTSIDE DONSKOI MONASTERY CEMETERY

The taxi turns a corner and stops and the men scale the
wall. First ALEXEI gives DMITRY a boost over the wall and
then ALEXEI gets ready to throw LENIN over.

ALEXEI

Are you ready to catch him?

DMITRY

Yes. Throw him.

ALEXEI does manage to throw the body over the wall. However, DMITRY doesn't catch the body and we hear a terribly loud thud.

The TAXI DRIVER boosts ALEXEI over the wall and lights a cigarette. The police car rounds the corner and drives past slowly; to them it looks like the TAXI DRIVER has simply stopped for a smoking break. It looks innocent enough.

EXT. INSIDE DONSKOI MONASTERY CEMETERY

ALEXEI

What is this place? Some sort of Communist cemetery?

DMITRY

You might say that. Yes.

ALEXEI

What do we want with a lot of graves of communists?

DMITRY

Communists aren't buried in communist cemeteries. Understand?

They stop at the grave of Alexander Solzhenitzen. ALEXEI looks nervous. He is looking around. Drinks some vodka.

DMITRY

What is the matter?

ALEXEI

The last time Lenin walked through a cemetery two men came after him with shovels.

ALEXEI and DMITRY hear music and ALEXEI thinks he has seen ZOYA and VERA GANGART in the cemetery.

DMITRY

Do you hear that?

ALEXEI

Do you see that?

They prop LENIN, standing up, against the writer's grave marker (cross). They follow the music into the trees.

From a different direction, an older man very similar to ALEXANDER SOLZHENITZEN emerges from the trees. He walks in front of LENIN, folds his arms in disgust. SOLZHENITZEN's ghost stares at LENIN intensely. It looks like there might be a fistfight. Neither man twitch a muscle. Gravity wins, however. LENIN'S BODY topples over and falls to the floor with a thud.

ALEXEI and DMITRY return, SOLZHENITZEN has disappeared and they didn't find any music or women.

ALEXEI

Our eyes must be playing tricks on us.

DMITRY

We shouldn't be stealing bodies,
walking in cemeteries and drinking
also.

They pick LENIN up and take a photo of him standing near Solzhenitzen's grave.

EXT. ULITSA DONSKAYA AT THE TAXI

The street is silent. We see the outside wall of the cemetery. Suddenly LENIN'S BODY comes flying over the wall. Thud! ALEXEI and DMITRY crawl over next.

The men return LENIN to the taxi and they drive away, just as KRYUCHKOV rounds the corner.

EXT. THE GRAVEYARD TO FALLEN MONUMENTS

DMITRY sings patriotic Soviet songs. He has a terrible voice when drunk. The most intimidating figure in the dark is that of Felix Dzerzhinsky, founder of the NKVD - the organization that was to become the KGB. His statue was toppled in the aftermath of the failed coup of August

1991 and removed from Lubyanka ploshchad. DMITRY takes a photograph of LENIN with Dzerzhinsky's statue.

The TAXI DRIVER has his back to the film's camera and is urinating on the sidewalk in a particularly artistic and gymnastic style.

ALEXEI and DMITRY look down at the art.

ALEXEI AND DMITRY

Timur

(pause)

Your name is Timur?

ALEXEI

Our taxi driver even doted the i.

DMITRY

You are very talented.

ALEXEI

Yes. That isn't easy.

DMITRY

What is your last name?

The TAXI DRIVER drinks more vodka, meditates a second and then gyrates his last name.

ALEXEI AND DMITRY

D-a-n-n-i-l-l-o-w-e-c-z-o-w-a-c!!!

They wait. Now Timur must dot the "i". There is a pause. He must work up the water and his aim must be accurate. He might not be able to. Dannilloweczowac is a VERY long name. This isn't high drama. But he is finally able to. The men cheer.

ALEXEI

I can do that.

DMITRY

Your last name is Golov, so short.

ALEXEI

Okay give me a name and I will write it.

DMITRY

Nadezhda Krupskaya

ALEXEI

How do I even spell that?

EXT. KIEVSKAYA METRO STATION

The taxi lumbers to a stop. ALEXEI and DMITRY are about to leave the taxi and use the Metro. The TAXI DRIVER is going home and done with work. DMITRY picks up a piece of trash that the wind has blown there. DMITRY makes a ceremony out of it.

DMITRY

(to the taxi driver)

Sure Cab drivers are scumbags. They lust only for whores and gambling. They like to fight. They like to kick jerks out of their cab.

