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# Tatyana Markus: Hero of Ukraine

Ariana L. Martineau

Grand Valley State University, [martinar@mail.gvsu.edu](mailto:martinar@mail.gvsu.edu)

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# Tatyana Markus

Hero of Ukraine

by: Ariana Martineau

Dedicated to the memory of all those whose lives were lost in the Holocaust; the remembered and forgotten. And to those who still fight for their remembrance.

**“Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” - George Santayana**

## Acknowledgements

I would like to first and foremost thank my professor of the Honors Holocaust class I took, Rob Franciosi. I already was extremely interested in the Holocaust, and his class really fueled the fire. It is also because of him that I learned about the summer trip to Eastern Europe through the Holocaust Educational Foundation. Franciosi helped me get scholarships to make this affordable, and he also went on the trip. That trip is where I learned about Tatyana, so none of this would have been possible without him. He also agreed to be my advisor on this project, and has been extremely helpful in the process. This play changed so much from draft to draft thanks to his advice.

Which then brings me to thank the Holocaust Educational Foundation, and specifically the founder Zev Weiss. The experience was through that foundation, and Zev Weiss ultimately had the say in if I got to go or not. Not only did he approve me, but he also gave me a \$1000 scholarship. This play, which may be my favorite thing I've ever created, would not be here if it wasn't for the Holocaust Educational Foundation's trip and Franciosi.

Last, but not least, I need to thank my parents and all my close friends. My parents have been so supportive in everything I do, and their excitement about this project from the moment I first brought the idea up to them has been greatly appreciated. It's very easy to have motivation to work on something when you feel like your parents are proud of what you're doing. The equal amount of excitement from my roommates and close friends in the theatre has been just as helpful. They've put up with me ranting excitedly about the play, or a new idea I came up with, and even making a couple of them read some early drafts so I could get some other opinions as well.

So much has led to this play, and I couldn't have possibly come to it all by myself. Behind every play is an author, and behind every author are people that have made this possible. With the way events have gone up to this moment, it almost feels like fate, or that I was meant to write this.

## Author's Note

On June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 I was on a trip to Eastern Europe through the Holocaust Educational Foundation. It was our last day visiting Kyiv, Ukraine and our guide was bringing us to see all kinds of memorials around Kyiv – and Babi Yar was included. Babi Yar is an area of ravines in Kyiv that the Nazis used to murder thousands and thousands of Jews, Gypsies, Communists, and Soviet prisoners of war. Within the first two days of shootings at Babi Yar, more than 33,000 were killed. But the overall total of those murdered at Babi Yar is estimated at around 100,000. The memorial of Tatyana was one of the last we saw at Babi Yar, and my guide told us her general story: She was a Jewish underground resistance fighter that personally killed dozens of Nazis, and was eventually caught and tortured for 5 months but didn't say a word. I was already amazed by her story and then our guide said, "She was only 21 when she died, young like you," she said looking at me, "How old are you?". "20," I responded, and it suddenly hit me. Different place, different time, that could be me. You often think of these heroes as so different from you, but that hit close to home.

Fast forward to the school year that followed that summer, my Junior year at Grand Valley State University. My roommates and I were all in the Honors College, and all Honors students have to do a Senior Project. We all began brainstorming what cool project we could do relating to our majors/minors. As a History/Education double major and English/Theatre double minor, I immediately thought of the idea to write a play. If I wrote a historical play, it would be combining all of my studies: representing my passion for Theatre, my extreme interest in History – especially the Holocaust, and my ability to do professional writing through my studies in English. It was perfect, and my initial thought was to write a play about the Russian Revolution of 1917, and the controversy that was Nicholas II and his family. It was a topic I loved, and had written a research paper on in high school. I had a great plan, I was so excited to write it... and then one day I was flipping through pictures from my trip, and there Tatyana was. Her story was fresh in my mind, and I was still in awe of this

brave woman. Deciding in between the two topics was difficult, but people know about the Russian Revolution and the Romanovs. If I brought up Tatyana Markus in conversation, no one would know who she was.

I told her story to my roommates, and they were amazed and told me that of course I had to write about her. As a historian, it is my job to uncover and share the stories of people that have been forgotten in history that should have never been forgotten. At least, that's how I view what historians should do. Especially as someone going to be a high school teacher, educating the modern day about the past is extremely important to me. And what better way to influence the public than through the theatre? Theatre has been a conductor for social change for thousands of years since the Ancient Greeks. It is not only artistic expression, but it always has a purpose, has some sort of lesson attached. Theatre affects people, and it should only enhance the emotional effects that Tatyana's story already has.

Although all history is important because learning about it only helps to stop history from repeating itself, I personally think the Holocaust is a key topic. Everyone knows about the Holocaust in modern society, but we have gotten too comfortable and think that nothing like that could ever happen again. But racism and prejudice haven't gone away in the less than 100 years since the Holocaust, and it just takes someone radical like Hitler who decides to blame a disaster or problem on one group of people. I hope this play, although it is something that happened in the early 1940s, is something that audiences/readers can find personal and relevant. Maybe there's a character that you relate to, sympathize with, or maybe it gets you thinking about what you would have done if you were in their place.

I must say that I cannot promise 100% authenticity since Tatyana, and many of the characters, did not survive; so there is not too much about them out there. Also, there is no possible way to recreate dialogue that no one alive was there to hear. This is a creative piece based off of a real story, with research behind it. Most of the research I found was from Russian or Ukrainian websites, and translation could sometimes be a bit rough so some facts may be slightly off

due to that as well. But I have written this to the best of my ability to present it in the way that I imagined it may have happened thanks to the small amount of information I have. I can say that all the characters with names are based off of actual people I found in research, their names and their relationship to Tatyana are not made up. But even though there were those that survived, like Tatyana's mother and the younger siblings, there were no good records I could find for even the simplest details. I knew there were 6 children in Tatyana's family, but did not know how many boys or girls, their names, or even her mother's name. I did try to keep names in "Ukrainian spelling" as I found them and not Americanize them; doing Kyiv instead of Kiev, Yossif instead of Joseph, keeping the "y"s in people's names instead of "i"s. I think this representation still does justice to Tatyana and her story, and I hope you think so as well.

With Love,

Ariana Leona Martineau

## Characters

Tatyana (Tanya) Markus – Jewish resistance fighter

Yossif Markus – Tatyana's father; Jewish resistance fighter

George Levitsky – Tatyana's boyfriend; resistance fighter

Vladimir Kudryashov – Leader of Kyiv Resistance

Otto – General sent by Hitler from Berlin to deal with the underground fighters.

Myronovych – Gestapo officer who falls in love with Tatyana and is her last victim.

Alexander Falco – Took over underground after Vladimir

Catherine – A guerrilla fighter who shared a cell with Tatyana

Typist – A typist for the Nazis; could be man or woman, preferably woman.

Mother – Wife to Yossif, Mother to Tatyana. She escapes and survives.

\* Old Man

\* Middle Aged Woman

\* Young Girl

\* Young Man & Wife

\* 3 Young Sisters

\* Bartender

\* Woman #1



\* Woman #2

\* Woman #3

\* Nazi Officer #1

\* Nazi Guard #1

\* Nazi Guard #2

\* Nazi Guard #3

8 named speaking roles

15 unnamed speaking roles

3 non-speaking listed roles (the sisters); part of ensemble

\* Ensemble: Minimum of 15? With some multiplying of speaking characters.

