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LENIN A Screenplay

A THESIS

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By

Jake Nelson

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LENIN A Screenplay

A THESIS

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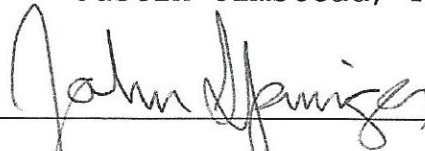
By

 MFA

James Daro, M.F.A.
Chairperson



Justin Olmstead, PhD.



John P. Springer, PhD.

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ABSTRACT OF THESIS

AUTHOR: Jacob M. Nelson

TITLE: Lenin

DIRECTOR OF THESIS: James Daro, M.F.A

PAGES: 157

LENIN is a historical screenplay that follows the aging revolutionary Vladimir Lenin, as he goes from living in poverty/isolation to becoming one of the most iconic figures of the 20th century. The story focuses on Lenin's relationship with his wife, Nadya, who is dealing with being a secondary person in her husband's life in comparison to the Revolution of Russia and a mistress named Inessa Armand. Her struggle of trying to prove herself to him as a woman, a wife, and a revolutionary is one of the most important aspects of the script, while Lenin's struggle of gaining the power over Russia that he desires while also dealing with his political circle who has their own agenda mirror's Nadya's arc.

The screenplay uses real excerpts from Lenin's speeches, letters, and conversations with others in

order to bring a sense of authenticity to the screenplay. Very few changes to the history have been made in order to tell a very honest, truthful, and in-depth look at Vladimir Lenin, the founder of the Soviet Union.

LENIN A Screenplay

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LENIN

Written by

Jake Nelson

2840 Canton Lane
Edmond, Oklahoma 73012
Phone: (405)615-0350
Email: jmn8276@gmail.com

EXT. STREETS OF PETROGRAD-DAY

A large CROWD is gathered, they are chanting and fighting amongst each other. These people look poor and unkempt. Their hatred radiates through the cold air as they CHANT and YELL.

TEXT: PETROGRAD, February 1917

This crowd is protesting.

From another STREET, a large force of the TSAR'S ARMY move quickly in formation. These men look nervous.

The rioters throw various items at the soldiers as they march through the streets.

CUT TO:

INT. GENEVA LIBRARY-DAY

A BOOK sits awkwardly on a shelf. It is a bit crooked. A pale HAND reaches out and grabs it, removing it from the shelf. The HAND places the BOOK back on the shelf, but putting it in a neat order.

We pan back, seeing the face of this man. He has dark beady eyes, a dark beard, he is balding with gray and red patches with what little hair he has left. This is VLADIMIR LENIN.

He looks at the book he just returned to the shelf, stares at it and adjusts it one more time. He is a man of order.

BACK TO:

EXT. STREETS OF PETROGRAD-DAY

The soldiers march down the street. An OFFICER walks next to his column. He is directing them.

The soldiers stop in front of the rioters. They turn to face them.

The Officer steps forward and tries to speak over the SCREAMING and YELLING.

OFFICER

By order of Tsar Nicholas II,
return to your homes and your
factories.

The Crowd erupts, yelling and screaming even more. It is hard to make out what these people are saying.

OFFICER (CONT'D)
 By order of Tsar Nicholas II,
 return to your homes and your
 factories!

The crowd begins to throw things at the officer and the soldiers.

The soldiers break ranks to avoid being hit by bottles and cans.

OFFICER (CONT'D)
 (to his men)
 Hold!
 (to crowd)
 If this protest does not disband,
 you will be placed under arrest!

Just as he speaks, a bottle comes whirling in, hitting the officer in the side of the head. His hat topples off and he crumples to the ground.

A nasty gash is on the side of his head and the crowd roars with pleasure. He stands, adjusts his cap.

OFFICER (CONT'D)
 (to his men)
 Ready arms!

The soldiers look to each other, nervous, and lower their rifles.

The soldiers look out into the crowd, seeing a number of women and a few children scattered about.

OFFICER (CONT'D)
 Aim!

The men are hesitant but do so.

OFFICER (CONT'D)
 (to the crowd)
 Return to your homes and factories!
 Now! This is the final warning!

The crowd throws more items at him and a few of the rioters clear out, wanting to avoid the violence.

OFFICER (CONT'D)
 (to his men)
 Fire!

There is no sound.

His soldiers hesitate.

OFFICER (CONT'D)
I said fire!

The men look out to the crowd again. The women are raging in anger, the children crying.

OFFICER (CONT'D)
Fire, damn you!

BANG!

A single shot rings out, striking the officer in the side of the head. He falls to the ground and the crowd steps back.

One of his soldiers stands with his rifle smoking, he looks to his other comrades. They all scatter, a few into the rioting crowd.

The crowd breaks apart and begins to tear through the city.

CUT TO:

EXT. GENEVA LIBRARY-DAY

Lenin exits the library. He has a few books under his arms. He wears a decent suit, not expensive but it makes due. He puts on his hat and begins to walk down the street.

EXT. GENEVA STREETS-NEXT

Lenin walks on the sidewalk. He studies his surroundings. He takes in the beauty of it all, yet there is some sort of regret behind it all.

He continues to walk, eyeing bicycles and various plants along the road.

EXT. STREETS OF PETROGRAD-DAY

The crowd tears through shops and homes. It has tripled in size now. Soldiers are among the rioters now.

A POLICEMAN tries to retain order by waving his pistol in the air. He is standing next to a light post, trying to get the attention of the crowd.

He fires a few rounds but it does nothing.

He is about to yell something when he is hit by a bullet that tears through his chest. He falls to the ground in agony.

The crowd moves over him without care.

The BRONZE HORSEMAN STATUE of Peter the Great in the square of St. Petersburg (Petrograd) stands powerful amid the chaos.

AT THE STEPS OF THE TSAR'S PALACE:

ROYAL GUARDS defend themselves by batting back rioters and soldiers with the butts of their rifles. They shoot a few rounds, killing people.

They begin to back up but are soon overwhelmed by the mass numbers, they are beaten, shot, and stabbed.

The crowd begins to scramble up the steps towards the Tsar's Palace.

INT. APARTMENT COMPLEX-DAY

Lenin enters into the building. It is run down and cramped. He takes his hat off and begins to walk up the stairs. The place is very dilapidated, it shows his lack of wealth.

TEXT: GENEVA, February 1917

He stops at a door and fumbles with his keys. He puts the right one in the lock and enters.

INT. APARTMENT OF LENIN (GENEVA)-CONTINUOUS

Lenin enters. The place is extremely small, one bedroom, and the kitchen might as well be the living room.

He sets his books down on the counter.

A dark haired woman enters into the kitchen from the bedroom. This is his wife NADYA.

She coughs.

LENIN

Hasn't gotten better?

NADYA

Not much.

LENIN

You should go rest.

NADYA
I've rested all week.

LENIN
Then another day wouldn't hurt.

NADYA
Or help.

Lenin enters into his bedroom. He takes his coat off and hangs it neatly in his closet.

He enters back into the kitchen.

Nadya and he stare at each other. This is some sort of tension between these two. Just as Lenin is about to speak, his front door opens.

A younger man enters (early 30's). His face is excited and he is bursting with joy. He holds a newspaper. This is BRONSKI.

BRONSKI
There's been a revolution in
Russia!

Lenin and Nadya look to him, dumbfounded.

BRONSKI (CONT'D)
Haven't you heard?

INT. BEDROOM OF LENIN—MOMENTS LATER

Nadya is changing her clothes. She is slipping into something warmer. She tries to look her best.

As she is getting dressed, Bronski speaks with Lenin. We can hear their conversation through the wall.

BRONSKI (O.S.)
They stormed the Tsar's palace,
workers and soldiers alike.

LENIN
What is happening with the
government? Are they giving it to
the people?

BRONSKI
There is a meeting in the square
now, they will have all the
information. I don't know.

INT. KITCHEN-MEANWHILE

Lenin stares at Bronski. There is something on his mind. There is cheer behind Lenin's small eyes but also...something else. This man is hard to read.

The bedroom door opens and Nadya steps out.

BRONSKI

Vladimir and I are going to-

NADYA

-The square, yes I heard. Don't think I'm not going.

BRONSKI

But in your condition-

NADYA

-I am still a revolutionary.
(to Lenin)
Are you ready?

EXT. GENEVA SQUARE-DAY

A CROWD has gathered. An ANNOUNCER stands on a box. He is addressing the crowd.

At the back, Lenin stands with Bronski and Nadya. They shove their way through the crowd, trying to hear what the man is saying.

ANNOUNCER

...a provisional government has been placed in power, chosen by the people.

CROWD GOER (O.S.)

And who runs it?

ANNOUNCER

Prince Georgy Lvov.

The crowd erupts in anger.

Lenin looks to Bronski.

LENIN

A prince? That's not much of a government!

ANNOUNCER

There are many members of the
Petrograd Soviet in this duel
power.

Some members of the crowd are upset by this.

LENIN

Mensheviks? What the hell is going
on over there!

ANNOUNCER

As for those of you who are exiled,
you are no longer, only if you find
your own way home.

CROWD GOER

That's easier said than done!

ANNOUNCER

The Russian government is in good
hands.

LENIN

I don't buy a word of it!
(to Nadya)
We need to find a way back home! I
need to be there!

NADYA

Of course.

LENIN

I need to lead this revolution, not
the Mensheviks. That scum will ruin
everything! Those foul, ruthless-

BRONSKI

-Tell me what I need to do.

LENIN

Get as many of our allies as you
can. We need to find a way home.
Meet me at our apartment when you
have word.

Bronski nods and disappears.

The announcer is trying to yell over the erupting crowd.

ANNOUNCER

The Tsar's rule is over! Prince
Lvov is not under the influence of
the royal family!

INT. APARTMENT OF LENIN (GENEVA)-NIGHT

Lenin sits at the kitchen table.

He is writing a letter.

He has a stack of already finished letters next to a stack of envelopes.

Nadya enters, standing in the bedroom doorway.

NADYA

Who are you writing?

LENIN

Everyone I know.

NADYA

Who are you writing now?

LENIN

Don't ask me questions you don't want the answers to.

Nadya walks over to him.

She looks over the letters. She picks one up.

NADYA

Trotsky is still in England?

LENIN

Last I looked.

Nadya puts the letter back.

She looks to the letter he is writing. She sees the name INESSA.

NADYA

I thought you stopped writing Inessa?

LENIN

No, she stopped writing me.

NADYA

So why-

LENIN

-It's a time of revolution! That justifies all of it! No matter how you feel about her!

The tension in the air can be cut with a knife.

NADYA

Or how you feel about her.

Nadya exits.

Lenin sits in his chair for a moment. He shakes off her comment and continues writing.

He is lost in his thoughts.

INT. APARTMENT OF LENIN (GENEVA)-DAY

Lenin stands at his window, looking out into the city. It is a beautiful day.

Bronski stands in the room.

BRONSKI

I don't know where he is-

LENIN

-We don't have a lot of time. If Comrade Zinoviev is unaware of that, then maybe he should stay.

BRONSKI

He's loyal to the Social Democrats. He'll be here.

LENIN

I don't like waiting. Every minute that passes is precious.