ALEXEI

But you didn't.

DMITRY

They're wolves in cab driver clothing. A real cab driver is a full time son of a gun.

ALEXEI

But you aren't.

DMITRY

Oh, yeah. A cabby's gotta know how to push a hack.

ALEXEI

And you can.

DMITRY

If you can't pass a hack through the eye of a needle, you ain't no cabby. The cab's gotta be an integral part of you. It has to burrow through Moscow like a rat in a garbage heap and come out shining.

ALEXEI

You did.

DMITRY

You gotta be able to sneak up on a fare like a pickpocket. There can't be more than the distance between the hem of a whore's skirt and her corporation between you and sleepwalking pedestrians.

ALEXEI

And, you did.

DMITRY

You'll pick up ladies giving birth. You'll pick up the widow who's just watched her husband die. You'll pick up the ones that have been stabbed and shot and raped and take them to the hospital. And then you'll take them home. You'll pick up the guy on his way to the bridge to jump. You'll pick up the young lovers and not watch...

ALEXEI

Much. You don't watch much.

DMITRY

Everybody's desperate. Everybody's got guns.

ALEXEI

We don't.

DMITRY

You'll pick them up by the tens of thousands, too poor to drive a car and too drunk to find a Metro station.

ALEXEI

And that is a good thing. I think? Otherwise we wouldn't need taxis.

DMITRY

But the cab driver has to put up with it. He gets the big picture. He gets the whole stinking overview.

ALEXEI

You will.

DMITRY

You gotta have nerves of steel and the patience of a toad.

ALEXEI

You do.

DMITRY

Otherwise you'll crack up.

ALEXEI

You might.

DMITRY

I hereby award you the Metal of Lenin's Corpse.

ALEXEI places a piece of trash with LENIN's photo on it in the TAXI DRIVER's jacket pocket. It appears to be part of an old post card, propaganda, or something torn from a book and discarded.

DMITRY takes a photograph of ALEXEI, LENIN and the TAXI DRIVER with his cell. The TAXI DRIVER refuses payment but ALEXEI puts a lot of money in the TAXI DRIVER's hands. And finally he relents and accepts the money.

The TAXI DRIVER waves (still speechless) and leaves them. ALEXEI and DMITRY walk to the metro station.

INT. KIEVSKAYA METRO STATION

ALEXEI and DMITRY travel the Metro when it opens for the morning. They see an advertisement for the Radison Royal. And while waiting on a train at Kievskaya metro station with all the mosaics about communism, LENIN is propped up against a wall painting. And PEOPLE walk by his body and they don't notice LENIN in the socialist realism camouflage. The Muscovites are too busy, too sleepy or they are simply Muscovites undistracted.

Suddenly from the other end of the platform, KRYUCHKOV almost makes the train they board. They narrowly escape on the first train of the day. The doors close and KRYUCHKOV is left winded on the platform.

KRYUCHKOV

петух присоски! I missed the train!

EXT. RADISON ROYAL

At the Radison Royal, there are THREE PROSTITUTES on the left and TWO PROSTITUTES on the right.

Not whoremongers ALEXEI and DMITRY are simply looking to avoid POLICEMEN. There are POLICEMEN a hundred yards down the sidewalk, watching. They slowly walk in their direction. ALEXEI and DMITRY and UNCLE VLADIMIR receive invitations from all five girls (with prices).

ONE OF THREE UGLY PROSTITUTES

8000 rubles total price.

Evidently the SPOKESPERSON for the three think that the men are VERY VERY drunk. LENIN looks drunk, if that is possible. And ALEXEI and DMITRY are perhaps foreigners.

ONE OF TWO PROSTITUTES

2000 rubles each.

ALEXEI and DMITRY, after looking closely at LENIN for his opinion, chose the TWO BEAUTIFUL GIRLS for a reasonable price.

Simple economics. They chose the TWO GIRLS, whose price is more reasonable, and of course they don't want to be forced to pay for LENIN's entertainment.

THE POLICE, who are watching from a distance, would think nothing if the men go with the GIRLS, but might recognize LENIN is dead if they don't. So they go upstairs.

INT. RADISON ROYAL ELEVATOR

The GIRLS, ALEXEI and DMITRY are riding the elevator up. Prostitute #1 looks very innocent.

DMITRY

Politics and prostitution have to be the only jobs where inexperience is considered a virtue. In what other profession would you brag about not knowing stuff?