Old Man, Act I/Alexander Falco, Act II

Young Man, Act I/Otto, Act II/Nazi Guard, Act II

Wife, Act I/Catherine, Act II

Bartender, Act I/Middle Aged Woman, Act I/Woman, Act II

Mother, Act I & II/ Woman, Act II

Act I/Young Girl, Act I/Woman, Act II

Nazi Officer #1, Act I/Nazi Guard, Act II

Non-speaking parts: People in the park in beginning, Nazis, Citizens of Kyiv, Prisoners.

Estimated Number of Cast Members: 24; 9 who are only ever one character, Ensemble around 15 with people playing more than one part

## Scenes

### Act I

Scene 1: Introduction – *Tatyana & Ensemble*

Scene 2: Operation Barbarossa/Kyiv is taken– *Typist, Mother, Yossif, 3 sisters, George, Tatyana, Myronovych*

Scene 3: Tatyana decides to stay – *George, Tatyana*

Scene 4: Tatyana joins the resistance – *George, Tatyana, Vladimir, Myronovych, Ensemble*

Scene 5: Yossif joins the resistance – *Tatyana, Yossif*

Scene 6: Tatyana's birthday– *Tatyana, Yossif, George, Vladimir*

Scene 7: Tatyana is hired at a German canteen – *Tatyana, Bartender, Myronovych, Nazi Officer #1, Nazis*

Scene 8: The Babi Yar notice; the march to Babi Yar – *Tatyana, George, Ensemble*

### Act II

Scene 1: Father gets caught and killed – *Vladimir, Yossif, Tatyana, George*

Scene 2: German canteen killings/Hitler sends Otto to Kyiv/The Movies – *Tatyana, 3 Women, Nazis, Otto, Typist, George, Vladimir, Myronovych*

Scene 3: The News About George and Vladimir – *Alexander, Tatyana, George, Vladimir*

Scene 4: Killing of Otto – *Tatyana, Otto, Nazis, Typist*

Scene 5: Alexander warns Tatyana – *Alexander, Tatyana*

Scene 6: Killing of Myronovych – *Tatyana, Myronovych, Typist*

Scene 7: Tatyana is captured trying to escape – *Alexander, Tatyana, 3 Nazi Guards, Typist*

Scene 8: Tatyana thrown in jail; Torture begins – *Tatyana, Catherine, 3 Nazi Guards, Prisoners*

Scene 9: Finale – *Tatyana, Catherine, George, Yossif, Vladimir, Mother, Typist, Alexander, 3 Nazi Guards, Prisoners*

# Act I

## Scene 1:

*Lights go up on a park scene. Couples, families with strollers walk by without noticing the statue. In the middle of the stage is a replica of the base of the statue that says on it:*

*Tatyana Markus  
1921-1943  
Hero of Ukraine  
Prominent Kyiv Underground Fighter*

*Actress who plays Tatyana frozen standing on the base.*



*Suddenly pedestrians freeze, all sounds stop, Tatyana unfreezes and slowly walks down the steps. Makes her way to the front center of the stage.*

Tatyana: Every day I stand here in the Babi Yar park in Kyiv, Ukraine. This is the site of thousands of murders, including my own father's; all because they offended the Nazis by being either Jews, Gypsies, or Communists. When people think of the Holocaust, most people don't immediately think of the Ukraine, if at all. If they do, well it's often bad things about Ukrainians working with the Nazis. The Holocaust incredibly affected the people of, what was at that time, the Soviet Union. The Nazis had a goal to wipe out all Jews, and they succeeded in killing 60 percent of Ukrainian Jews! But that fact often gets forgotten and with it, people like me. People walk by my memorial statue every day; some acknowledge it... some don't want to. Some know who I am and what I did, but some don't. And basically anywhere outside of the Ukraine, I'm virtually unknown. I was a Jewish resistance fighter in Kyiv, and was murdered by the Nazis when I was only 21. Many stories of untold Holocaust heroes have been brought to light, and now it is my turn.

*Lights dim out*

## Scene 2:

*Spotlight goes up on the Typist sitting at a small desk with a typewriter on it on the front far corner of SL. She's looking at a piece of paper she's holding.*

Typist: (*reads*) Despite numerous non-aggression pacts between Germany and the Soviet Union, Hitler has decided to invade the USSR. Send a message out to all the major generals informing them that as of June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1941, Operation Barbarossa is a go.

*She begins typing as projection of Hitler giving a speech about Operation Barbarossa plays. Spotlight goes out, and lights come up on Tatyana's mother sitting at a dining table with 3 young girls, suitcases sitting nearby.*

Mother: *Y'hi ratzon milfanecha Adonai Eloheinu ve-lohei avoteinu she-tolichenu l'shalom v'tatz'idenu l'shalom, v'tism'chenu l'shalom, v'tadrichenu l'shalom, v'tagi'enu limchoz cheftzenu l'chayim ul'simha ul'shalom. V'tatzilenu mi-kaf kol oyev v'orev v'listim v'chayot ra-ot ba-derech, u-mi-kol min-ei pur'aniyot hamitrag'shot la-vo la-olam*<sup>-1</sup>.

*Yossif runs in through door stage right as projection stops.*

Yossif: (*interrupts, out of breath*) Troops have crossed the border and are coming towards Kyiv, we must flee and move more inland.

Mother: What about Tatyana?!

Yossif: I'll come back for her, she's still in Chisinau working. But we need to leave now!

*Mother and children hurriedly grab luggage; kids run out the door SR, but Mother hesitates in the doorway and looks back into house*

Yossif: *Moya lyubov*<sup>2</sup>, we must go.

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<sup>1</sup> See page 52

<sup>2</sup> My love in Ukrainian

Mother: This is our home. I don't like the idea of running. What will this life be like for the children?

Yossif: It's for our children's sake that we must leave. The Germans don't like us, and they will be merciless. We have to protect our children.

Mother: But one of our children isn't even here to leave with us!

Yossif: Tatyana is a strong girl she will be okay until I come back. I promise I will get her out of here safely.

Mother: If the city is under the Germans' control by then you may not be able to get out.

Yossif: Don't worry about that now, *moya lyubov*. Right now the most important thing is getting you out of here.

*They kiss and run out SR. A projection of the Battle of Kyiv plays as the stage is cleared. Tatyana runs in SL carrying a suitcase. She looks around in shock and horror, and ducks and runs when gunfire goes off. She tries to take cover under her suitcase when Myronovych runs in SR, a gun in his hand. The sound on the video stops when he starts to talk.*

Myronovych: You there! Get up!

Tatyana: (*puts hands up*) I'm just trying to get home! Please, sir.

Myronovych: What's in the bag?

Tatyana: Personal items. I've been working out of town for quite some time now.

Myronovych: Open the bag!

*Tatyana, shaking, opens the bag. Myronovych walks over, gun pointed at her and looks in. He bends down and pulls a menorah out of the bag.*

Myronovych: A Jew! (*he slaps her and she falls to the ground*) In the dirt is where you belong.

*He throws the menorah at her, and exits SL. As Tatyana cries, she picks up the menorah, puts it in her suitcase, and runs off SR. The lights go out so only the spotlight is on the typist.*

Typist: (*looks at audience*) September 19<sup>th</sup>, 1941. Kyiv is conquered.

### Scene 3:

*Tatyana runs into house from SR door.*

Tatyana: Mama?! *Bat'ko*<sup>3</sup>?! (*notices something on table and picks it up*) "We've gone to the train station. Meet us there, it leaves at twelve. With love, Mama." Oh no!