BRONSKI

I'm sorry-

Just then, the door swings open and a man in his 30s enters. This is ZINOVIEV. He carries papers with him and seems a bit scattered. He has a cigarette dangling from his mouth.

ZINOVIEV

I'm sorry I'm late comrades. I just heard the word-

LENIN

-A bit inappropriate, wouldn't you say Zinoviev?

ZINOVIEV

I'm sorry?

LENIN

Bursting into my home like this.
You were expected an hour ago.
And...you're smoking...

ZINOVIEV

I'm sorry-

Zinoviev puts his cigarette out in the sink. Lenin's face cringes. He hates it.

LENIN

-And keep your damn voice down. My wife is sick and doesn't need to be awakened by a tardy loud-mouth.

ZINOVIEV

Of course not.

LENIN

You heard word...

ZINOVIEV

Oh, right...yes, I heard word that all transportation back to Russia is being halted.

BRONSKI

What? Why?

ZINOVIEV

There is a war going on. When a front extends all the way to the Baltic Sea, it isn't going to be easy to pass through.

LENIN

Is that just from Poland, Sweden, where?

ZINOVIEV

Everywhere. Trotsky says he's going by ship from England but I doubt he'll make it that far.

LENIN

We can just catch a train to Sweden, cross the border.

ZINOVIEV

Doubtful, the Germans have seized transportation as well.

BRONSKI

Plus, we'd be seen as traitors if we went through German transportation.

LENIN

We're already seen as traitors.

ZINOVIEV

I can't find any information other than that. It seems like we're stuck here for the time being.

LENIN

And with that, the Mensheviks get the upper hand.

(to Bronski)

What of your smuggling friends?

BRONSKI

I could speak with them. Going through a war zone is going to be pricey.

LENIN

Whatever it is, we'll pay it.

ZINOVIEV

With what money?

LENIN

We'll pay it!

Nadya stirs in the other room. She exits and stands in the doorway.

LENIN (CONT'D)

Go back to sleep, Nadya. Sorry to wake you.

NADYA

Is there a problem?

BRONSKI

Transportation.

NADYA

Ah,

(on seeing Zinoviev)

Hello, Grigory. How are you?

ZINOVIEV

Good, Nadya. You should get some rest.

NADYA

I'm tired of you men keeping me out
of your circle.

LENIN

There isn't a circle, not yet. As
soon as I figure something out,
I'll let you know.

Nadya turns and re-enters her room.

Lenin looks to Bronski.

LENIN (CONT'D)

Talk to your smugglers, see what
can be done.

(to Zinoviev)

Keep me posted on anything you
hear, who is going where, how they
are going, whatever it is, you tell
me.

Bronski and Zinoviev gather their things.

LENIN (CONT'D)

We'll make it home. We'll find a
way.

INT. BEDROOM OF LENIN-NIGHT

Lenin lays in bed next to Nadya, she is sleeping. He is on
his back, staring at the ceiling.

He is lost in his thoughts.

LENIN

Maybe I could get a passport, from
Sweden or somewhere, make them
think I'm a citizen. Cross the
border at night.

NADYA

You curse the Mensheviks in your
sleep, they'll be onto you before
you know it.

They share a smile.

INT. GENEVA LIBRARY-DAY

Lenin walks through the library. He carries a few books and pamphlets. He feels at home in this place, it's the only way he can relax.

He finds a place to sit.

He opens a book and is just about to begin reading when a voice comes from off screen.

TROTSKY (O.S.)

I thought I'd find you here.

Lenin looks up, a smirk lifts his face.

Standing at the end of the table is a frizzy haired, beady eyed man. Round spectacles sit on his nose. This is LEON TROTSKY.

Lenin stands and shakes his hand.

LENIN

Leon. Good to see you. I thought you were on a boat?

TROTSKY

I was, I've been rerouted and have to catch another.

LENIN

The British are sneaky I see.

TROTSKY

Can't trust them either.

LENIN

Are you hungry? Come, Nadya should be making dinner any moment now-

TROTSKY

-No, no, comrade. I'm only passing through. I figured I'd stop by the library, clear my head.

LENIN

And fill it with ideology.

TROTSKY

There are some reasons we get along.

LENIN

If only we thought alike about everything.

TROTSKY

Have you found your way yet?

LENIN

In the process. I'll deal with the English if you can make it through.

TROTSKY

I've got Inessa on the wire. She'll mail you to let you know.

LENIN

Inessa? Armand?

TROTSKY

She'll write you, I promise.

An awkward beat.

TROTSKY (CONT'D)

What do you plan to do when you get to Petrograd?

Lenin's mood has shifted.

LENIN

What a revolutionary should do. I will demand change, or I will force it.

TROTSKY

Sometimes force is a hard thing to muster-

LENIN

-Don't be a coward, Comrade Trotsky. You know as well as I do, there will be violence.

TROTSKY

But is it what's right?

LENIN

It is what's necessary!

Lenin's yell echoes through the library.

Trotsky is taken back.

TROTSKY

Well, I should be going. The next time I see you, we'll be home.

LENIN

Delightful, comrade.

They shake hands, awkwardly.

LENIN (CONT'D)

Leon. When I'm there. I need you on my side, do not cross me.

TROTSKY

Anything is better than the provisional government.

LENIN

You say that now...

TROTSKY

And I'll say it then. Just don't change your mind on Marx, and I'll have no reason to get in your way.

(a beat)

You take care, Vladimir.

Trotsky exits.

EXT. STREETS OF GENEVA-DAY

Lenin rides his bike down the street. He has a smirk on his face, he is enjoying this. Yet, his eyes dance around. He isn't paying much attention to the ride but on something else.

He is focused, calculated.

He stops suddenly, and parks his bike outside of his apartment complex.

INT. CAFE-DAY

Bronski sits at a table while reading a newspaper.

A man approaches, older and scraggly. This is the SMUGGLER.

BRONSKI

Passage to Russia-

SMUGGLER

-How many people?

BRONSKI

I'm not sure.

SMUGGLER

I can't take a whole zoo. Maybe just one, not a group.

BRONSKI

At least four or five.

SMUGGLER

No.

BRONSKI

We'll pay.

SMUGGLER

Not enough, I can guarantee you that.

BRONSKI

There has to be a way through the front.

SMUGGLER

Sorry Bronski, it won't be through me.

The smuggler gets up and exits.

Bronski sits at the table in silence for a moment before he slams his fist down in frustration.

INT. APARTMENT OF LENIN (GENEVA)-NEXT

Lenin enters. A stack of letters sits on the table. He approaches.

Nadya enters from the bedroom. She is dressed average. She is looking a bit healthier.

Lenin ignores her and goes for the letters. He begins to sift through them.

He finds the one he is looking for and opens it.

NADYA

She wrote back?

Lenin ignores the question and begins to read the letter. He is delighted; but, the farther he reads, the more worried his face becomes.

NADYA (CONT'D)

What is it?

INT. HOME OF BRONSKI-DAY

A good number of revolutionaries sit around the room. We recognize Bronski, Zinoviev, Nadya, and of course Lenin. He is pacing around the room like a caged lion.

LENIN

Inessa doesn't think that passage through English ships is possible.

ZINOVIEV

Trosky did it-

LENIN

-Trosky was sent back.

BRONSKI

What does she suggest?

LENIN

She'll be willing to make the passage with us if we go through the Germans. She thinks they will allow us to cross into Denmark, from there, across Scandinavia and into Petrograd.

BRONSKI

That's suicide.

Another revolutionary, KAMENEV, stands.

KAMENEV

That's treason.

LENIN

We already commit treason to the Czarists on a daily basis, I don't see much of a difference, comrade Kamenev. Do you?

KAMENEV

They'll execute us on arrival.

BRONSKI

I have to agree with him, Vladimir.

LENIN

The passports are out of the question.

BRONSKI

But we haven't tried all angles-

ZINOVIEV

-Comrade Lenin is right, we have no way to use passports unless they come from Germany. It doesn't seem like we have much of a choice.

BRONSKI

We need passports either way-

ZINOVIEV

-The Germans will issue them if need be.

KAMENEV

Maybe our friends in the new Provisional can get us something-

LENIN

-What friends in the Provisional?

Kamenev is hesitant.

KAMENEV

We have a few seats in the government. Josef Stalin is trying to get something worked out-

LENIN

-No! You tell whoever is working with the Provisional Government to stop! Sever ties! Those monsters will not have us backed into a corner! They think they are our way home! We will find another way!

ZINOVIEV

Like I said...the Germans seem very generous when it comes to exiles returning to Russia.

KAMENEV

I'm not getting killed for working with the Germans!

ZINOVIEV

We have no other way-

LENIN

-Every minute we waste-

BRONSKI

-I think we're making a mistake-

NADYA

-Stop it! Is there even a possibility of the Germans letting us through, or is this just some fantasy we are chasing?

ZINOVIEV

I know Germans in the embassy here in Geneva.

NADYA

If the British sent Trotsky back, what makes you say the Germans won't send us back? What importance are we to them?

ZINOVIEV

The Germans are partially open to Russia destroying itself, the Tsardom at least.

NADYA

So they can't send us back?

ZINOVIEV

I can't be certain.

LENIN

Neither can I, but I think it is worth the risk.

KAMENEV

The risk of death?

LENIN

If we don't stand up and fight for what we believe in, aren't willing to die for what we believe in, then we aren't revolutionaries! Are we?

INT. GERMAN EMBASSY-DAY

Zinoviev walks through the embassy. He approaches an office and enters.

Behind a desk sits COUNT VON BERGEN.

Zinoviev shuts the door.

ZINOVIEV

I'm glad I was able to see you.

VON BEGEN

What is it? I have a train to catch.

ZINOVIEV

So do I, if you're willing to help.

VON BEGEN

Does this have something to do with Mr. Vladimir Ulyanov?

ZINOVIEV

It has to do with all the Bolsheviks.

VON BEGEN

What's in it for me?

INT. APARTMENT OF LENIN (GENEVA)-NIGHT

Lenin is reading the newspaper. He sits in a beat up chair in his living room.

The headline has something to do with the provisional government.

He throws it down, rubbing his head.

LENIN

Shit...this is all such shit.

He turns, Kamenev is standing in the kitchen.

LENIN (CONT'D)

The Mensheviks get stronger every day and what the hell are we doing, Kamenev? Sitting around and waiting.

KAMENEV

Grigory said Bergen left, his hopes are high. Forgive me if I say mine are not.

LENIN

Why?

KAMENEV

I don't think the Germans will help.

(MORE)

KAMENEV (CONT'D)

If they do, it'll do more harm than good. We should keep waiting for the perfect opportunity.

LENIN

I can't do all this waiting. I feel...I feel like I'm withering away day-to-day.

KAMENEV

Is there someone else we can call? There has to be another way. Someone other than Germany.

LENIN

Like who? The British are out of the picture.

KAMENEV

What about the Americans?

LENIN

I doubt it.

KAMENEV

It is worth a chance. The Americans are neutral with this whole situation, the people wouldn't mind.

LENIN

They have no interest in us.

KAMENEV

Just try. I'm asking you.

LENIN

It sounds like begging, Kamenev.

KAMENEV

Please...try.

INT. AMERICAN EMBASSY-LATE AFTERNOON

ALLEN DULLES, an American diplomatic intelligence officer, rushes through his office. He is trying to get organized on his way out.