PROSTITUTE #1

You don't understand. I only prostitute the part of the body that isn't important, and nobody suffers except my karma a little bit. I don't do big harm. You are a politician, you work for the mayor. I saw you on TV making excuses for him. You prostitute your mind. Mind is the seat of wisdom. What you do is very very bad. You should not use your mind in that way.

ALEXEI

I believe that sex is one of the most beautiful, natural, wholesome things that money can buy.

PROSTITUTE #2

In the beginning, I revelled in being so rebellious and bad. But I have recently found myself saying, "I am the best hooker in town!" repeatedly.

The PROSTITUTES are as drunk or more drunk than ALEXEI and DMITRY. They don't have a reaction to LENIN.

INT. RADISON ROYAL

They take cell phone photos of LENIN with the PROSTITUTES.

There are twin beds. LENIN is laid in one of them.

PROSTITUTE

Money.

ALEXEI fumbles around and takes out only a few notes. He seems to think he has some more in other pockets. Too drunk to do anything with the GIRLS and perhaps out of money the girls throw ALEXEI and DMITRY out into the hallway.

PROSTITUTE

You bums, you stinking drunk bums!

It turns out these girls don't need a pimp. They are very strong and perhaps are body builders or just physically fit. They pick ALEXEI and DMITRY up and throw them into the hall. The door slams and locks.

PROSTITUTE

(through the door)

And we are keeping Uncle Vladimir for ransom.

They think LENIN is passed out in the bed.

SECOND PROSTITUTE

Now let's see if you have any money.

The other PROSTITUTE mounts LENIN. She lets out a moan as her hips grind against LENIN. She reaches down to unzip his fly.

SECOND PROSTITUTE

(confused)

There isn't a fly? What? Who would make pants like this?

And so she now suspects that he is dead. She moves up and lifts his sunglasses. Screams. In a panic, she spins throwing the body like a discus out the window. Screaming both the women flee the scene, grossed out and not wanting any legal problems.

ALEXEI and DMITRY enter the room, look down through the broken window. LENIN has fallen into a garbage truck.

INT. HOTEL STAIR WELL

ALEXEI and DMITRY must race down stairs, as the out of breath 90 year old former Politburo member is struggling up the stairs. They pass. Again, KRYUCHKOV takes a swing at them but he is too slow.

EXT. RADISON HOTEL

Again they must retrieve the body. But the garbage truck has departed by the time they arrive downstairs.

They walk a few blocks and see a different trash truck picking up trash. They reason it is going the same place as the other trash truck. They ask a few questions looking to get a lift out to the landfill.

DMITRY

My friend accidentally threw a very expensive suit away. Can we go to where the garbage is?

SANITATION WORKER

Sure come on. Get on. That is were we are going.

ALEXEI and DMITRY jump on the truck.

The old Politburo member, that is always chasing them, would call the police but he wants to be the hero to what is left of his party. He shouts.

KRYUCHKOV

I know Gorbachev and you are in a lot of trouble when I catch you ослы.

Out of bullets, he throws some stones at them as they flee down the street in a trash truck.

EXT. BUTOVO LANDFILL

ALEXEI and DMITRY have only the light from their cell phones. But they are diligently shifting through the garbage dump, near the village of Butovo.

DMITRY

We are never going to find this body.

ALEXEI

Sure we will. Might be daylight however. Which might be a good thing if we don't find it for a while.

DMITRY

Hey, I think we just got lucky.

ALEXEI and DMITRY do find LENIN'S BODY. LENIN's suit is covered in borsht and spaghetti. Seeing this... still drunk, they tease him but it is becoming old and less funny as the night progresses.

ALEXEI

He has something on his suit. It looks like blood. Perhaps borscht?

DMITRY

Blood or borscht?

ALEXEI

Spaghetti sauce and borscht.

DMITRY

I was about say it can't be blood.

ALEXEI

Unless there is another dead body out here.

DMITRY

A lot of people disappear from Moscow and they never find the body.

ALEXEI and DMITRY begin to think that there are perhaps tens of bodies buried here. The body of LENIN is one thing, but a freshly killed and dumped body would be a different story. It seems they are beginning to sober.

EXT. BUTOVO EXECUTION AND BURIAL SITE

Walking home from the dump in the middle of the night, they find themselves at the Butovo Execution and Burial Site. They stop to rest.

They see on the wall secret police photo's of the victim's that were executed and buried at Butovo Shooting Range. DMITRY reads from a panel next to the entrance.