*Tatyana picks up her bag, and begins heading out the door SR when George enters.*

Tatyana: *Moya lyubov!* George! The city is fallen.

George: (*kisses her*) Are you okay? Where's your family?

Tatyana: They're at the train station right now. Come with me!

George: No, I met this man Vladimir Kudryashov. He's forming the Kyiv underground. I'm going to join him.

Tatyana: George, you could get killed. Leave with me, please.

George: I can't, Tatyana. This is my home and I won't give it up so easily to these invaders.

Tatyana: (*pauses*) Well, if you're not leaving, I'm not either. I'll join you.

George: Tanya, no. You should evacuate with your family. I don't have a family like you do. Plus, this is too dangerous for a woman.

Tatyana: This is my home, just like it is yours. Just because I am a woman does not mean that I can't fight for it just as well as you can. My brothers are out fighting on the front and I have no idea what has happened to them or if they're okay. I want to be able to do my part; to be able to say that I did something instead of running away. Coming from the train station just now I was assaulted by a Nazi just

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<sup>3</sup> Father in Ukrainian



for being Jewish. If that's what this city is going to become like, I can't leave and turn my head the other way. Let me fight with you.

George: Is there any way I can convince you otherwise, *moya lyubov*?

Tatyana: No.

George: If you really won't give in, I'll bring you to meet Vladimir. He can fill you in on our first planned attack and we'll see if you still want to stick with this.

Tatyana: I'm sure it won't change my mind, and what a wonderful present! Attacking Nazis only 2 days before my birthday.

George: Don't get too excited, Tanya, this isn't a game. Just promise me you'll try to stay safe, *moya lyubov*. If anything happened, I would feel responsible.

Tatyana: I'll be fine, George. You're not responsible for me; this was my choice. And besides, no resistance fighter ever played it safe.

George: I love you, but you worry me.

Tatyana: There's no need for that.

George: Saying that just makes it worse. Maybe this isn't such a good idea.

Tatyana: George, please bring me to see this Vladimir. (*She grabs his hands*) At least let me see for myself what this is all about.

George: All right, all right.

*They walk to the SR door. Tatyana stops him and kisses him.*

Tatyana: Thank you.

George: Don't thank me quite yet.

*They exit out SR holding hands.*

#### Scene 4:

*Vladimir is standing on a balcony on the second floor of a post office. Some people are wandering the street. Tatyana and George enter SR and go up the steps to the second floor balcony.*

George: Vladimir! I have someone I want you to meet.

Vladimir: Who's this young lady, George?

George: This is my girlfriend, Tatyana.

Vladimir: Oh, have you come to join us?

Tatyana: Yes, sir.

Vladimir: (*smiles*) Well, nice to meet you, miss. Thank you for wanting to join the underground.

Tatyana: Thank you for having an underground. (*pause*) So... can you tell me why we're here?

Vladimir: The Nazis have a tradition of parading through the streets like they're heroes after they've conquered a place. So that means there will be Nazis right out in the open on this street. (*hands her a bouquet of asters*)

Tatyana: What is this for? We're going to shower them with flowers?

Vladimir: Affection with deception.

George: There's a grenade in it.

Tatyana: Oh, I've never handled a grenade before...

George: Tatyana, you don't have to do it, it's okay. It's too soon, one of us can handle it and you can just observe for now.

Tatyana: I'm not "observing". I can do it.

Vladimir: She's a stubborn one.

*A fanfare starts to play as about 5 Nazis start to slowly march onto the stage, entering SL, citizens go wild throwing flowers and clapping. Myronovych leads the parade.*

Tatyana: It's him.

George: It's who?

Tatyana: The Nazi that abused me.

Vladimir: You've had a personal encounter with a Nazi?

George: Tatyana, maybe you shouldn't throw this.

Vladimir: I think this is the perfect task for her.

*Tatyana just stares at Myronovych*

George: Well if you're going to throw it, do it now!

*Tatyana breaks out of her staring as if startled awake, and throws the bouquet off the balcony offstage, SL. There's a loud bang, and the Nazis on stage scurry off SL. The people in the street all scream and run in panic.*

George: You didn't even throw it at him!

Tatyana: I still did damage.

Vladimir: We need to get out of here.

*Vladimir goes down the steps into the street, and looks up at George and Tatyana still in the balcony.*

George: Tatyana, are you okay?

Tatyana: I couldn't kill him.

George: I told you that you shouldn't have been the one throwing it.

Tatyana: Why couldn't I bring myself to do it?

George: This is all so new. You've never killed a person before.

Tatyana: I still did, though, I just couldn't kill him.

George: It became too personal; you can't let that happen. I should have never let you come.

Vladimir: George, Tatyana, we need to go now!

*Tatyana and George go down into the street.*

George: You should go back home. What if your family is looking for you? I've got more I need to do with Vladimir.

Tatyana: I don't want to leave you.

George: I'll be all right. I'll be with Vlad.

Tatyana: Promise me you'll stop by the house later so I know you're okay?

George: I promise. (*They kiss*). Now go.

*Tatyana runs off SR, George and Vladimir run off SL.*

## Scene 5:

*Tatyana runs into house from SR. Yossif is pacing by dining table.*

Tatyana: *Bat'ko!* (*They embrace*)

Yossif: Tanya, where have you been? Why didn't you join us?

Tatyana: I'm sorry, *bat'ko*. I couldn't leave George.

Yossif: Why won't George leave?

Tatyana: He joined the underground resistance. He said he wouldn't abandon his home and just run away. I couldn't abandon him.

Yossif: Tatyana that's his decision, you need to leave and be safe with your mother and sisters!

Tatyana: Maybe I don't want to run either! I want to fight and protect my people and my city.

Yossif: No, Tatyana. That's too dangerous for a young girl. I can't let you; I can't let my daughter risk her life. I don't want to lose you.

Tatyana: You can't stop me. I'm sorry, *bat'ko*.

Yossif: I swear, Tatyana, you're the most stubborn of us all. (*pause*) I got your mother and sisters out safely and on their way to Kharkiv... I'll have to write them and let them know I'm staying.

Tatyana: You don't need to stay. I can take care of myself and George will also look out for me; and also my new friend Vladimir who leads the resistance. Mama needs you more than I do.

Yossif: I can't leave you. I need to stay and make sure you're okay. I can't let anything happen to you. If my own daughter is going to fight, then I should too.

*George enters SR.*

George: Yossif! You're here. Where's the rest of the family? Did they leave?

Yossif: Yes, they're safe but I couldn't leave Tatyana not knowing if she would be okay or not.

George: Maybe you can talk her into leaving, she wouldn't listen to me.

Tatyana: He already tried.

Yossif: I will be staying, and want to fight as well.

George: I'm sure Vlad will be glad to have you join us. Come, I'll introduce you to him.

*Lights go out.*

## Scene 6:

*Tatyana, George and Yossif in the Markus's house. Tatyana sits at the table with a cake on it, while George and Yossif stand.*

Yossif and George: Happy birthday!

Yossif: Happy 20<sup>th</sup>, sweetie.

Tatyana: I appreciate all of this, but it doesn't feel right.

George: *Moya lyubov*, just because times are hard doesn't mean we shouldn't celebrate your birthday. We still have to at least try to live normal lives.

Tatyana: We should be working on plans against the Nazis, not celebrating me. It's a waste of time and energy that could be spent on more important things.