He wears a tennis outfit.

He looks out into the hall and sees a BLONDE woman standing at the end of the hallway, she is dressed similar to him. He's thinking he is going to have a good weekend.

Dulles finishes tightening up his office.

He opens the door and a SECRETARY is standing in front of him.

SECRETARY

Sorry, Mr. Dulles. There is a man on the wire for you.

DULLES

Tell them I can't. I'm in a hurry.

SECRETARY

I would sir, but he says it's urgent. He's been shouting into the phone, demanding to speak to someone in charge.

DULLES

I'm not in charge.

SECRETARY

You're the only one here...

Dulles looks to his Blonde, waiting for him. He signals for her to hang on for a moment.

AT THE PHONE:

Dulles picks up the phone.

DULLES

This is secretary, grade 5, Dulles.

LENIN (O.S.)

(through phone)

Are you in charge?

DULLES

It depends on what you need.

LENIN

I need to speak to someone in charge! I must make negotiations!

DULLES

My secretary says what you need is urgent. What exactly are you wanting to negotiate?

LENIN

I need to speak to someone who can talk to me about-

DULLES

-Look sir, I'm running late for a tennis match. Call back on Monday.

LENIN

I can't wait that long!

DULLES

Then whatever it is you need, I can't help you.

LENIN

Can you take a message? Can you give it to someone in charge? I need to make some negotiations!

Dulles looks to his blonde tennis partner.

DULLES

No sir, I can't.

Dulles hangs up.

He looks to the secretary.

DULLES (CONT'D)

Next time you stop me while I'm running late, make sure it's for someone who I can understand.

He exits with his blonde.

INT. HOME OF BRONSKI-MEANWHILE

Lenin hangs up the telephone.

He looks to Bronski and Kamenev.

LENIN

The Americans are out of the picture.

Bronski and Kamenev are disappointed.

INT. WILHELMSTASSE-EVENING

Von Begen walks with a few other German officials. A couple wear nice German military uniforms.

They are discussing something but we cannot hear it.

Von Begen stops at an office and turns to the officials.

VON BEGEN

Tell them to send a letter back to my office. I'll discuss it at a later time.

The other officials nod and Von Begen enters into the room.

INT. OFFICE OF ZIMMERMANN- CONTINUOUS

Von Begen enters. He sees a middle aged man with a very elegant mustache sitting behind his desk. This is ARTHUR ZIMMERMANN. He stands to Von Begen.

ARTHUR ZIMMERMANN

Count, I wasn't expecting you for another hour or two.

VON BEGEN

Sorry Arthur but it's urgent.

ARTHUR ZIMMERMANN

What is it?

VON BEGEN

How are the plans with Russia going?

ARTHUR ZIMMERMANN

Taking time, like all things.

VON BEGEN

What if I told you I found a way to speed it up.

ARTHUR ZIMMERMANN

What?

VON BEGEN

A man by the name of Grigory Zinoviev visited me in my office earlier this week. He is a member of the Bolshevik movement.

ARTHUR ZIMMERMANN

What of it? They have a part in the provisional government. If they're looking for a ticket home, forget it.

VON BEGEN

Wrong sir, the Mensheviks have all the power under Prince Lvov.

(MORE)

VON BEGEN (CONT'D)

The Soviets want nothing to do with the Bolsheviks, they don't get along well.

ARTHUR ZIMMERMANN

This better be going somewhere.

VON BEGEN

It can go a lot of places Herr Zimmermann. The Bolsheviks want a say. They want the Mensheviks and Lvov gone.

Zimmermann is starting to realize what Von Begen is getting at.

VON BEGEN (CONT'D)

Mr. Zinoviev has a request for a number of different political exiles looking for a way back home.

ARTHUR ZIMMERMANN

All of them Bolsheviks?

VON BEGEN

Most, a few are anarchists.

ARTHUR ZIMMERMANN

And they don't care for the Soviet Provisional?

VON BEGEN

Not one bit, especially their stance on staying in the war. If, by some miracle, these exiles can have seats in the government, the Eastern Front might close.

ARTHUR ZIMMERMANN

Might close. We've tried things like this before, Count. It doesn't work. Good idea, but I don't think anything will come of it.

VON BEGEN

I think you're overlooking the grand scheme here, Herr Minister.

ARTHUR ZIMMERMANN

You want me to pay for more spies. I have more spies than I know what to do with!

VON BEGEN

Wrong sir, I want you to make a long term investment.

INT. APARTMENT OF LENIN (GENEVA)-NIGHT

Lenin sits on his bed. He looks concerned.

He stares at the wall.

Nadya sits next to him.

NADYA

It'll be okay.

LENIN

There has to be something, some way.

NADYA

There is a way.

LENIN

What do we do if the Germans refuse?

NADYA

What we've always done. It was one suggestion, a good one. I'll give Inessa that. You can always speak to Leon, figure out what his back-up plan is.

LENIN

I'm waiting to hear from him as well...

NADYA

There is nothing wrong with waiting. Sometimes you have to rely on others.

LENIN

I hate it.

NADYA

We'll make it back. Please, go to bed now, Ilyich.

LENIN

When I close my eyes, I can see it.

NADYA

See what?

LENIN

A red flag, waving from the highest points of Russia. Happier people, with well fed stomachs and a say in what they want. No more classes, no more riots. I see a better home, a better Russia.

NADYA

We share the same dreams.

LENIN

They are not my dreams.

INT. HOME OF BRONSKI-DAY

Zinoviev stands at a telephone.

ZINOVIEV

Yes...he said what?

Behind him, Lenin sits with Nadya. Bronski is there with Kamenev.

ZINOVIEV (CONT'D)

Yes, I will tell them.

Zinoviev hangs up the telephone. He looks to his group who all look nervous.

LENIN

Well?

ZINOVIEV

The Germans are granting us passage. We've found our way home.

The Bolsheviks all stand, shake hands, etc.

NADYA

That's great!

LENIN

Grigory, get word to the others. Tell them we found our way. Bronski, Kamenev, lend a hand.

BRONSKI

I'll begin my letters now.

LENIN

We must hurry! There is a new
revolution that must be started!

INT. APARTMENT OF LENIN (GENEVA)-NIGHT

The apartment looks like it has been ransacked. Drawers are open, papers are strewn about, it is not the orderly fashion that Lenin prefers.

In the bedroom, Lenin is packing his suitcase.

He is folding his clothes nicely, while everything around him looks chaotic.

He is enthusiastic, a small smirk is on his face as he is packing.

Nadya enters.

She is carrying her suitcases, she is just as excited and determined as him. They pack as much as they can.

Lenin enters into the kitchen. He stops at the table. Papers and books are strewn about, some personal correspondence, others are articles, etc.

He begins to organize the paper accordingly and then drop them into his suitcase.

Nadya walks out of the room carrying her suitcase.

NADYA

Are you taking all of that?

LENIN

Not all. Just what I find
important.

It appears that he is taking all of it. They are all communist letters and articles.

Nadya makes her way over to a small mantle. A silver urn sits on it. She grabs it.

LENIN (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

NADYA

My mother's ashes-

LENIN

I know what they are Nadya, I said
take everything that is important.
She serves no use to us now.

Nadya holds the urn for a second, contemplating.

NADYA

Maybe I can go later, I'd like to
take some personal things-

LENIN

-No, I want you there with me.

NADYA

Ilyich-

LENIN

-Nadya. Please. How am I suppose to
lead a revolution without my
secretary?

NADYA

But you can without your wife, I
assume.

LENIN

You know what I mean.

NADYA

Never forget, Ilyich. I'm a
revolutionary as well, not just
your secretary.

Lenin begins rummaging through more papers. He is ignoring
her and ending the conversation.

LENIN

Please, hurry.

Nadya is hesitant but places the urn back. She isn't happy
about it.

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT OF LENIN (GENEVA)-NIGHT

The apartment is empty. Lenin and Nadya are gone. Drawers are
open, papers are still strewn about, etc. Their pictures
still hang on the walls.

Over the mantle, the urn still sits.

A small clock TICKS next to it. Then, it suddenly stops.

EXT. TRAIN PLATFORM-DAY

A GERMAN OFFICER and a NCO walk together. They are in uniform, smoking.

They are chatting about something in German, we cannot understand what they are saying.

The two men cut a corner around a building, seeing the train platform. A long massive train sits idle in the station.

A large CROWD has gathered. They are yelling at a group of people that are boarding the train. We recognize one of the men getting aboard, it's BRONSKI.

A man in the crowd throws something at Bronski and the others boarding.

BRONSKI
(to fellow passengers)
Hurry, get in quick. They don't seem too happy.

A man in the crowd calls out:

MAN
You ought to be ashamed of yourselves! The Kaiser pays for your trip home!

Another:

MAN 2
They are our enemies, you filth!

Down the platform, Lenin is walking past the crowd with his wife. Zinoviev and Kamenev walk with them as well.

ZINOVIEV
By the looks of it we will be making a few stops, Comrade Lenin, but we'll be moving quickly.

LENIN
I don't want your damn numbers, Grigory! I want action! The faster this train ride is over, the happier I will be!

KAMENEV

The country wont change in a week,
Vladimir.

LENIN

You're right! The Mensheviks took
it in a day! Imagine the mess when
we get there!

They approach the train and Lenin sees a sight that stops him
in his tracks.

Down the track walks a woman about his age. She is pretty and
modest in looks. She is bundled up, a bit too much. Her skin
is pale and looks tired. This is INESSA.

Nadya sees her as well and stops with Lenin.

Zinoviev and Kamenev stop and turn.

NADYA

Go on, comrades. We'll meet you on
the train.

Zinoviev and Kamenev are boarding the train.

A member of the crowd calls out to them:

MAN

Traitors! Damn traitors! They'll
hang you! I hope they do!

ZINOVIEV

(to the crowd)

Traitors? I know that more than
half of you receive your pensions
from the German consulate! And you
want to talk about traitors?

They board.

Inessa approaches Lenin and Nadya.

LENIN

Inessa...

He hugs her.

Nadya is emotionless.

INESSA

Vladimir...Nadya. Good to see you.

LENIN

You came.

NADYA

Good to see you as well, Inessa.

LENIN

I'm happy you're here to join us. I didn't get your letter.

INESSA

I didn't send one.

An awkward beat.

NADYA

Let's get going, this crowd is starting to become a bit bothersome.

Lenin nods.

They begin to board the train.

INT. TRAIN-NEXT

Bronski sits at a window seat. The train is cramped but there are various compartments. There are political exiles everywhere.

Lenin, Nadya, and Inessa enter.

Bronski looks to them.

The car begins to clap when they see the trio enter.

LENIN

Please, please. Let's get this train moving. We have a revolution to begin!

The crowd cheers and claps.

Bronski continues to watch Lenin and the two women. Lenin and Nadya enter a compartment that is separate from Bronski's.

Inessa is about to follow after them but she looks to Nadya, then turns around and stays in Bronski's car.

She approaches Bronski and an empty chair across from him.

INESSA

Is this seat taken?

BRONSKI

All your's, comrade Armand.

She sits across from him.

INESSA

Good to see you again.

BRONSKI

Always a pleasure.