DMITRY

More than 20,000 people were killed here between 1935 and 1953, nearly all of them in the years of Stalin's Great Terror in 1937 and 1938. 96% of the victims were men, 4% women. 18 were over 75 years of age and 10 were 15 years or younger.

The men are even teary eyed and smash their empty vodka bottles against the concrete. This is the emotional climax of the film. After this point in the film, ALEXEI and DMITRY are now 100% sober.

EXT. ROAD BACK TO MOSCOW

They are walking with LENIN back to Moscow. Finally, one of the empty garbage trucks stop to pick them up. They remain silent as they ride back into town in the back of an empty garbage truck. They are silent. Clearly they feel a lot of emotion and two sorts of guilt.

LENIN'S BODY isn't dropped or subjected to any slap stick humor, physical comedy or accidents after this scene in the film.

**EXT. FABRIKA SROCHNOY KHMICHISTKI I STIRKI BELYA # 25,
ULITSA VAVILOVA, MOSCOW, RUSSIA, 117312**

.
It is decided to have the suit cleaned at a dry cleaners. The garbage truck delivers them to Fabrika Srochnoy. Open very early in the morning, a wise older woman and GRANDMOTHER of 14 children, she looks at LENIN and at the guilty faces of ALEXEI and DMITRY. Very wise, she seems to know the entire story of what has happened in the night.

She asks no questions. No one says anything. She senses that they are going to return the body and nods her head. She is agreeing to clean the coat and pants. Nothing is said in this scene, it is simply understood and done.

ALEXEI and DMITRY sit on the sidewalk as the city begins to wake.

ALEXEI
Two million dollars.

They shake their heads, what a pity they will not see any of the money. They normally would have a philosophical discussion while the suit is cleaned but the words do not arrive. The men simply sit and think. There is a very long pause.

ALEXEI is thinking how he could have used the money. DMITRY is thinking how lucky they have been though the night not to be arrested.

GRANDMOTHER is done cleaning the suit. She calls them from deep inside the shop.

GRANDMOTHER

Idiots!

They jump up like children and run inside.

EXT. RED SQUARE TOMB

ALEXEI and DMITRY return the body to the Red Square. The sun is rising in the East.

INT. RED SQUARE TOMB

The COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBERS downstairs are still having their meeting. They are still debating a response. And the SCIENTIST is still looking at naked women on the computer.

ALEXEI

Are we sure we want to do this?

DMITRY

Just let it go. Once this black spot of mold appeared on his right cheek. They threatened to execute the science team if it wasn't dealt with.

Downstairs, suddenly many medium to high ranking government officials walk into the treatment facilities. They have come from the tunnel system. So, ALEXEI and DMITRY leave the body in the crypt upstairs.

ALEXEI and DMITRY escape into Red Square.

KRYUCHKOV has returned from his all-night and city-wide chase. He enters the public entrance and walks inside the crypt and notices LENIN'S BODY upstairs. Since he immediately began his investigation and didn't enter the tomb with the other party members, it does occur to him that he might have been chasing a replica all night.

He examines the body and discovers that this body has a splint on one leg. Yes, he was correct. He reasons that the real LENIN was struck by the police car last night.

The half exhausted KRYUCHKOV arrives downstairs.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL

Where is the body?

The government men downstairs wonder where is the body. They have a few seconds of horror. The Communist Party members aren't cooperative and are tight lipped. At best it is unsupervised and at worst has been stolen or mutilated.

KRYUCHKOV

It is upstairs.

He points to the mausoleum above them. The group of government officials race to inspect the body.

They have heard rumors and reports from people who have seen strange pictures of LENIN running about town and they have come to investigate.

FSB MAN

Any trouble?

KRYUCHKOV

No, nothing out of the ordinary.

EXT. RED SQUARE

Incredibly nervous, ALEXEI and DMITRY run as fast as possible across the square. Sober now, returning the body is much more frightening for them.

Almost no one knew what happened in Moscow LENIN's last night before burial. Make this movie and all of Russia will know.

INT. GLAVPIVTORG AT LUYBYANKA

Later that day, a sober ALEXEI and DMITRY return to restaurant Glavpivtorg at Luybyanka. They order water and sit at the bar; on TV is the evening news of the earlier burial of LENIN. And who has a place of honor at the

burial? Of course, the 90 year old man who has been chasing them all night, KRYUCHKOV.

TV NEWS

Today's burial isn't without controversy. The body was mysteriously moved in the night from a gurney in the treatment facilities back into the mausoleum display area. Could it be that Lenin wants to stay in his tomb?