Yossif: Tanya, you're getting obsessed with this Nazi business. It's okay to take a break from it all and be a normal 20 year old girl, not a soldier.

*Vlad comes in, interrupting*

Vladimir: Tatyana! Happy birthday! I have some good news. There's a new task for you if you're up to it.

Tatyana: (*eagerly*) What is it?

George: Not now, Vlad, please.

Tatyana: Hush, it's my birthday. Please continue, Vlad.

Vladimir: We've made you a new identity. Not only is this added protection, but it'll help you get closer to the Nazis.

Tatyana: Get closer? Tell me more.

Vladimir: (*pulls out folded papers*) These are forged documents. Your new name is Tatyana Markusidze, the daughter of a Georgian prince. Your father was killed by the Bolsheviks, so you hate them and want to support anyone against them – and that’s the Nazis. With this, we can get them from the inside.

Yossif: This sounds extremely dangerous.

Tatyana: (*takes the papers and looks at them*) How would this work? What’s the plan?

Vladimir: There’s a canteen that the Germans have taken over for their personal use. They’re looking for waitresses with acceptable backgrounds... and that are quite beautiful.

George: I don’t like the sound of this.

Tatyana: But I would be able to kill Nazis?

Vladimir: Once you gain their trust – plenty.

Yossif: Are you sure Tatyana? It’s easy to throw a grenade from a distance, but being up close and personal with the Nazis is risky.

Tatyana: I’m aware.

George: Tanya, I don’t like this idea.

Tatyana: Then maybe you should have left with me when I asked you to.

Vladimir: Does that mean you’ll do it?

Tatyana: (*pause*) Yes.

Vladimir: (*smiles*) Hello, Miss Markusidze.

*Lights go out.*



## Scene 7:

*Inside a German canteen. There are four tables: one in the front has the two officers, the other three just have one Nazi per table. There's German music playing.*

Myronovych: Did you hear about the new plan at Babi Yar?

Officer #1: Those are the ravines, right? I don't know, I'm a little nervous that this will not work out as well as expected.

Myronovych: Well, no matter what, it's happening on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

Officer #1: That's only days away. Won't it be a little obvious what we're doing? The ravines are right in town.

Myronovych: We haven't really had much opposition since we got here. I'm not too worried about it.

Officer #1: There was that grenade attack.

Myronovych: I wouldn't worry about it. It was probably one of the Jews, and they'll be taken care of soon enough.

Officer #1: Let's hope this Babi Yar thing goes over smoothly then.

Myronovych: I'll drink to that!

Officer #2: *Prost*<sup>4</sup>!

*They clink glasses as Tatyana walks in, now a blonde, with a bartender*

Bartender: Hmm, well I don't know how we could possibly deny employment to a princess. Plus, the officers will love you.

Tatyana: (*notices Myronovych*) Oh, I'm sure.

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<sup>4</sup> Cheers in German

Bartender: Start by bringing some beer to that far table. Remember to charm them, flirt a little. That's how we make good money. And keep bringing them beer; these Germans like to drink.

Tatyana: (*brings tray of beer up to the table*) *Guten tag*<sup>5</sup>, gentlemen!

Myronovych: My, where did you come from?

Tatyana: I was just hired.

Myronovych: Ah, *Wilkommen*<sup>6</sup>! (*to Officer #1*) I'll definitely come more often then.

*Everyone freezes, music stops. Tatyana turns to the audience*

Tatyana: (*motions to Myronovych*) Of course he was here. It was just meant to be, I guess, that our paths would keep crossing. This waitress job was the best thing that happened to me. These Germans made it so easy! They drink, they see a pretty girl, and are so easily manipulated. They never suspected a thing. Little did they know that the woman they were flirting with was one of the Jewish scum they were trying to help eradicate. Little did Myronovych know that the Jewish girl he thought he could push around was going to get her revenge right under his nose.

*They all unfreeze, and music continues. Tatyana begins to walk away from the table, but Myronovych gets up and follows her.*

Myronovych: I'd like to introduce myself. My name's Myronovych.

Tatyana: I'm Tatyana.

Myronovych: Can I just say that you are beautiful, Tatyana, and I would love to take you out sometime.

Tatyana: (*starts to back up*) I'm not sure that's –

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<sup>5</sup> Good Day in German

<sup>6</sup> Welcome in German

Myronovych: (*grabs her arm*) Please, it would be an honor.

Tatyana: I-I guess.

Myronovych: Do you like films?

*Lights go out*

## Scene 8:

*On the streets in Kyiv. People crowd around a poster hanging on a brick wall of a building. Tatyana and George are walking by.*

George: I can't believe you agreed to go on a date with a Nazi, Tanya!

Tatyana: I felt I had no other choice! I was frightened.

George: This is why I was worried.

Tatyana: Please, George, don't worry too much. I'll be okay, I promise. I can handle some silly date.

George: (*notices crowd*) Wait, Tatyana, look. What is going on here?

Tatyana: (*walks up to Young Man and Wife*) Excuse me, what is going on?

Wife: (*sadly*) Look for yourself.

Tatyana: (*pushes her way closer to the poster. Reads*)

"All Jews living in the city of Kyiv and its vicinity must come to the corner of Melnikova and Dokhturova Street by 8 o'clock in the morning on Monday, September 29<sup>th</sup> 1941. They are to bring with them documents, money, valuables, as well as warm clothes, underwear, etc. Any Jews not carrying out this instruction and who are found elsewhere will be shot. Any civilian entering apartments left by Jews and stealing property will be shot."

George: This isn't good Tatyana.

Tatyana: How do you know?

George: I've heard some stories...

Tatyana: Stories of what?

George: Germans killing Jews.

Tatyana: They're probably just rumors. Myronovych didn't kill me when he ran into me.

George: Tanya, we need to hide you and your father. Go home and get all your stuff; we'll hide you two in the resistance headquarters.

Tatyana: George... wait, that's tomorrow. We have to do something!

George: Tatyana, we can't do anything about this. This is too big for us. We will continue to fight the Nazis, but we can't stop this.

Tatyana: We need to take some of these people and hide them! We could do it; they wouldn't even notice. This order is for all Jews in Kyiv. We can save some, can't we?

George: Where to hide them? You and your father are only two people, that's easy. That's also not what we're here for, we're fighters.

Tatyana: Well who are we fighting for? Isn't this it? Is this not the reason?! These are our people! George, no, there must be something we can do.

George: Tanya...

Tatyana: Well maybe there's too many, they can't actually do anything to them. There's too many.

*All lights go out except four spotlights on the front of the stage.  
Middle Aged Woman walks up to front, into spotlight on far SR*

Middle Aged Woman: Don't worry, it says bring documents and warm clothing! Probably just sending us off to work somewhere like they've done with others. We're too useful.

*Young Girl walks up to front, far SL spotlight*

Young Girl: All Jews? Why us?

*Old Man walks up to front, SR spotlight*

Old Man: It says people stealing will be shot. That means that our stuff will be safe and untouched. It'll be waiting for us when we get back.

*Young Man and Wife walk up to front, SL spotlight*

Young Man: I knew we should have fled.

*All lights come up again. The people that had been crowded around the poster have accumulated behind those 5 on the front of the stage, and are all standing with bags and suitcases, facing the audience. Tatyana and George stand off to the side on SR, backs to audience in an embrace. They watch as everyone sadly and slowly marches offstage SR. As soon as it's only the two of them on stage, lights flicker and there's sound of machine gun fire. Tatyana collapses in tears, and George catches her. As soon as it stops, lights go out.*

## Act II

### Scene 1:

*Only half the stage is lit, SL in Vladimir's office. Yossif stands in a spotlight on SR, back to audience. Vladimir sits at his desk SL with his head in his hands.*

Tatyana: *(enters office)* What did you call me here for, Vlad?