INESSA

A bit cramped in here.

BRONSKI

Why do you not sit up there with
Vladimir and Nadya?

INESSA

I have a feeling it'll be a bit
more cramped up there than back
here.

BRONSKI

They have that whole second class
car to themselves.

INESSA

I'm well aware, Mieczyslav.

A beat.

BRONSKI

He said you stopped writing him...

INESSA

I did.

BRONSKI

Why?

Just as Inessa is about to speak there is a knock at
Bronski's window.

He opens it.

A WOMAN holds up a small CHILD to the window. They smile,
they are obviously not part of the crowd outside (they yell
things like "get away from that train you traitor!", etc).

BRONSKI (CONT'D)

How can I help you?

The small child hands Bronski a dark red handkerchief.

WOMAN

We wish you luck! Give us a home to
return to!

Bronski smiles and shuts the window.

He sits back down in his chair, staring at the handkerchief,
he's forgotten all about his conversation with Inessa.

She looks at the red cloth.

INESSA

What is that?

BRONSKI

Our own little flag.

He waves the red handkerchief and smiles.

She smiles back.

The two German soldiers from before step aboard the train and
shut the door. They make their way to the back of the cabin
and stand.

EXT. TRAIN PLATFORM-LATER

The wheels of the train begin to move. Steam shoots out of
various parts.

Smoke pours from the smokestack and the train is on the move.

INT. TRAIN-CONTINUOUS

In the SECOND CLASS CABIN:

Nadya sits on a bench. A HUSBAND and WIFE sit across from
her. She bounces their young BOY on her knee. She loves it.

NADYA

He is so adorable.

WIFE

No children of your own?

NADYA

No.

WIFE

Why not? You seem to like them.

(RE: Lenin)

Have him give you one.

Nadya looks to Lenin who is standing at the window. He is staring out, serious as can be. He is lost in his thoughts.

NADYA

It might be a little late for that.

HUSBAND

You're not that old, are you?

NADYA

That's not what I meant.

Lenin still stares out the window. He watches the scenery pass by.

A MONTAGE:

A) The train passing through a forest.

B) The passengers of the train drinking and being excited. Lenin sits calmly next to his wife who is still playing with the child.

C) The train passes by a German city.

D) The train is stopped and the passengers board another train.

E) Bronski is sleeping in his seat. Inessa has moved to sit with three other revolutionaries (two MEN and a WOMAN). She is laughing and having fun but can't help but look out the window.

F) Lenin also stares out his window. It is very similar in appearance to Inessa. He is writing something, it is the *April Thesis*.

INT. TRAIN-CONTINUOUS

As Lenin writes his *April Thesis*, he can't help but hear loud LAUGHTER and SINGING coming from the other car. He rubs his head in frustration.

He looks to Nadya who is sleeping. He's baffled that she can withstand such noise.

He stands and makes his way to the other car.

He opens the door and ENTERS.

He sees Inessa clapping and cheering with the MEN and WOMAN. They laugh and have fun, the other people seem to be enjoying their singing.

Kamenev is puffing on a cigarette as Lenin walks by. Lenin looks, and smacks the cigarette out of the his hand.

LENIN

Don't smoke around me, you ass! I hate it. I hate the smell, the look, everything! Get away, go to the lavatory, go! Smoke where you shit, it belongs there with your ideas of working with the Provisional!

Kamenev scrambles off.

Lenin pushes his way towards the SINGING GROUP. He grabs the WOMAN by the arm and throws her out of her seat.

The men stand, ready to do something until they realize who stands in front of them. Inessa stays seated, she looks out the window.

LENIN (CONT'D)

What the hell is going on here?
Huh?

MAN

What did you do to my wife-

LENIN

-I asked you a question, comrade!

MAN 2

We're singing, trying to stay uplifted.

LENIN

Uplifted...how can you be uplifted when those scum of Mensheviks are raping our country every second we waste. Every second you sing and not do anything for the movement, our country declines. Don't you understand?

The woman stays on the floor, she is about to get up on her own until Lenin shoots his hand down, helping her up. He throws her back into her seat.

LENIN (CONT'D)
 (to the car)
 No more singing! No more music!
 Understand? You act like we have
 something to celebrate! What is it?
 Huh? Can anyone tell me?

The car is silent.

Bronski has awoken in all the commotion. He looks on,
 startled.

Zinoviev sits at the back of the car, watching. He wants to
 say something but knows better.

LENIN (CONT'D)
 Nothing, is what we have to
 celebrate. We've accomplished
nothing! Once we change Russia,
 once we change the world, that's
 when you fools can celebrate.

Lenin looks over the car, he glances at Inessa who refuses
 to look his way. He storms out.

IN HIS CAR:

Lenin sits and Nadya stirs.

NADYA
 What was the commotion?

LENIN
 Nothing. Go back to sleep.

The OTHER CAR sits quietly.

MONTAGE CONTINUES:

G) The train moves through a few open fields, it is a vast
 spectacular scene to see.

H) The train rolls into a new station.

INT. TRAIN-DAY

Bronski is awakened by Inessa.

INESSA
 We're here.

He sits up quickly.

Zinoviev and Kamenev make their way out of the train with Lenin and Nadya.

The German soldiers lead them.

EXT. FINLAND STATION-CONTINUOUS

There are a lot of people around the station. It is a bustling little part of Petrograd.

Lenin exits the train. He isn't in a great mood. He has a desire for action burning inside of him. He's here. He needs it released.

The German soldiers stay on the train. They eye a group of RUSSIAN SAILORS.

The group of Russian Sailors are hanging around, they clap as the revolutionaries get off the train. They know what they're here for and support it.

They approach Lenin and his group and begin to lead them to a series of armored cars.

The Germans shut the train door.

Others begin to realize who has arrived and clap as they gather around the revolutionaries as they walk.

His followers begin to climb in the armored cars.

Nadya looks to him.

NADYA

Ilyich? Are you coming?

He says nothing.

She gets in the car, understanding he doesn't want to be talked to.

Inessa climbs into the car, sitting next to Nadya. It's a bit awkward.

Lenin waits for a moment and then, out of the blue, climbs on top of the car.

He preaches to the people around the station:

LENIN

Greetings my fellow Russian
proletariats! My friends, my
brothers, my sisters!

(MORE)

LENIN (CONT'D)

I congratulate you on the removal of Tsarist oppression! Yet, there is more to be done here! This revolution, no matter what those foul Mensheviks tell you, is not just for Russia!

The crowd begins to gather around his car.

LENIN (CONT'D)

No! Russia is the start of something greater in the world! No more classes for any nation, under any flag! I see a better world! I see a better civilization! We do not just fight our own Provisional Government, a damned lie to our revolution! But we fight against all who are against the proletariat! We will make a gift out of our glorious Communist party, and Russia will be the one to deliver it to the rest of Europe!

The crowd cheers and claps as he speaks.

He continues but it is hard to make it out over the loud, erupting crowd.

Lenin is happy. He is no longer waiting.

EXT. STREETS OF PETROGRAD-LATER

People march side by side. They walk slowly as they listen to Lenin. He still stands on the armored car.

He waves his fist as he speaks. He is a man of passion.

LENIN

...Under their rule, there will be more bread shortages! More problems!

The people clap and cheer as the car pulls into a giant mansion.

Lenin gets off the car, the people are swarming him. They pat him on the shoulders, try to shake his hand, etc.

The rest of his group gets out of the armored cars, they are greeted in a similar fashion.

Lenin leads the way for the rest of his group as he heads up the stairs to the mansion. The people cheer as they do so.

He reaches the top of the steps and gives them a wave before he enters. The loud, heavy doors SLAM behind him and the sounds of the crowd immediately stop.

INT. MANSION-CONTINUOUS

Kamenev enters in the entry hall of the mansion. He is greeted by another revolutionary, JOSEF STALIN. He is younger than Lenin and full of passion.

Lenin enters with his group.

Kamenev shakes Stalin's hand.

KAMENEV

Josef, good to see you.

(softly)

Put out the cigarette. He hates it.

Stalin quickly puts out his smoke.

Kamenev turns to Lenin.

KAMENEV (CONT'D)

Comrade Lenin, this is Josef Stalin. The voice of the Bolshevik movement in our absence.

Lenin approaches. He is unimpressed.

LENIN

So, you are the one responsible for working with the Provisional Government.

STALIN

Comrade Lenin-

LENIN

-Don't make excuses! Never again will my party work with such low life scum as the Provisional! Do you understand me?

KAMENEV

Yes, Comrade Lenin. Josef was doing only what he thought was just at the time...

LENIN

Wake up Comrade Kamenev, this is a new time. One without the need for a false government and excuses for ignorance.

Lenin and his crew pass by Kamenev and Stalin, who stand baffled.

Lenin's group make their way upstairs.

STALIN

You really think he hates me?

KAMENEV

He's a man of the people, he hates everyone.

INT. MANSION ROOM-EARLY MORNING

A large table sits in the center of the room. A large group of Bolsheviks sit at it, including Zinoviev, Nadya, Inessa, and the others.

Lenin stands, he is in the middle of lecturing. By the looks on everyone's faces, he's been at it for awhile.

He is still passionate.

LENIN

...And you let fools like that idiot Kamenev and that moron Stalin work within the Soviet Provisional? I thought we were better than the Mensheviks! For revolutionaries, you are all too hesitant! Our party needs to act! We do not need to sit around and work things out with the Soviet Provisional! We need to be in place of it! Don't you understand?

BOLSHEVIK

People don't trust us, Comrade Lenin. Not because we work for the Provisional, but because of our history. We demand violence-

LENIN

-Yes! We do! It is the only way to win! We need an uprising! Blood on the hands of our people will make them strong!

(MORE)

LENIN (CONT'D)

You think the classes will give up willingly? No! We have to remove it by force!

BOLSHEVIK

That's hard to get support for-

LENIN

-We will get our support when we show how we can improve this place! When they get their bread! When they get their better working conditions! Then, support will come without fighting! But before, we have to fight! I want all of you to write for the *Pravda*! I want issues ran everyday, I want issues for everyone! Cut the throats of the Soviet Provisional with every word, every article!

INT. PRAVDA PRINTING HOUSE-NIGHT

Newspapers with the word *Pravda* printed at the top are shot out of the machine. It is mostly words, no pictures. It is all ideals.

EXT. LARGE APARTMENT COMPLEX (PETROGRAD)-MORNING

The sun is coming up and Lenin stands with Nadya on the street. They both look tired.

They carry their suitcases and enter.

INT. APARTMENT OF ANNA AND MARK-CONTINUOUS

There is a KNOCK at the door and ANNA ILINICHNA and her husband MARK YELIZAROV stand. Anna makes her way to the door and opens it.

Nadya stands holding her suitcase. Lenin is behind her.

Anna is excited, hugging Nadya tight.

ANNA

Oh, my sweet Nadya! How are you?

NADYA

Good, good! I hope you got our letter.

ANNA

Yes, yes of course I did! You and Vladimir are always welcome in our home.

Lenin moves forward into the doorway.

Anna wants a hug.

ANNA (CONT'D)

My brother, how good to see you.

She embraces him.

LENIN

Anna, good to see you as well.

Mark approaches.

MARK

Vladimir.

LENIN

Mark. How are things?