TV NEWS

Lenin's body reportedly sustained two falls in the highly planned and Communist Party ceremony. As the coffin (supplied by the Communist Party) was lifted into train, Lenin's body fell through the wooden bottom onto the platform. After a short delay repairs were made, a new, metal-plated coffin was donated by a Moscow funeral director.

There are six very OLD MEN carrying the casket, not very smart; and these people used to run a country? The casket falls into the grave, three of the very old pallbearers lose their grip and balance and fall in after it.

TV NEWS (V.O.)

Then in Saint Petersburg, as the coffin was lowered into the grave, the funeral servants could not handle its weight and the coffin fell with a loud crash into the grave hole. Three of the pallbearers were dragged into the grave.

The PALLBEARERS who don't fall into the grave crack their heads against the others and they are injured also.

EXT. VOLKOV CEMETERY IN SAINT PETERSBURG

We leave the television news and see in tight detail the entire fiasco at the Volkov Cemetery burial site.

The young men in the MILITARY HONOUR GUARD don't know if they should help or maintain their official decorative positions.

Finally, the guards put down their guns and flags to help the old men but the COMMUNISTS are angry, embarrassed and are not appreciative. In this film, if you didn't notice before, only the COMMUNISTS use foul language. The television news, which has several cameras there, beep out the cursing.

We see the AMBULANCE PROFESSIONALS treat the PALLBEARER'S bloody noses and contusions on their foreheads. All are receiving treatment. One former POLITBURO MEMBER gets a neck brace. Three are fuming mad and cursing profusely. Two simply senile. One is happy that the sun is shining. He is oblivious to events.

INT. GLAVPIVTORG AT LUYBYANKA

Back to the television in the bar. The news shows several of the photos DMITRY posted throughout the night have made it to TV news.

TV NEWS (V.O.)

Last night, a Russian businessman staged an elaborate hoax by posting photos of them standing beside a Lenin replica on the Communist Party's facebook page. Communist Party spokesperson commented, "This sick joke is representative of what has become of our country. The body was in our possession the entire night."

Shot on television of Tochka G sex shop.

TV NEWS

The owner of the only know replica, at the Tochka G sex shop and museum on

Novy Arbat, denies that his replica
was used in the prank.

Shot on television of people lined up to buy vodka.

TV NEWS

Rattlesnake Vodka, who's label is in
every photo, sales have reportedly
skyrocketed.

We leave the television news and are back in the bar. The
waitress leans near them and whispers.

WAITRESS

ДВЕ ЖОПЫ.

Perhaps the waitress, with the communist leanings, had
overheard ALEXEI and DMITRY's conversation with the
tycoons the previous night. Perhaps she thinks they are
just pranksters. Or perhaps, she curses every capitalist.

THE END

Lee A. Miller, lee@rocknrollover.com

What you like the most in film, at
first, seems shocking to you. But
really, just seconds, or minutes or
some time later, you feel, yes, I like
it. And I like it exactly because at
first I thought I didn't like it. It is
like falling in love. Bang in the head;
who is this weirdo? -- Kira Muratova

END OBSERVATIONS:

1. This film can easily be a masterpiece of stupidity. And ironically you want to produce it. Critics will say it is a "screw-ball comedy" but will complain that "you can clearly see Lenin's arm moving" or "wouldn't he begin to smell?" And the Russian critics will be the VERY worst in the world at not realizing that movies are fantasy. Movies are not about reality.
2. You see, the critics will fail to understand that a truly moronic movie requires a lot of skill. To transform a plot this thin into entertaining moviemaking requires actors with effortless charm and masterful skills in physical comedy. And if Russia can't produce such artists, I will be a monkey's uncle.
3. Only the communist characters curse.
4. Each and every scene is a clash between Soviet and Russian culture. Some characters are dressed in Soviet clothes and they are conversing with modern Russians in modern clothes. Some rooms and locations are Soviet, but they are occupied with contemporary Russian people. And vice-versa. The most important hire for this film is a art director that understands this.
5. Actors should primarily have the skills for physical comedy but secondarily they should have the skills of improvisation. Nothing in this scripts is sacred.
6. Weekend at Bernie's in 1989 grossed \$30.2 million in the USA. Weekend at Bernie's II in 1993 grosses \$12.7 million. Total US gross \$43 million. Indexed for inflation that is \$81 million today.
7. Santanico Pandemonium will not be appearing in this film.