Vladimir: Tatyana, we have a traitor in our group.

Tatyana: What? Who? How do you know?

Vladimir: Tatyana, your father was caught in between villages when he was checking on our allies in the countryside. The Nazis shouldn't have known where he was going.

Tatyana: What are you saying...

Vladimir: *(stands and moves closer to her)* Tanya, I'm so sorry.

Tatyana: What... Vlad, what happened...

Vladimir: They shot him at Babi Yar.

Tatyana: *(looks at Yossif)* Bat'ko...

Yossif: *(head turns to look at her)* Tanya...

*George enters the room and Yossif's spotlight goes out. As soon as it does, she collapses in tears.*

George: *(runs to her)* Tanya!

*George sits on the floor with Tatyana, holding her while she cries.*

Vladimir: We have to be more careful. I'll work on tracking down the traitor. Your father's death won't be in vain.

Tatyana: We should have left. I should have left with him when he told me to.

George: There was no way for you to know, Tanya.

Tatyana: He did all of this because of me! He could have been safe and alive with my mother and sisters.

George: Shhh, it's not your fault. Your father knew the risks; he knew what he was doing. Just like we all do. He died defending what he believed was right.

Tatyana: (*wipes tears away*) You're right, he did know. He was brave and he paid for it. (*pauses, then stands up*) And now I know what I have to do. I have to be brave, too.

Vladimir: You have been brave. Don't do anything rash, Tatyana.

Tatyana: I'm not! The Nazis deserve what's coming to them. For what they've taken from me, I will take ten times more.

George: This resistance is to defend our home, show the Nazis that they will never fully take it from us; that they are not welcome. This isn't about revenge.

Tatyana: Now it is.

*She heads towards the door and Vladimir grabs her arm.*

Vladimir: Tatyana, please. Just calm down and think before you make any major decisions.

*Tatyana yanks her arm away and exits SL. Vladimir and George exchange a look, then lights go out.*



## Scene 2:

*The German canteen. The 4 tables all have on Nazi at them. These four tables are in spotlights. Three women stand at the front of the stage on stage right. All the Nazis begin singing “Deutschland Erwache<sup>7</sup>” as Tatyana makes her way around serving drinks.*

Woman #1: God gathered all the beauty and gave it to Tanya Markus<sup>8</sup>.

Woman #2: She gained their trust.

*Tatyana joins in the singing*

Woman #3: They say she killed dozens of Nazis; many by herself.

*Tatyana pours a little bottle of poison in a glass and hands it to one of the officers sitting alone. He drinks it, and his spotlight goes out*

Woman #1: With every officer poisoned, she was still not a suspect.

*Tatyana pours some of the poison into a bowl of soup, hands it to another solitary officer. He takes a spoonful of it, and his spotlight goes out. The singing has continued all throughout this*

Woman #2: Her beauty was a lure. (*Tatyana walks up to the third officer sitting alone*) She could get them alone and then... (*a gunshot goes off, and that officer’s spotlight goes out*)

Woman #3: Others she would lead into a trap where other underground fighters were waiting. They would kill and take the weapons.

*Tatyana takes the last Nazi’s gun, and the spotlight goes out. The singing stops.*

Woman #1: Tatyana was a legend. She was the hero we all wanted to be.

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<sup>7</sup> See page 53

<sup>8</sup> This was in several sources of what those who knew her would say.

Woman #2: She was extraordinary and deserved better.

*All three women turn to look at Tatyana. Lights go out. Spotlight comes up on the Typist.*

Typist: (*typing*) Due to limited success in handling the rebels in Kyiv, the Führer is personally sending a man to deal with this problem.

Otto: (*enters SL and stands next to Typist*) I will crack down on these resistance fighters for my Führer and for my countrymen. These Ukrainians, Soviets, Communists, Jews, whatever they are, will no longer terrorize our German soldiers!

*Spotlight goes out and Typist and Otto exit SL. A projection of the German movie "Die große Liebe" plays onto the stage. On SL is Vlad's office: Vlad sits at his desk, George is with him pacing the room. On SR is Tatyana and Myronovych sitting in movie theatre chairs, facing the audience, looking up as if watching the movie. After a couple minutes of Vladimir and George silently talking, Myronovych reaches for Tatyana's hand. She allows it, and George turns his head to look at her. Myronovych leans in slowly to kiss Tatyana, once they get close Vladimir catches George's attention and they run off SL. Tatyana and Myronovych kiss at the same time George and Vlad get offstage and the projection shuts off and gun shots go off in the darkness.*

### Scene 3:

*Vladimir's office. SL is only lit, but Alexander Falco sits at the desk.*

Tatyana: *(enters SL, and pauses when she sees Falco)* Oh, hello. Where is Vladimir?

Alexander: Did you not hear? *(stands and hands her a newspaper)* Cover page of the pro-fascist newspaper, New Ukrainian Word.

Tatyana: *(looks at Alexander quizzically, then reads)* "The arrest and shooting of Communist bandits – Kudryashov..." *(pauses)* No, Vlad... "Revultsky, Paschchenko, Levitsky..." *(she drops the newspaper)*

Alexander: I'm sorry about your friends.

Tatyana: My friends...

*The other half of the stage lights up on George and Vladimir sitting on stools drinking and laughing.*

Tatyana: *(stares at George and Vladimir)* George Levitsky... *moya lyubov.*

Alexander: Vladimir and George were brave men. They put 100% into this underground, so we must continue doing so.

*Tatyana still staring at George and Vladimir slowly walks into their half of the stage. Alexander freezes.*

Tatyana: George... why weren't you more careful?

George: Tanya, as you said, "no resistance fighter ever played it safe".

Tatyana: I'm alone. I lost my father, Vladimir, and you.

George: You're not alone, the underground is still there. *(pause)* I'm sorry, Tanya, someone turned us in.

Vladimir: You do such great work, Tatyana. Don't let this slow you down. Do it for us.

George: I will always be with you, *moya lyubov*. I will be standing right beside you every step of the way. Keep fighting.

Tatyana: I can't. I can't fight without you. You are the reason I started fighting!

George: That fight was in you all along. That was nothing I could bring out of you, that was all you, Tanya. You'll be all right.

Tatyana: (*angry*) How could you leave me alone? How could you do this to me? (*George walks up to her and hugs her. She begins to sob*) I'm going to miss you. I'm not strong enough.

George: You're stronger than you think, Tanya.

Vladimir: You are. You've blown us all away with what you've been able to do.

*Tatyana runs to Vladimir and hugs him. Then she kisses George.*

Tatyana: George, I love you.

George: I love you, Tatyana Markus.

*George and Vladimir turn and exit SR. Tatyana returns to Alexander and he unfreezes,*

Alexander: Are you okay?

Tatyana: (*looks at the ground*) No.

Alexander: George Levitsky is your boyfriend, right?

Tatyana: Was. He was the love of my life.

Alexander: I'm sorry. I lost someone too.

Tatyana: I'm sorry to hear that.

Alexander: Do you want to talk –

Tatyana: Glad that we met, but I need to go.