MARK

Chaotic as of late. Strikes in the factories, things are hectic you know.

LENIN

I'm well aware. But I'm here to change that.

They shake hands.

ANNA

Come, come inside. Please.

Nadya and Vladimir enter.

Anna shuts the door.

INT. ROOM OF LENIN (ANNA'S HOME)-CONTINUOUS

Lenin and Nadya enter a small room with Anna. A small cot and some clean sheets are in the corner.

ANNA

I spent all last week keeping it tidy for you. I wasn't sure when you'd be arriving.

NADYA
Neither were we.

ANNA
I hope it's to your liking.

LENIN
This will do just fine, Anna.

She exits.

INT. ROOM OF LENIN (ANNA'S HOME)-AFTERNOON

The sun shines through the window. Nadya is sleeping in the bed. She is exhausted physically and emotionally.

Lenin is next to her but gets out of bed and gets dressed. He paces around the room for a second but then exits.

INT. APARTMENT OF ANNA AND MARK-CONTINUOUS

Lenin walks into the apartment. He can hear Anna cooking in the kitchen. Mark isn't around.

He sees a group of photos on the wall, all of Lenin's family.

He looks over them, studying his parents. It is hard to tell if he has any sentimental value towards them or if he is just taking a look.

He stops at a PORTRAIT of an 18 year old boy. This is his brother, Aleksandr.

Anna comes from around the corner, she is cleaning her hands. She is startled to see Lenin.

ANNA
Vladimir! You just about gave me a heart attack.

LENIN
Sorry.

ANNA
I see you found the family shrine.

LENIN
I did.

ANNA
Those days near the Volga were good...

LENIN

Nostalgia, that's all. They weren't that good.

ANNA

You are saddening, Vladimir.

LENIN

Where did you get the picture of Aleksandr?

ANNA

Mother gave it to me, before she passed.

LENIN

He looks good.

ANNA

I see a lot of him in you-

Lenin doesn't want to have this conversation any longer. He exits.

Anna looks over the pictures, seeing a young picture of Lenin. She smiles and walks back into the kitchen.

EXT. CEMETERY OF PETROGRAD-DAY

Lenin stands over a grave. It is that of his brother Aleksandr. The name reads, "Aleksandr Ilyich Ulyanov."

The dates read, "1866-1887"

Lenin is contemplating something, staring at the dates.

He exits the cemetery.

EXT. MANSION-LATER

Lenin approaches the mansion. He is alone. He walks slowly.

He looks up and sees Zinoviev standing on the steps with Bronski. They are having a smoke. They put their cigarettes out quickly when they see Lenin approach.

ZINOVIEV

Comrade Lenin!

BRONSKI

The Mensheviks are having a meeting upstairs, they should be done soon.

LENIN

Stay back, I can smell the smoke on you. You're going to make me vomit more than the Mensheviks. I don't wait on them. Let's go.

The three enter into the building.

INT. MANSION-CONTINUOUS

Lenin walks with other revolutionaries up the stairs of the mansion. A group of Mensheviks begin to walk down the stairs as well.

Lenin grabs one and throws them down:

LENIN

You dogs! You traitorous dogs!
Menshevik scum! I hope you're happy with what you've done to our country! Ruined it! Ruined everything!

MENSHEVIK

Hey! Where were you when we overthrew the Tsar? Hiding!

LENIN

And where will you be when I overthrow the Soviet Provisional? Your grave, you dog!

The Bolsheviks and Mensheviks have a scuffle on the stairs. Bronski holds Lenin back and breaks him away.

BRONSKI

Save the passion for the meeting, comrade. The Mensheviks aren't worth it.

LENIN

They're filth! Scum!
(to the Mensheviks)
You traitors! No better than the Tsar you overthrew!

Bronski and Zinoviev carry Lenin away.

INT. MANSION ROOM-LATER

Lenin paces at the head of the table. His party members are gathered around listening.

Inessa sits next to Bronski.

LENIN

No other party can oppose us! Those
Mensheviks! Those traitors! I want
nothing to do with them!

(to Stalin)

I want no alliances with any of
them! Any!

(to the group)

If we are to take what is ours, for
the sake of Mother Russia-

As Lenin continues to speak, Inessa looks to Bronski and
speaks to him softly:

INESSA

He seems more...angry today.

BRONSKI

Had a fight with the Mensheviks on
the way in. I nearly ripped my arms
off trying to peel him away.

INESSA

A man of passion.

BRONSKI

You should know.

Bronski gives her a smile and a wink, being playful. Inessa
takes it as an insult and leans back in her chair. She
continues to listen to Lenin rant and rave.

A MENSHEVIK at the meeting stands.

MENSHEVIK

You attack my colleagues on the
stairs? You call us traitors! We
want the same thing. Let us work
together!

LENIN

Never!

The Menshevik sits down. Defeated.

Lenin rants.

INT. PRAVDA PRINTING HOUSE-DAY

Lenin paces as he thinks. Zinoviev and Nadya are with him.
They sit across the room.

Zinoviev is sweating, playing with an unlit cigarette.

ZINOVIEV

They're listening to us. That's a good thing. They are not trusting of the Provisional, we're using that to our advantage.

LENIN

So? What of it? The people have no understanding of what we're telling them!

ZINOVIEV

They understand-

LENIN

-They get that they aren't serfs anymore!

NADYA

Which means they get the basic foundations of Marxism-

LENIN

-It means nothing! They just like it when I say "Power to the Soviets!" That's it! How are we suppose to make changes if the majority of the population has no understanding?

NADYA

We can teach them.

ZINOVIEV

Nadya...teach them? And how do you plan on doing this? In universities?

NADYA

Classes.

Zinoviev is amused.

He plops his cigarette in his mouth and is about to light it.

Lenin removes it and breaks it in half. He glares at Zinoviev, who now takes Nadya seriously.

ZINOVIEV

(to Nadya)

What are you suggesting?

NADYA

What if we set up small, secret classes that explain the foundation of our ideals.

ZINOVIEV

Comrade Lenin, the Provisional will kill those involved if they find out.

Lenin waves off Zinoviev.

LENIN

Not if they don't know they exist.

ZINOVIEV

And who do you propose teach these classes? Huh? We can't spare a person who has a deep enough understanding-

NADYA

-I taught school for many years Grigory-

ZINOVIEV

-Arithmetic to children isn't politics to ex-serfs.

NADYA

You doubt me and my abilities as a revolutionary? As an idealist? Is that what you're saying Grigory?

ZINOVIEV

No, Nadya-

LENIN

-He's saying that it is going to take a lot of time. With your secretarial duties as well as the newspaper...your hands are full, Nadya.

NADYA

I'll find time.

LENIN

I don't think so.

ZINOVIEV

Classes are no good then.

LENIN

No. Not quiet.

Lenin looks at Nadya.

She isn't happy. She knows what he is thinking.

INT. RUNDOWN BUILDING (SCHOOL)-DAY

Lenin walks with Inessa down a hallway. It is just them two.

INESSA

Just the ideals?

LENIN

Everything you can about Marx.

INESSA

Easy enough.

LENIN

If only. You'll be teaching complex material to those who will not comprehend.

INESSA

I'm surprised, Vladimir.

LENIN

By what?

INESSA

You did not ask Nadya to do this. She is a fine teacher.

Lenin stops at a ROOM.

He OPENS the DOOR revealing a humble and cheap looking room.

Inessa looks in.

LENIN

She had to turn it down. Things at the *Pravda* are picking up. Secretarial work isn't slow these days either.

INESSA

Well, this will do just fine.

LENIN

I'm happy. It is all we could afford.

They share a smile.

EXT. STREETS OF PETROGRAD-DAY

A RIOT is taking place. People are smashing bottles and breaking windows. They are protesting something.

A group of policemen are keeping them at bay.

POLICEMAN

The Soviet Provisional is not under
the influence of the Tsar!

The crowd erupts, throwing things at them.

INT. APARTMENT OF ANNA AND MARK-MEANWHILE

Lenin sits at the dinner table with Nadya and Mark.

NADYA

You want all other parties gone?

LENIN

If they aren't with us, then
they're against us.

NADYA

That seems irrational.

LENIN

It does until every person in
Russia is a Bolshevik. That sounds
nice, doesn't it?

MARK

Yes, but will they be forced?

LENIN

Only to see the truth. That our
way, is the right way. Not that
villainous trash that the
Mensheviks preach while they soak
in provisional money.

NADYA

What do the others say?

LENIN

Nobody says much of anything. I'm
the only one doing something around
here worthwhile.

Nadya is quiet.

LENIN (CONT'D)
I'll be meeting with Inessa and
Grigory later this evening to go
over some plans for the future.

Nadya doesn't like it.

NADYA
Ilyich-

A KNOCK at the door interrupts her.

Mark gets up and answers it.

MARK
Ah, I believe he is here to see
you, Vladimir.

In steps Leon Trotsky.

Nadya gets up from the table and gives Trotsky a big hug.

TROTSKY
Nadya! Good to see you.

NADYA
Leon, what took you so long?

TROTSKY
Those snakey Brits. I had to find
another way home.

Lenin stands, shaking Trotsky's hand.

LENIN
Leon.

TROTSKY
I'm guessing the riot was your
idea, Comrade Lenin.

LENIN
Riot?

TROTSKY
In the city square, haven't you
heard?

LENIN
No.

TROTSKY

Word got out the provisional government wants to stay in the war. People don't care for that too much.

LENIN

Of course not, it's-

TROTSKY

-Tsarist.

LENIN

Come, Nadya, Leon. We need to go. Now.

INT. MANSION ROOM-EVENING

Lenin stands over the table as he speaks. His followers are around and Trotsky is with them now.

LENIN

I've been saying it all this time: The Provisional Government is the Tsar, whether they want to admit it or not. This is what is going to happen all over Europe! We need to push for a European Civil War-

TROTSKY

-Europe is already in war, Comrade Lenin. The people are mad because we're at war-

LENIN

-But this war is being fought for the wrong reasons! It's for the gain of emperors and kings, not the people! We need to stress the importance of our movement! We need a socialist dictatorship. That way we can control our propaganda-

TROTSKY

-That's going against Marx, Comrade Lenin. We need to keep doing what we're doing-

LENIN

-Kamenev and Stalin work with the Mensheviks daily! They work with Lvov and his dogs!

(MORE)

LENIN (CONT'D)

This is not our revolution! We need to establish authority!

TROTSKY

But the authority you want to establish goes against our own, your own ideology! What is the point then? A dictator is just another king, another emperor. Is it not?

INT. MANSION-LATER

Lenin walks down the stairs. Nadya is with him.

NADYA

He just sees things differently.

LENIN

Too differently, I wonder if he is even one of us.

NADYA

Of course Leon is one of us. He certainly isn't a Menshevik anymore.

LENIN

I begin to wonder.

NADYA

Oh, stop it! He's a good friend and a friend to the cause. It's good to have someone light a fire in you.

LENIN

I need to get the word out to the people. I need-

A hand reaches out and stops Lenin by grabbing his shoulder.

Lenin turns, seeing Trotsky standing with Inessa.

He eyes Inessa but quickly looks to Trotsky.

TROTSKY

Lenin, can I have a word?
(to Inessa)
Go on.

