

Dream & Smile

By

Anastasiya Serhiyenia

4 **EXT. BACKYARD - MORNING**

4

Anna enters the backyard. A sign reads in Russian "Affordable Living".

Noticing a BALD MAN, 50, walking near the pool she comes to a stop.

Anna waits a moment before entering.

She lets several minutes pass and then makes another attempt to get the house, but the man is still there.

Anna panics and hides behind an inflatable "American flag" pool float leaning against the wall. Moments later, the man finally leaves and Anna runs towards the backdoor.

5 **INT. ANNA'S ROOM - MORNING**

5

Anna locks the door behind her, scrambles between her paintings, easel and projects. She is tries to plug her phone into the charger but the cord is too short.

She crouches down by the bed to dial the number. Anna attempts to sound calm and collected.

ANNA

Good morning! My name is Anna. I called yesterday regarding a job. I thought maybe you had a chance to look over my resume? No openings?..

(appealingly)

Maybe I can stop by and show you my work?.. I know, just in case you'll have...

There is a knock at the door. Anna covers a phone with her hand. She lowers her voice.

ANNA (CONT'D)

In case you'll have an opening..Please, just...

The knocking gets louder.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Quick look! I promise not to take much of your time! No?..

There are beeps on the other side. The knocking stops. An envelope is slipped under the door.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

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Anna hangs up the phone. She stares at the envelope on the floor.

She picks it up and opens it. The letter from the management reads on hold "Eviction Notice".

6 **EXT. BRIGHTON BEACH STREET - DAY**

6

Anna in business attire with artistic flare, with painting under her arm walks in to a jewelry store with sign "We Buy Gold".

She dress to impress. Her fake MK purse is bright red.

7 **INT. JEWELRY STORE - DAY**

7

Anna approaches the SALESMAN, middle eastern, 50, while he is testing the pair of earrings she brought through a magnifying glass.

ANNA

I am telling you honestly my grandmother was born in the 1920s and her mother gave these earrings to her on her Birthday. I would not sell them actually. But this money will help me a lot. You even can not imagine how you will help me.

SALESMAN

(with middle eastern accent)

Girl, I am telling you, this is definitely not the Tsarist era, this is the Soviet Union! What are you talking about? Hundred bucks is my last price.

Anna shocked and offended by this response. She grabs her earrings and exits.

8 **EXT. BRIGHTON BEACH STREET - SUNSET (GOLDEN HOUR)**

8

Anna walks further down the street, turns around the corner and stops near the Art Gallery. The sign over the door reads on Russian "Happy in Immigration". Sign under "We Buy Art for Cash".

9 **INT. ART GALLERY - SUNSET (GOLDEN HOUR)**

9

Anna approaches the sales person in an gallery, young hyperactive Jewish guy Levi, 25.

ANNA

Hi! My name is Anna. I called you today regarding my portfolio. I thought maybe you would like to buy my painting at least?

Anna shows Levi her painting. Dark abstracted silhouettes on a NY streets: homeless people, children, dock workers, old passersby.

LEVI

Nice work. But quite depressing, no offense. Our clients buy positive art. Happy art.

ANNA

I have this too! Next time I'll bring it. But since I am here can you buy it?

LEVI

\$50.

ANNA

Come on! You know you can sell it for much more!

LEVI

Maybe. But what this work bring my client but sadness? Dark... You know what? Just bring me your nice work next time.

Another ARTIST enters the gallery with his work in same tone as Anna's. Levi happy to see him. Anna looks with disappointment on the work. She's barely holding back tears.

10 **INT. STRIP CLUB - NIGHT**

10

The manager, VLAD, 35, looks at Anna.

VLAD

(in Russian)

Yesterday you said you weren't come back anymore. We already found a new diva.

(CONTINUED)

ANNA
Sh**t happens.
(in Russian)
Come on, Vlad! We can double.

VLAD
(in Russian)
Talk to her. See if she's ok with
that.

11 INT. STRIP CLUB BACK ROOM - NIGHT

11

Anna walks into the small backroom. MARINA, 20, is sitting on a chair, in the process of removing her Jeans.

She's shaking a little from nerves.

ANNA
Hi! Where are you from?

MARINA
From Kazakhstan.

ANNA
(in Russian)
Our girl. Do you want to dance
together? What's your name?

MARINA
(in Russian)
Marina. That's cool, it is my first
time dancing in the club. Any
advice?

The women change into their outfit dresses. Anna helps Marina fix her hair and put on eyelashes.

ANNA
(in Russian)
House fee \$120, VIP rooms starts
from \$200 - depends how long client
wants to be with you there, a lap
dance is 30 dollars a song...
(FADE OUT)

12 INT. STRIP CLUB BACKSTAGE - NIGHT

12

Marina looks nervous.

MARINA
(in Russian)
I feel naked.

(CONTINUED)

ANNA

(in Russian)

It's just a matter of time. Just ask DJ to set your favorite track. Don't worry. They're all drunk or high. No one will notice that it's your first time. Just watch me.

13 **INT. STRIP CLUB - NIGHT**

13

MONTAGE:

Clear stripper heels seductively walk on stage.

Anna, wearing her grandmother's earrings begins dancing.

CLOSE UP: Her body dancing through flashing lights.

Marina sits on a man's lap while he snorts cocaine. He offers her some.

Anna stop dancing.

Anna hops down from the stage and pulls Marina away by her hand.

Vlad shouts at Anna.

The security guard shows Anna the door out.

14 **INT. TRAIN - NIGHT**

14

A panorama of Manhattan from the bridge.

15 **EXT. BACKYARD - NIGHT**

15

Anna sits by the pool in the empty backyard. She grabs the inflatable "American flag" pool float and throws it into the pool. She carefully crawls into the pool float.

Anna floats on the float in her dress, pink puffy coat, and smudged makeup.

She looks up at the sky. Her voice is faint over the loud train passing by.

ANNA

(in Russian)

You have no idea what my day was like.

(CONTINUED)

GRANDMOTHER

(old Russian voice)

Well, tell me how it was, how are you?

ANNA

(in Russian)

I was offered a different job, but I still accepted the Art Studio offer. They want to show my solo exhibition.

GRANDMOTHER

(old Russian voice)

Well done, Anechka, congratulations! Is that soon?

ANNA

(in Russian)

Yes, very soon! By the way, I'm swimming in the pool with friends. Kostya is also here. I'm still not sure if I have to marry him.. So many things to do..