*Tatyana exits SL. Alexander picks up the newspaper and the lights go out.*

## Scene 4:

*German canteen. Otto sits alone at a table. German music plays.*

Tatyana: (*walks up to Otto*) Well you're a new face. I recognize all of the regulars.

Otto: I was only recently stationed here. Came from Berlin to hunt down the resistance.

Tatyana: (*pause*) I saw in the paper the other day about some of those Communists that were caught. Was that your work?

Otto: Well, I can't say it was all me, but yes. But besides that bit of excitement, Kyiv hasn't been too interesting to me – until now.

Tatyana: Oh, why is that?

Otto: You're absolutely beautiful.

Tatyana: (*draws back a bit*) Well, you flatter me, sir.

Otto: Have you ever been to Germany?

Tatyana: No, sir.

Otto: I could take you there someday.

Tatyana: That sounds... lovely.

*A German waltz comes on*

Otto: Do you hear this song? Dance with me.

*He stands and almost falls over from being a little tipsy. They begin to dance.*

Tatyana: So, is there a name to this important man from Berlin?

Otto: You can call me Otto. Not many get that honor. Is there a name to the most beautiful waitress in Kyiv?

Tatyana: Tatyana. I'm not from here, though. I'm from Georgia. My father was a prince, by the last name Markusidze. The Bolsheviks murdered him. I managed to escape, and came here. I knew that the Germans hated the Bolsheviks as much as I do, and that I could find sanctuary with them.

Otto: Well, I thought I was important as a friend to the Führer, the most powerful man in the world. But I have never danced with a princess before. I'm sure you've danced with plenty of Germans so far who believe they're important, though.

Tatyana: None so handsome.

Otto: *(smiles)* Well, you flatter me, princess. *(Stops dancing and says quietly)* How about we leave this place?

Tatyana: *(stares into his eyes)* Okay.

*Otto exits SL, Tatyana follows but stops right before exiting.*

Tatyana: *(Looks up, like talking to the sky)* It is all about revenge after all, George! I wasn't given the satisfaction of killing whoever was responsible for my father's death because I didn't know who it was. I killed numerous Nazis to try to make up for it, but now this is different. I have the monster responsible for your and Vladimir's death wrapped around my finger! I kill Nazis for the common good, for those that they've murdered, but Otto's death will be for you and Vlad.

*Tatyana exits SL. A gunshot is heard. Lights go out and spotlight goes up on Typist at her desk.*

Typist: *(furiously typing)* Urgent message from the Führer! Otto has been murdered! Find the terrorist<sup>9</sup> who did this!

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<sup>9</sup> Some sources say that Hitler did give out a personal order to "find the terrorist"; referring to Tatyana.

## Scene 5:

*In Vladimir's old office on SL, now Alexander's. Only that half of the stage is lit up. Alexander is pacing. Tatyana enters SL.*

Tatyana: Why did you want to see me?

Alexander: You killed one of the most important Nazis stationed here in Kyiv! Killing lower-ranked officers helps avoid higher possibilities of being caught. Killing a man Hitler *personally* sent is not going to slide under the radar! It's not just any ol' Nazi!

Tatyana: That's the whole point! He's wasn't just some random guy with a swastika on his arm; he was worth a lot more, and that made him more deserving.

Alexander: Tatyana, with your recklessness you're going to get caught. We're going to get caught.

Tatyana: I've been safe about it. There is no way they will tie the death to me.

Alexander: Maybe you should take a break for a little while. You have been doing too much since Vladimir and George passed away –

Tatyana: You mean since they were murdered?

Alexander: Yes, murdered. If you kill too much, the risk is higher. It could get more obvious that it's you. Please, you're letting your emotions take control.

Tatyana: I am not. I'm just more motivated now.

Alexander: No, you just don't know how to deal with your grief.

Tatyana: I do, too. They would be proud of what I'm doing.

Alexander: I don't doubt that, and I'm proud too. You're doing great, but you're making me worried. I don't want you to get caught.



Tatyana: I'm not going to stop, Alexander. I'm sorry.

Alexander: I was expecting that reaction, but I was hoping maybe you'd reconsider.

Tatyana: No. I'm not taking a break; I'm not going to sit out. I have a job to do, and that is why I am here. Just because I lost people I love doesn't mean I will give up. The Nazis have to pay. What seems like a lot in terms of who I've killed is not that much compared to the scale of how many innocent people they kill. I have to do everything I can, Alexander, despite the possible outcomes. But I promise that I would never put anyone else at risk; only me.

Alexander: I swear, Tatyana, you are one of the most extraordinary people I've ever met. (*smiles*) And although it can be a pain in the ass, your stubbornness makes you practically unstoppable.

Tatyana: That's the plan. Now if you'll excuse me, I have a date tonight.

*Alexander looks at her quizzically, and she exits off SL.*

## Scene 6:

*In an apartment setting. Tatyana walks on SL.*

Tatyana: Alexander was right, this couldn't go on forever, not with the way I was working. It was time to take even bigger risks while I still could. For Vladimir, for my father... for George. One of the best parts was many of these Nazis actually caught feelings for me. Otto wasn't the only one who promised to take me to Germany. *(laughs)* Isn't that ironic? They claim that we Jews are less than human, that we are inferior to them. Yet, here they are falling in love with one! It's because they don't know I'm a Jew; apparently that makes all the difference in the world. A kiss or kill situation. Honestly, if you can't tell any difference between you and me before you know my religion, shouldn't that tell you how ridiculous all of this is? The Nazis claim that the Jews are vermin; but if anyone is vermin, it's the monsters who are murdering innocent people.

*Myronovych enters SL. Is not aware of her talking to audience as he prepares dinner.*

Tatyana: Myronovych. My enemy since the beginning. He loved me but he didn't know who I really was. He didn't know I was the scared girl he abused those many months ago. I didn't love him back... I couldn't. He was in love with Tatyana Markusidze, the Georgian princess. Not me. He couldn't ever be. *(hopeful)* Maybe if I told him the truth, he'd see that Jews are not that bad – knowing that he was able to fall in love with one. Maybe he'd change, but I highly doubt that.

*She stops and stares at him, he freezes, his back to her.*

I did care about him, though. We had a good time together. He seemed like a normal human being when it was just the two of us, I just had to remind myself to remember what he really was. I didn't really want to do this, but the day had come. He invited me to his apartment for dinner, which was serious because it was the first non-public date. As he turned his back to me to cut the bread, I decided now was the best time. I was scared that if he turned around and I looked into his eyes,

I wouldn't be able to kill him. Those eyes that were kind but also terrifying. It was better this way to kill him while his back was turned because he wouldn't see it was me. In his last moment he wouldn't be looking at me.

*She pulls out a small handgun out of her purse. She stands behind him and points it at his head. There's a sound of a gunshot, and he falls. Tatyana stands in shock for a second, staring at him. She then hurriedly pulls out a piece of paper and a pen and begins to write.*

Tatyana: *(says as she writes)* All you fascist reptiles are waiting for the same fate. Tanya Markusidze<sup>10</sup>.

*She sets it on the table and runs out SL. Lights go out, and spotlight up on Typist. Nazi walks in SL and hands the Typist a piece of paper.*

Typist: *(reads)* "A young woman in the Kyiv underground has left her name at the site of one of her murders. We believe she has had a hand in many our countrymen's deaths; including Otto's. Send orders from Hitler's headquarters to those stationed in Kyiv: Find and execute Tatyana Markusidze". *(to Nazi)* Keep me updated on this Markusidze. *(The Nazi exits SL. The Typist smiles, followed by a small laugh)* God speed, Tatyana.