LENIN

(to Nadya)
Speak with Inessa while you wait.
(MORE)

LENIN (CONT'D)

(to Trotsky)

What is it?

Nadya and Inessa walk off together, it's a bit awkward between both groups.

TROTSKY

I wanted to speak with you about earlier-

LENIN

-You crossed me.

TROTSKY

You crossed yourself, Vladimir. I'm telling you, to preach a dictatorship is going to lose us support.

LENIN

I don't think so.

TROTSKY

I do, and so does everyone else. It's political suicide right now. With the Mensheviks gaining support-

LENIN

-They will lose it when people find out how much of a hand they had in the Soviet Provisional.

TROTSKY

Comrade, listen to me. I beg of you. Stay away from the big ideals of the dictatorship. Worry about that later. Let us get power first. The European Civil War thing has to stop too-

LENIN

-That's Marx, not me.

TROTSKY

I'm well aware, and I agree with it. Focus on Russia for now, focus on where the people listen. Worry about the rest later.

EXT. MANSION-MEANWHILE

Inessa sits on the steps of the mansion with Nadya. Inessa removes a cigarette from her coat.

INESSA

Want one?

Nadya takes it.

NADYA

I pray Ilyich doesn't find out.

INESSA

He should smoke, it'll loosen up his nerves a bit.

NADYA

He's just...you know how he is.

INESSA

Right.

They light their cigarettes and smoke silently.

NADYA

What is it with you and Leon?

INESSA

I don't think he meant to attack your husband-

NADYA

-I didn't mean that. I understand when you put two bulls in the same pen there will be a mess. I mean, between you two.

INESSA

Leon? Oh, nothing. He's...he's not what I'm looking for.

NADYA

Who is?

An awkward beat.

INESSA

I think your husband is brilliant.

NADYA

So does half of the country, and the other half wants him dead.

INESSA

Vladimir is going to change the world, I can feel it.

NADYA

I can too.

INESSA

Do you get the feeling that he
loves the cause more than he loves
you?

NADYA

Why? Do you?

Nadya puts out her cigarette.

Lenin opens the door to the mansion, he is alone.

He approaches Nadya and Inessa.

LENIN

You ready?

NADYA

Yes, let's go home. I'm tired of
politics today.

LENIN

Inessa, would you like to join us
for dinner?

INESSA

(off Nadya's scowl)
No, no thank you.

LENIN

I see. Maybe I'll get us lunch some
day soon.

INESSA

I'd like that.

Nadya and Lenin exit.

Inessa watches them leave from the steps.

Lenin and Nadya walk side by side.

LENIN

You smell like smoke.

NADYA

Yes, I think Inessa has picked up
the habit.

LENIN

Such a shame. So disgusting...

NADYA

It is, very.

They continue to walk.

EXT. PETROGRAD SQUARE-DAY

Lenin stands on top of a box. He has people all around him. He is ranting passionately.

LENIN

They are no better than Lvov! I'll tell you that right now! The Tsar is in their pocket, his ideals are the pen they use to scribble their doctrine! The Mensheviks are nothing more than liars and cheats, working for the Tsar and his hounds to corrupt and violate our home!

The crowd cheers and claps as he speaks.

Zinoviev stands with Trotsky and Bronski at a distance. They watch as he rants.

ZINOVIEV

The party is starting to love him.

TROTSKY

They should. He's a great idealist and makes the people demand more than the government can offer.

BRONSKI

And that is how revolutions begin.

ZINOVIEV

It sounds like he listened to you, Leon.

TROTSKY

For now, I doubt he'll be so understanding later. He believes what he believes, like all of us do. He just won't show it all at once.

BRONSKI

You make him sound mad, but he vouched for you, you know. It isn't everyday a Menshevik joins our ranks. He respects you. You should do the same, Leon.

TROTSKY

I don't mean to sound
disrespectful. I am grateful to be
among you. I'm just saying that the
best mast doesn't sway when the
wind blows.

ZINOVIEV

If the whole party backs him, he'll
get his way.

TROTSKY

The people back him, he most
certainly will.

The crowd roars again as Lenin says something else that gets
them excited:

LENIN

All power to the Soviets!

INT. RUNDOWN CLASSROOM-DAY

Inessa stands in front of a group of low class people, mainly
factory workers and farmers from outside the city. They are a
rough crowd.

INESSA

There is no need for classes. The
removal of serfs was just a ruse.
What good came of it? What changed?
The Tsar lied then, like he did
with everything else. None of you
moved up in society, he sat on top,
reaping the benefits of your labor!

IN THE DOORWAY, Lenin stands. He is watching Inessa give her
lecture. He grins. He is really enjoying it.

He notices the blank faces of the workers she preaches too.
He becomes concerned.

Inessa looks up, seeing Lenin in the doorway. She smiles at
him, he notices and smiles back. They long for each other and
it is obvious.

Lenin walks away.

INESSA (CONT'D)

(to students)

Sorry, where was I?

INT. OFFICE-DAY

Lenin paces around the room. He looks out the window.
Zinoviev sits near with a pen in his hand.

LENIN

We need more, we need something
more.

ZINOVIEV

We have plenty to print in our
newspaper. We run the whole thing
now.

LENIN

We need to keep up our fire! We
have to bash this into the skulls
of every Russian out there!

ZINOVIEV

What do you think? Maybe we could
show how we are the saviors to the
proletariat.

LENIN

They should know this already.

ZINOVIEV

Maybe take our focus off the Kadets
and Mensheviks.

LENIN

What good will that do us?

ZINOVIEV

None I would think. Unless we
direct it towards them, without
saying names in general.

LENIN

Just the ideals...

ZINOVIEV

That's what I'm thinking, comrade.

LENIN

No more targeting individuals,
entrepreneurs, Jews, or anyone of
the sort. Focus on what they preach
and tear it apart...I like that
Grigory.

ZINOVIEV

I do my best, comrade.

LENIN

Print it.

EXT. PETROGRAD SQUARE-DAY

Lenin paces around on a stage. His hands are in his pockets.

The crowd listens to him closely.

LENIN

Ruin is imminent. Catastrophe is on its way. The capitalists have brought and are bringing all countries to destruction! The salvation is revolutionary discipline, revolutionary measures taken by the revolutionary class, the proletarians and semi-proletarians. The transition of all state power into the hands of this class will be able, in reality, to introduce such control! It will carry through victoriously against the parasites!

The crowd cheers again.

He continues to pace and rant.

LENIN (CONT'D)

The offensive is the only way our people can be free! They wish to wipe out the proletariat and semi-proletariat! Not while the Bolsheviks are here. We are the saviors of the proletariat, we will not let you parish!

The crowd roars with delight.

INT. CAFE-DAY

Lenin walks into the cafe. He sees Inessa sitting at a table alone. She is next to a music box that is playing a soft tune.

He approaches and sits down across from her.

LENIN

How are you? Are the classes well?

INESSA

Good. They're going fairly well.
Hard some days. People want change
rather than an education.

LENIN

I gave another speech yesterday.

INESSA

I heard.

LENIN

Did you agree?

INESSA

Of course.

LENIN

Leon say anything about it?

INESSA

Nothing in particular. That's a
good sign.

LENIN

I'm feeling like I'm at my wits
end.

INESSA

I see what you're saying. Nobody
listens and if they do...I doubt
they understand truly what we're
trying to tell them.

Lenin loses his concentration as the music picks up. He grabs
the box, silencing the music.

LENIN

I can't listen to music often. It
acts on my nerves. It makes one
want to say a lot of sweet nonsense
and stroke the heads of people who
live in a filthy hell-hole and
yet...it can create such beauty.

Lenin is staring at the music box.

Inessa is staring at him, she seems nervous.

LENIN (CONT'D)

But you can't stroke anyone's head
today- you'll get your hands cut
off.

(MORE)

LENIN (CONT'D)

The need is to beat them over the head, beat them mercilessly even though we, as an ideal, are against any coercion of people...

Lenin takes his hand off the music box. It plays again.

LENIN (CONT'D)

...It's a hellishly difficult necessity.

He stares into the eyes of Inessa.

She stares back. She grabs his hand and he grabs hers.

INT. APARTMENT OF ANNA AND MARK-NIGHT

Nadya walks around the apartment. She carries newspapers and pamphlets.

She bumps into Anna by mistake.

Papers fly everywhere.

ANNA

Nadya! I'm so sorry!

NADYA

It's alright, don't worry. It's alright.

Anna begins to help her gather the papers.

NADYA (CONT'D)

Where's Ilyich?

ANNA

He went to get food with...uh, what is her name?

NADYA

Inessa.

ANNA

That's the one. Yes, he said he wanted to see how his speech is holding over. I guess he gave a good one.

NADYA

He did...

ANNA

He is going to be sorry. I made my chicken tonight, he always loved my chicken. I gave you the recipe, did you ever make it-

Nadya snaps, something is wrong.

NADYA

-No, we never ate chicken in Switzerland! We were too poor to afford a luxury! We had filthy horse meat almost every night! Not to mention I was sick often and I couldn't-

ANNA

-Are you feeling alright? You seem...tired.

NADYA

I'm fine. I just...have another headache. I'm sorry.

Nadya gathers her papers and exits.

Anna watches her go. She knows something isn't right.

EXT. STREETS OF PETROGRAD-EVENING

A rally is going on. A bunch of FACTORY WORKERS, SAILORS, etc are gathered. They are chanting "ALL POWER TO THE SOVIETS!"

Bronski is among the crowd, handing out newspapers and pamphlets.

A line of police officers are standing by. One stands on a podium.

OFFICER

Go home! Your ideals are false! You listen to the words of a man who has deceived you!

ON A ROOFTOP: A group of uniformed military men set up a water cooled machine gun. They aim down the sights.

OFFICER (CONT'D)

Disperse! Your precious Bolshevik party has lied! They are being led by a German spy!

The crowd boos.

OFFICER (CONT'D)

You heard me right! I said a German spy! They sent him here, like a plague, in a sealed car to warp your minds! These are facts! Wake up!

The crowd isn't buying it.

OFFICER (CONT'D)

He does the bidding of Jews and is a member of the bourgeoisie! Open your eyes my brothers, my sisters! He lies to your faces, parading as a savior!

They begin to throw things at the officer.

Bronski is starting to listen but speaks to others in the crowd.

BRONSKI

These are lies! This man is turning you against the cause! Do not listen to him! Lenin is going to deliver Russia away from the filth that run it!

The crowd is getting unruly.

OFFICER

Disperse! Please, disperse!

BRONSKI

This man wants to weaken the Bolsheviks! These are the lies of Lvov and the Mensheviks! Not a word should be listened to! Not a word-

As the crowd begins to go crazy, the machine gun on the rooftop opens up, firing into the crowd.

Bullets tear into people, red blood flies into the sky. The crowd begins to scatter.

Bronski is bounced around in the panicking crowd. Bullets whizz by.

SNAP! Followed by a CRACK!

Bronski falls with a gapping bullet wound in his chest.

He falls to the ground, his papers and pamphlets rain down covered in his RED blood.

His cold eyes stare off into the sky. He's dead.

In his hand is clutched the small red handkerchief given to him by the child on the train.

The people trample over him and his bloody papers, trying to get out.

The machine gun still fires.

INT. APARTMENT OF ANNA AND MARK-NIGHT

Lenin enter. It is late. Nobody is awake.

He walks through the home quietly and enters into his room.

Nadya sits on their bed, she is still clothed as if she is going out.

Lenin freezes when he sees her.

LENIN

Can't sleep?

NADYA

I don't want to be your secretary any more.

LENIN

What?

NADYA

I cannot do it anymore, Ilyich. I can't!

LENIN

Why the hell not?

Nadya has a lot to say, but can't for some reason.

NADYA

...The newspaper...It's getting overwhelmed. I can't manage both.

LENIN

Well, quit the newspaper.

NADYA

And let who take over? You're the one that wanted me in charge, and I've done what you asked, now let me just focus on that. Educate the people.

LENIN
Is this personal?

NADYA
Personal? Personal!

LENIN
You know where I've been.

NADYA
With Inessa.

LENIN
Yes, talking politics.

NADYA
I doubt that.

LENIN
You gave me the ultimatum a long
time ago, why didn't you leave then
if you're so jealous of her?

NADYA
I didn't leave because you asked me
to stay! You wanted me to stay for
the cause!

LENIN
And look where it is today! We're
close, Nadya! We're close!

NADYA
And we are more far apart than ever
before!

LENIN
My duty is to my country!

NADYA
Your duty is to yourself!

Lenin becomes furious and smashes the light on the dresser.
It goes dark in the room.

LENIN
How dare you! How fucking dare you!
My faith has always been in this
country and our ideals! You never
doubted it before! Now you do, why?
Because of some jealousy you have
with a friend?

NADYA

The way you would wait for her letters, the way you'd sit there checking the mail...I know you Vladimir Lenin! I know how you are! Never have I seen you wait hand and foot for me!

Lenin is quiet.

He is thinking, still fuming, but calculating.

LENIN

Fine. Run the newspaper. I'll get a new secretary.

NADYA

Thank you. That's all I want.

LENIN

No it isn't, but that's life I suppose. I am staying around Inessa, I don't care how you feel.

NADYA

It's because you feel for her more-

LENIN

-Bronski is dead.

NADYA

What?

INT. PRAVDA PRINTING HOUSE-DAY

Zinoviev, Nadya, and Lenin sit around in an office.

Zinoviev is distraught.

ZINOVIEV

They shot him like a dog...like a god damn dog in the street!

NADYA

How many others were killed?

ZINOVIEV

I don't know? Fifteen, twenty?

NADYA

(to Lenin)
Mensheviks?

LENIN

No, government officials.

ZINOVIEV

Word has it that they were sprouting off about how they think you're a spy.

LENIN

That'll pass.

ZINOVIEV

I don't think so.

NADYA

Neither do I.

LENIN

Then print something that says I'm not. Play up the fact that they opened fire on a crowd of unarmed proletariats, most of whom were Bolsheviks. This is the act of a coward.

NADYA

I don't know what good it'll do.

LENIN

Keep it printing until we get something else. These bastards will pay, and Bronski will not be gone in vain!

Lenin exits.

He walks the floor of the printing house. There are printers hard at work.

He makes his way to the front of the warehouse and then he sees Stalin and Kamenev.

STALIN

Sorry to hear about Comrade Bronski.

LENIN

Feeling guilty about getting close to those idiots in the Soviet Provisional?

KAMENEV

We came to give you our respects.
You know you've always had our
loyalty.

LENIN

Saying that you don't believe all
this German spy stuff, yeah?
Someone had to give them that idea
Kamenev, was it you? Or maybe you
Josef?

KAMENEV

Never.

STALIN

Everyone knows how you came here,
Comrade Lenin. It was only a matter
of time before the government wove
a decent enough story.

LENIN

That may be, but you two are still
low on my list. Earn your place in
the party, then speak to me like
we're friends.

Just then, two WOMEN dressed in workers clothes enter. They
carry bats and hammers.

WOMAN 1

Where is that bear, Lenin? I want
to bash his brains in!

WOMAN 2

That beast, that German loving, Jew
screwing monster!

STALIN

Who are these women?

The women see Lenin and call out to him.

WOMAN 2

Don't you move, asshole! Don't run!

Lenin stands, waiting. He isn't afraid.

The women begin to rush towards him and some of the PRINTERS
grab a hold of them. They begin to drag the women out.

Stalin and Kamenev stand with Lenin, watching in disbelief.

The women kick and scream as they are dragged out.

KAMENEV

What the hell was that?

LENIN

Nothing important.

STALIN

Comrade Lenin, this spy thing is going to blow up...

LENIN

Then tell Zinoviev and Trotsky to keep people with me at all times.

STALIN

Will do. Who do you recommend?

LENIN

Anybody but you two.

EXT. STREETS OF PETROGRAD-DAY

Lenin walks down the streets with his hands in his pockets. He wears his famous cap. Around him is a group of Bolsheviks. Among them, Zinoviev and Trotsky.

The group looks like an old style street gang.

EXT. PETROGRAD SQUARE-DAY

Lenin stands on a podium. He slams his fist into it as he speaks to a large crowd of thousands.

LENIN

We must be specially attentive and careful not to succumb to provocation! One false step on our part can bring the whole cause to perdition!

The crowd cheers.

LENIN (CONT'D)

I know what the Soviet Provisional and their Menshevik brothers have been saying about me! I tell you here and now, they are lies! I am not a spy! I am not working for the Germans! I am working for you! The proletariat!

The crowd cheers again.

INT. CONGRESS HALL (PETROGRAD)

Lenin sits in a chair among a crowd of others. Around him is Trotsky and Inessa, among other Bolsheviks. Nadya is not there.

Lenin rests his hand on Inessa's leg. She grabs his hand, holding onto it in a sincere way.

At the front of the room, on a raised platform speaks a Menshevik:

MENSHEVIK

Look here, the Menshevik party has been hard at work trying to find a solution to the split of our country. The provisional is not what people wanted but what they need, especially if there is backing from the four major parties. Even with all of this, no party chooses to step up with an alternate solution. No party wants the power solely on their own.

(a beat)

However, one party in particular has denied everything about the Soviet Provisional, saying it is not for the people. Who here speaks for the Bolshevik party?

Lenin stands.

LENIN

I do.

MENSHEVIK

And what say you on these matters? Are they not the truth?

LENIN

Yes, to a degree.

MENSHEVIK

A degree?

LENIN

He said that no political party exists in Russia that would express a readiness to take power wholly upon itself.

(a beat)

My answer is this...There is! No single party can refuse this!

(MORE)

LENIN (CONT'D)

And our party, the Bolshevik party,
at any moment is ready to take
power in its entirety!

The Bolsheviks cheer and clap.

The rest of the room scoffs and laughs, including the
Menshevik at the podium.

MENSHEVIK

And when will that be?

LENIN

Whenever we are ready.

EXT. STREETS OF PETROGRAD-DAY

Lenin and his crew walk together. Next to him is Trotsky.

TROTSKY

You sounded insane.

LENIN

You still clapped.

TROTSKY

Unity in the party can be an
appearance.

LENIN

Are we not united?

TROTSKY

We are but quit being so forward
with the demand for power. We'll
never get in that way.

LENIN

The people want change, I show them
change. I show them answers.

TROTSKY

You put on a show. Nothing has
changed because every time you open
your mouth, a new obstacle is
placed in our path!

LENIN

And if I don't open my mouth, what
then Leon? See, that's how the road
to power is paved, with the heap of
wreckage of those who tried to stop
you.

They enter into their newspaper printing station.

INT. PRAVDA PRINTING HOUSE-CONTINUOUS

Brightly painted words like "TRAITORS" and "SPIES" decorate the walls. The printing machines are turned off, papers torn and defecated on.

Lenin looks around. He is quiet, thinking.

He sees the office and approaches.

Trotsky tries to follow.

LENIN

No. Stay.

Lenin walks into the OFFICE:

Inside, the place is torn apart and papers are strewn everywhere.

He hears WHIMPERING from behind the desk.

He walks over, seeing Nadya sitting on the floor, holding shredded pieces of paper.

NADYA

Kadets and Mensheviks...they ransacked the place...

LENIN

Were you here? Are you hurt?

NADYA

I'm fine, they didn't touch me. They were looking for you.

Lenin is in disbelief.

He steps out of the office. Inessa pushes her way past Lenin into the office.

Inessa rushes behind the desk.

INESSA

Nadya, are you-

NADYA

-I'm fine! Go!

INESSA

Here, let me help you-

NADYA

-I'm fine, I said! Go!

Inessa backs down.

INT. PRAVDA PRINTING HOUSE-CONTINUOUS

Trotsky stands with the other Bolsheviks they are whispering something to each other. Two more new faces are among them, Kamenev and Stalin, they look out of breath.

Lenin watches, walking closer.

Trotsky sees him, whispers something to the group and approaches Lenin quickly before he reaches the group.

TROTSKY

Comrade, I need to speak to you.

LENIN

What of?

TROTSKY

Lvov was removed from office not long after we left today-

LENIN

-That's good news-

TROTSKY

I thought so myself until I heard who replaced him.

LENIN

Who?

TROTSKY

Kerenski, he's placed a warrant out for your arrest as well as Kamenev and Comrade Zinoviev. You need to leave.

Nadya exits the office.

NADYA

Where would he go?

TROTSKY

Anywhere but here. Vladimir, I'm telling you, please.

LENIN

Things are just starting to get moving...

TROTSKY

And they will screech to a halt when Kerenski's thugs find you and hang you. You must go into hiding.

Lenin looks back to Nadya.

She has nothing to say.

INT. APARTMENT OF ANNA AND MARK-NIGHT

Anna sits in the living room portion of her home. Mark is with her. There are uniformed men with guns searching the home.

They tear through everything, opening all the doors and breaking things carelessly as they do.

They check under beds by flipping them, etc.

Nadya opens the front door and enters alone.

She meets eyes with Anna who looks panicked.

ANNA

Nadya-

An OFFICER comes from a room, rushes towards Nadya and grabs a hold of her arms violently.

OFFICER

You! Where is he?

NADYA

Who? I don't know!

OFFICER

Your husband, you bitch! Where is he? He is under arrest by order of the Soviet Provisional!

NADYA

I have no idea, I haven't seen him in days!

OFFICER

He is your husband! Don't lie to me!

NADYA

I'm honest!

OFFICER

Lying slut!

The officer lets go of her and smacks her across the face.

OFFICER (CONT'D)

(to other officers)

He isn't here! Let's go! He cannot
be far!

The officers exit and slam the door behind them. The force
knocks Alexandr's photo off the wall, crashing into the
floor.

Anna gets up and begins to pick up the broken glass. She
weeps.

Nadya sits on the floor and gets up slowly. Her and Mark
approach the distraught Anna.

Nadya kneels down.

NADYA

It is okay Anna, he's safe. He's
alright...

Anna looks up, she isn't sure she believes it.

INT. SAFE HOUSE (PETROGRAD)-NIGHT

Lenin enters into the safe house with Zinoviev. Stalin leads
them in.

The apartment is dark but Stalin turns on the lights,
revealing how disheveled the place is.

LENIN

Thank you, comrade Stalin. You can
go.

STALIN

No, I can't. I was ordered by
Trotsky to keep an eye on you two.