*Lights out.*

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<sup>10</sup> Famous note she left that released her name.

## Scene 7:

*Enter Tatyana and Alexander SR in long jackets, Tatyana has a bag. Alexander holds a lantern. A boat sits on the stage.*

Alexander: Since you foolishly compromised your fake identity we have to get you out of Kyiv.

Tatyana: It wasn't foolish.

Alexander: Then what would you call it?

*Tatyana doesn't respond.*

Alexander: Yeah, that's what I thought. Why would you do that, Tatyana?

Tatyana: I have nothing to lose anymore.

Alexander: (*pause*) Tatyana, I know you've lost a lot but that doesn't mean you should just throw your life away. There's so much you can still do, you're young! Your father, George, Vladimir, they wouldn't want you to do that.

Tatyana: You have no idea what they would want!

Alexander: You're right, I don't. But I have grown to like you, Tatyana, despite your stubbornness. You mean more to me than just as a great fighter, and I feel a responsibility to watch over you. That's why I have set up this whole plan to get you out of here. On the other side of the river there'll be some partisans ready to take you to safety. I'll row you across and then you'll be on your own.

Tatyana: I apologize for getting upset at you. Thank you for everything, I really do appreciate it.

Alexander: It was my honor, Tatyana. You are one of the bravest people I have ever met.

Tatyana: Hold on, I need a moment. Kyiv is my home, where I grew up. I promised to try to protect it when I joined the resistance, and now I'm running.

Alexander: You need to run to save your life.

Tatyana: Kyiv is where I lost Vladimir, George, and my father. Wouldn't it be appropriate for myself to perish there as well?

Alexander: Tatyana, don't be ridiculous. There's no reason you need to die. You don't have to give your life to be the best resistance fighter you can be. You have done so much, and have already proved yourself. Death is not the ultimate goal.

Tatyana: I know, sometimes it just feels that way. That I will never be able to do enough to make up for the lives of the people I loved, unless I am willing to give it all up like they did.

Alexander: They would want you to live. I want you to live. Now let's get you out of here. You'll be back in Kyiv someday.

Tatyana: You're right. Thank you, Alexander. You're a good friend.

*They climb into the boat, and he rows them across the stage. Tatyana gets out on the other side. Three Nazi Guards enter from SL and 1 and 2 grab her. She screams and Nazi Guard 3 opens fire on the boat. Alexander ducks.*

Tatyana: Get off me you murderous pigs!

*Alexander takes cover in the boat, and stays down.*

Tatyana: Alexander! Alexander!

*The Nazis drag her off SL. Alexander sits up and begins to cry.*

Alexander: How? (pause) Oh no... the note I left for my sister. How did they get it?!

*Lights out. Spotlight up on Typist typing. The same Nazi from the scene before enters SL and hands her a piece of paper and leaves SL.*

Typist: (*reads*) “August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1942. In the course of the operation against the leading members of terrorist groups in Kyiv, Tatyana Markusidze, a Georgian, was arrested.”<sup>11</sup>. (*pause*) No, Tatyana...

*She stares at the paper in shock. Spotlight goes out.*

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<sup>11</sup> From the report of the chief of the German Police.

## Scene 8:

*Inside a Nazi jail. There's four tattered up and bruised prisoners sitting together in a cell on SR. Nazi Guard 1 and 2 who grabbed Tatyana enter SL and throw her in the cell. Nazi Guard 3 walks in and talks with them. There's a fireplace on SL where the Nazis gather.*

Catherine: *(bends down to her)* Hello. What's your name?

Tatyana: Tatyana.

Catherine: Nice to meet you, Tatyana. I'm Catherine *(they shake hands)*. You wouldn't happen to be Tatyana Markus, would you?

Tatyana: I am. How did you know? And know my real name?

Catherine: I was a guerilla fighter and we hear stories about you, but it seemed more like legend. We all hear about... *(looks at guards then gets quieter)* the brave, beautiful, young Jewish girl who kills dozens of Nazis by herself.

Tatyana: I just do what I can. I'm sure you've killed plenty of Nazis yourself.

Catherine: Not nearly as many, and not all by myself like how you have. You're impressive.

Tatyana: Hey, any contribution to the resistance movement is helpful, no matter how you go about it. You don't have to kill the most Nazis to be valuable.

Catherine: Well, sadly I can't really do much anymore. I'm in here.

Tatyana: We can still fight them, though. We fight by not giving them what they want. They want information to find more partisans; we can help the resistance still by not giving a word. We are not defeated quite yet.

Catherine: *(pause)* You're right. How old are you?

Tatyana: Twenty. My twenty-first is next month.

Catherine: You are wise beyond your years, Tatyana.

Nazi Guard #3: (*to Nazi Guards 1 and 2*) Grab the princess.

*Nazi Guards 1 and 2 open the cell, and grab Tatyana and pull her out.*

Nazi Guard #3: Ready for your royal treatment?

*Tatyana spits at him.*

Nazi Guard #3: You'll regret that.

*Nazi Guards 1 and 2 drag her off SL. There's a pause of silence, then screaming. Catherine and the other prisoners cringe. Lights go out as Catherine's head falls.*



## Scene 9:

*Nazi guards 1 & 2 stand outside the cell. Inside, Tatyana lays on the ground covered in blood and bruises, her clothes tattered. Catherine sits next to her, holding her hand.*

Nazi Guard #1: It's been two months. She hasn't said a word.

Nazi Guard #2: *(runs on SL)* A prisoner has just released information that her name is not Tatyana Markusidze, but Markus. She's not Georgian at all, but Jewish.

Nazi Guard #3: Grab the Jewish vermin. *(pulls a fire poker out of the fireplace)* We'll get something out of her.

Tatyana: *(turns head to the other prisoners)* No matter how they hurt me, no matter how they are going to hurt me further, I will not tell them anything<sup>12</sup>.

*Nazi Guards #1 & #2 grab her and drag her off SL. There's screaming.*

Catherine: *(stands up and faces audience)* Tatyana was tortured for five months. And the torture only increased in brutality after they found out she was Jewish.

*Guards #1 & #2 come back in and throw an even bloodier Tanya in the cell and exit SL.*

Tatyana: *(hoarsely)* Whoever among you will survive, tell that Tatyana Markus did not betray anyone<sup>13</sup>.

Catherine: Five months. Five months they tortured her and she gave no information to the Gestapo. I managed to escape the Nazi torture chambers and never saw her again. Tatyana was finally put out of her misery on January 29<sup>th</sup>, 1943 at the age of only 21. It's unknown if she died of wounds from torture, or was shot at Babi Yar.

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<sup>12</sup> Sources say she said this to fellow prisoners.

<sup>13</sup> Another quote that is said to have been said by her.

*Tatyana stands up. Her and Catherine look at each other, then Tatyana slowly walks off SR followed by the prisoners.*

Catherine: She was a hero: one of the greatest of the Kyiv underground. They were blessed with Tatyana, (*smiles*) and the Nazis were cursed with her.

Alexander: (*enters SL*) Some say I'm a traitor; that her capture was because of me. I left a note for my sister of where I was going that night. I don't know how the Gestapo got it. I didn't mean to betray her.

Typist: (*enters SR*) A report by the district committee of the Communist party in Kyiv dated August 15<sup>th</sup>, 1946 mentioned the, "brave girl who knew no fear, Tanya Markus, who was known as Markusidze. An active member in the sabotage movement, she personally killed dozens of soldiers, officers, and collaborators". In this and other documents describing her heroism, no mention is made of the fact that she was Jewish.

Yossif: (*enters SL*) From 1956 to 2006, there were 14 requests to the government to name Tanya a Hero of the Soviet Union, then as Hero of Ukraine. The Soviet government refused due to several reasons: the main reason was because she was Jewish, the second was that although she used poison and weapons to kill, she used a lot of personal charms – which was considered unacceptable for an underground red fighter.

George: (*enters SR*) Finally on September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2006, 15 years after the Soviet Union had been disbanded and Ukraine was independent, President Viktor Yushchenko decreed her a "Hero of Ukraine". She became the first woman in the country to be awarded this for military service. It was on what would have been her 85<sup>th</sup> birthday.

George, Yossif, and Vladimir: (*Vlad enters SL*) "For personal courage and heroic self-sacrifice, invincibility of spirit in the struggle against fascist invaders in the Great Patriotic War from 1941 to 1945."<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> The statement from the official Hero of Ukraine decree.

Mother: (*enters SR*) There was a plaque put on the No. 44 specialized school that she studied at in Kyiv. Then in 2009, her monument was built in Babi Yar. (*the base of the monument is rolled out onto center stage, where it was in the beginning of the play*) In 2011, Ukraine released a special stamp with her face on it in honor of her.

Tatyana: (*enters SL, clean and in her original outfit from the beginning with brown hair again. Stands center stage*) But although there were steps taken to create remembrance, of the Holocaust and of me, but there are still problems. I've gone on virtually unknown outside of the Ukraine, and the Anti-Semitism witnessed in the Holocaust has not gone away. In May of 2016, the plaque of me that was put on the school building was broken off by radical nationalists: a sign that Anti-Semitism is still present in Ukraine, and the world. The only way to prevent future Holocausts is to educate. To learn from this one.

<sup>15</sup>George: I wish I had the words to tell you what a girl she was; her gentle beauty to describe; her magnetism; her love of life...

Yossif: Then came the day all Jews were ordered to report; Most obeyed, Tanya did not; I saw that eerie march of death: Graybeards, cripples, women, babies... the laughing Nazis machine-gunned them, every one.

Vladimir: I did not see Tanya smile ever since that day.

Tatyana: For us is left only one way.

Vladimir: She said and soon began the hunt; forged documents, a small handgun... a one girl army she became after that day.

Typist: When Tanya struck, her blows stunned the Nazi gang; the ones she killed were of high rank; Gestapo dogs were running wild; they searched for many days and many nights; even SS-men from Berlin were flown in.

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<sup>15</sup> Beginning of the reciting of stanzas from the poem "Tanya" by U.S. poet of Russian/Jewish background, Peter Medvinsky.

Alexander: She was betrayed. (*Alexander and Tatyana look at each other, and she starts slowly walking back to the base*) We tried to save her, but we failed. We later learned that in jail they tortured her beyond belief; Death came to her as a relief. She was just twenty-one, not a word they got from her.

Catherine: After the war I met some high-ups and, in vain, urged them to honor Tanya's name.

Mother: They made it as plain as they could.

Catherine and Mother: "Jewish names don't sound good."

Mother: This is the world that we live in – cruel and mean.

Tatyana: (*now standing on the base*) But hope is not lost, and it doesn't come at too high of a cost. Try to teach love and humanity, and in future generations there'll be less people with a fate like me<sup>16</sup>.

*She freezes back in position on the base. The lights slowly fade out as everyone on stage slowly turns their heads to look at her.*

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<sup>16</sup> Finished of Medvinsky's bit of a downer poem with an original snippet of a poem by me to try to end it on a high note.

## Tefilat Haderech: The Traveler's Prayer

*Y'hi ratzon milfanecha Adonai Eloheinu ve-lohei avoteinu she-tolichenu l'shalom v'tatz'idenu l'shalom, v'tism'chenu l'shalom, v'tadrichenu l'shalom, v'tagi'enu limchoz cheftzenu l'chayim ul'simha ul'shalom. V'tatzilenu mi-kaf kol oyev v'orev v'listim v'chayot ra-ot ba-derech, u-mi-kol min-ei pur'aniyot hamitrag'shot la-vo la-olam. V'tishlach b'racha b'chol ma'a'se yadeinu v'tit'neinu l'chen ul'chesed ul'rachamim b'einecha uv'einei kol ro-einu. V'tishma kol tachanuneinu ki el sho-me-ah t'fila v'tachanun ata. Baruch ata Adonai sho-me'a t'fila.*

*May it be Your will, Lord, our God and the God of our ancestors, that You lead us toward peace, guide our footsteps toward peace, and make us reach our desired destination for life, gladness, and peace. May You rescue us from the hand of every foe, ambush along the way, and from all manner of punishments that assemble to come to earth. May You send blessing in our handiwork, and grant us grace, kindness, and mercy in Your eyes and in the eyes of all who see us. May You hear the sound of our humble request because You are God Who hears prayer requests. Blessed are You, Lord, Who hears prayer.*

אבותינו ואלהי אלהינו יי מלפניך רצון יהי  
לשלוש ותסמכנו, לשלוש ותדריךנו לשלוש ותצעידנו לשלוש שתוליכנו  
ולשלוש ולשמחה לחיים חפצנו למחוז ותגיענו  
לשלוש ותחזירנו אומר מיד לחזור דעתו אם  
בדרך רעות וחיות ולסטים ואורב אויב כל מכף ותצילנו  
לעולם לבוא המתרגשות פרעניות מיני ומכל  
ראינו כל ובעיני בעיניך ולרחמים ולחסד לכן ותתנו  
אתה ותחנן תפלה שומע אל כי  
תפלה שומע יי ספרד נוסח לפי אתה ברוך  
דרךך בכל לשמרך לך יצוה מלאכיו כי  
עולם ועד מעתה ובואך צאתך ישמר יי  
אלהים מלאכי בו ויפגעו לדרךך הלך ויעקב  
מיכאל אוריאל רפאל ת"ר ראם כאשר יעקב ויאמר  
מחנים ההוא המקום שם ויקרא, זה אלהים מחנה  
וישמרך יי יברכך  
ויחנך אליך פניו יי יאר  
שלוש לך וישם אליך פניו יי ישא

## Deutschland Erwache or Germany Awake

Deutschland erwache aus deinem bösen Traum!  
Gib fremden Juden in deinem Reich nicht Raum!

|: Wir wollen kämpfen für dein Auferstehn!  
Arisches Blut soll nicht untergehn! :|

All diese Heuchler, wir werfen sie hinaus,  
Juda entweiche aus unserm deutschen Haus!

|: Ist erst die Scholle gesäubert und rein,  
Werden wir einig und glücklich sein! :|

Wir sind die Kämpfer der N.S.D.A.P.:  
Treudeutsch im Herzen, im Kampfe fest und zäh.

|: Dem Hakenkreuze ergeben sind wir.  
Heil unserm Führer, Heil Hitler dir! :|

Germany awake from your nightmare!  
Give foreign Jews no room in your Reich!

|: We will fight for your resurgence!  
Aryan blood should not be lost! :|

All these hypocrites, we throw them out,  
Judea leave our German house!

|: If the native soil is clean and pure,  
we will be united and happy! :|

We are the fighters of the NSDAP :  
True Germans in heart, in battles firm and tough.

|: To the swastika, devoted are we .  
Hail our leader, Heil Hitler to thee! :|

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