LENIN

He couldn't ask anybody else?

STALIN

I don't know what you have against
me.

LENIN

You're starting to prove your worth a bit. Don't do anything to set it back.

STALIN

I plan not to. My heart is to the cause.

LENIN

Don't get lost along the way.

ZINOVIEV

Where are we sleeping?

STALIN

There's two cots in the back, I'll sleep on the floor in here.

ZINOVIEV

Thanks, Josef.

INT. SAFE HOUSE (PETROGRAD)-MORNING

Zinoviev wakes up. The light from outside the apartment shines in his eyes. He squints and gets up.

He is still fully clothed.

He can hear the sound of people talking in the other room. He notices that Lenin is out of bed.

He ENTERS into the MAIN ROOM:

Nadya and Trotsky sit with Lenin and Stalin.

Stalin shaves Lenin's face for him and he speaks to the other two.

NADYA

I hate to see it go.

LENIN

A beard is not worth the risk of being caught.

TROTSKY

I agree, hair can grow back, a broken neck can't.

NADYA

Where are they sending you?
 (on noticing Zinoviev)
 Ah, Grigory! Come, sit.

Zinoviev enters and sits down.

ZINOVIEV

She asks a fine question, Leon. We cannot stay in the city.

TROTSKY

Here take these.

Trotsky hands Zinoviev two train tickets.

TROTSKY (CONT'D)

You will be staying on a small farm outside of the city. The owners are happy to have you, they are Bolsheviks, in fact they are honored. They only ask that you help work the fields.

ZINOVIEV

Sounds fair.

LENIN

And what of our revolution, Leon?
 We cannot let it falter now!

Stalin almost cuts Lenin with the razor as Lenin gets a bit flustered. He goes back to shaving.

TROTSKY

I'm well aware of that. Keep your writing up and have Grigory give it to this man in town.

He hands Grigory an address on a card.

TROTSKY (CONT'D)

They will take your articles and smuggle them into the city. That'll show you're not out of the fight.

LENIN

I can't lead from miles away!

TROTSKY

No, but I can.

EXT. STREETS OF PETROGRAD-NIGHT

Trotsky walks and has a smoke. He wears a hat and keeps his head low.

Behind him walks Nadya, she is trying to keep up with him.

NADYA

I don't see how running away-

TROTSKY

-It isn't running, Nadya. I don't want him to go but he has to.

NADYA

Are you planning something?

Trotsky swings around and grabs Nadya.

TROTSKY

Stop it! We are on the same side! I don't want him gone but he has to, if he is hanged then so is the cause!

NADYA

You will lead us?

TROTSKY

Of course.

NADYA

And what if my husband is discovered? What if they kill him? Will you still be in charge then?

TROTSKY

Yes, if it comes to that. But, it won't. He's in good hands, Nadya. Trust me. Everything is alright.

CUT TO:

INT. SAFE HOUSE (PETROGRAD)-NIGHT

Stalin sleeps on the floor in the living room. He is dreaming deeply.

On the couch sits Zinoviev. His head is thrown back, his eyes are closed. He is out cold.

Off screen, a bed CREAKS and the sound of MOANING is heard. Someone is having sex.

INT. ROOM OF SAFE HOUSE-CONTINUOUS

Lenin is behind Inessa, they are having sex. They moan softly, trying to not wake the others.

INT. ROOM OF SAFE HOUSE-LATER

Lenin lays in bed. He is staring up at the ceiling. Inessa is standing in the room. She is getting dressed. Lenin glances, watching her. He is fascinated.

However, to us, her naked body seems frail and thin. Her ribs do not have meat on them. Her stomach is sucked in and her skin is extremely pale. This is not a healthy person.

Inessa takes a seat. Lenin sits up and touches her back. She scoots away.

INESSA

I have to be brief.

LENIN

Why? What is it?

INESSA

I...don't know how to say this.

LENIN

Say what? Go on then.

INESSA

I have to stay away from you and I think...since you're leaving that I might as well tell you now...I tried before but it was hard to keep my distance once I saw you again at the station...

LENIN

What are you saying?

INESSA

I want to be a part of the cause, Vladimir...I don't want to be a part of you.

Lenin is taken back.

LENIN

Did Nadya say something to you?

INESSA

She didn't have to. I can see it in her eyes. She is disgusted with me. As women of the cause we should be united...

LENIN

She's just jealous-

INESSA

She loves you. As do I...but I see more when she looks at you than when you look at me. She deserves you, all of you. Not just what you choose to give her, and split with me.

LENIN

I think you should leave...

INESSA

I'm sorry Vladimir. I can still teach my classes. In fact, I want to. My loyalty to the cause hasn't swayed-

LENIN

-But your loyalty to me has! Now leave!

Inessa stands. She is fighting back tears. She makes her way to the door and opens it.

She enters into the LIVING ROOM of the safe house. Zinoviev stirs. He looks to see her make her way to the door.

Lenin follows after her.

Zinoviev pretends to be asleep.

Lenin is being pushy, he is nudging her in the back, leading her to the door. He opens it for her.

She steps out, looks back like she is going to say something. Right before she does:

SLAM!

Lenin closes the door right on her face.

Stalin shoots up.

STALIN

Comrade Lenin! Is everything-

LENIN
-Go back to sleep!

EXT. SAFE HOUSE (PETROGRAD)-NIGHT (CONTINUOUS)

Inessa exits the safe house apartment. She walks out onto the street and begins to smoke. She is crying. She wipes her eyes as she begins to walk down the street.

Across the street stands Nadya. She is carrying supplies. She watches Inessa. It isn't hard to see that there is something wrong with Inessa but Nadya just turns and walks away.

EXT. TRAIN PLATFORM-DAY

Lenin walks with Nadya, who has her face covered in a scarf, and Zinoviev who is also trying to hide his identity under a floppy cap.

They approach the train.

LENIN
(to Zinoviev)
Go on and board, I'll be on in a moment.

ZINOVIEV
Don't take too long.

Zinoviev boards the train.

Lenin turns to Nadya.

LENIN
I never thought I'd board another one of these again.

NADYA
I wish you didn't have to.

LENIN
So you've forgiven me?

NADYA
No.

LENIN
I see...I doubt I will see Inessa again.

NADYA
Why is that?

Lenin grabs Nadya's hands.

LENIN

There are more important things in
the world than Inessa Armand.

Nadya is trying to hide a small smile.

NADYA

Be safe. I'll see you when you get
back.

LENIN

Things will be different when I
return.

NADYA

Good. I'm glad.

Just as Lenin leans in to kiss her, the train whistles.

Lenin steps away and boards the train as it begins to move.
He looks back to Nadya. They stare at each other for a moment
and then he disappears inside.

EXT. RUSSIAN LANDSCAPE-DAY

The train rolls through open fields. It is a beautiful
landscape, lush in color.

The train is moving fast.

Zinoviev and Lenin do not speak, just stare out the window.

INT. FARM HOUSE-NIGHT

A FARMER leads Lenin and Zinoviev through the home with a
candlestick.

He shows them their room.

FARMER

This is where you can stay. We are
happy to have you comrades here.

LENIN

Thank you, I wish we were here
under better circumstances.

FARMER

As do I.

An awkward beat.

FARMER (CONT'D)

Well, I'll let you men rest.

The farmer exits the room.

Lenin shuts the door and looks to Zinoviev.

LENIN

Get the typewriters ready. We have work to do.

MONTAGE:

- A) Lenin writing at the typewriter. He is focused.
- B) The sun rises over the Russian landscape.
- C) Lenin still writes in the daytime, he looks exhausted. Zinoviev is smoking with the window open. Lenin waves smoke away from his face as he works. He is disgusted but bears it.
- D) Lenin and Zinoviev work the fields with the farmer.
- E) The sun sets.
- F) Zinoviev knocks on the door of a small farm house. He is holding a bundle of paper that him and Lenin have been working on. He hands it to the MAN who opens the door.
- H) Lenin finishes another article. He puts it on a fairly tall stack of paper.
- I) In PETROGRAD: There are more demonstrations. People fight and argue with the police.
- J) Lenin and Zinoviev plant seeds in the field with the farmer.
- K) The sun sets.
- L) Lenin and Zinoviev are re-reading their work, making changes and corrections.
- M) The sun rises over PETROGRAD. More violence in the streets.
- N) The stack of papers next to the typewriter is enormous.
- O) The sun rises.

INT. FARM HOUSE-MORNING

Zinoviev is asleep. A hand shakes him awake. It belongs to Lenin.

LENIN

Up, Grigory! Up!

ZINOVIEV

I swear, Vladimir. You never sleep.

LENIN

For the weak. Run to the smuggler,
he needs to take this next batch.

INT. APARTMENT OF ANNA AND MARK-DAY

Nadya sits in the kitchen. She is helping Anna with some dishes. There is a knock at the door.

Anna tries to put her dishes down but Nadya stops her.

NADYA

No, let me.

Nadya goes to the door and opens it.

Inessa stands in the doorway.

INESSA

Hello, Nadya.

NADYA

Inessa...

Anna peers around the corner. She knows that something is up.

NADYA (CONT'D)

What are you doing here?

INESSA

May I come in?

NADYA

...yes, where are my manners?

Inessa enters. She takes in the sights of the apartment, in particular, the shrine of Lenin and his family.

Anna exits the kitchen, putting on her coat.

ANNA

I forgot something for dinner! How dim-witted! Please, make yourselves at home. I'll be back soon!

Anna scrambles out. She knows these women need to talk.

The door shuts behind them and everything goes silent.

NADYA

(to Inessa)

Please, take a seat.

They sit at the dinner table, across from each other.

NADYA (CONT'D)

Thirsty?

INESSA

No. No thank you.

NADYA

What is it?

INESSA

I wanted to say that...I know you don't think very highly of me-

NADYA

-I do, just not your choice in men.

INESSA

Of course...

An awkward silence.

NADYA

Is that what you came over here for? To tell me you know how I feel about you?

INESSA

No, I want to do more than teach those Marxist classes.

NADYA

You do plenty as is. You're in attendance at all the party meetings, having plenty of things to say.

(a beat)

You're very...influential.

INESSA

Well, I was hoping I could get some things in the *Pravda* or maybe help around with some of the speeches.

NADYA

Talk to Leon about it.

INESSA

He told me to speak to you. See how you felt about things.

Nadya is distraught.

NADYA

Did he?

INESSA

Yes, concerning our history. He didn't want to do anything that'd make you uncomfortable.

Nadya stares at Inessa blankly.

INESSA (CONT'D)

Nadya, would it be a problem?

She is contemplating, there are a thousand things running through her mind.

INT. PRAVDA PRINTING HOUSE-DAY

Nadya stares at a printing machine.

The machine shoots out issues.

Nadya picks one up. She is not in a good mood.

Her eyes stare at the Russian words, she sees the name "Vladimir Lenin" at the bottom of an article. She just stares at it, as more and more issues are printed.

We see that "Inessa Armand" is printed on the same page. Nadya just stares coldly at the names.

Her mind is racing. She is thinking deeply on something. We can only assume what.

A HAND touches her shoulder, snapping her out of her trance. It belongs to Trotsky.

TROTSKY

The issue will be good. Don't worry.

NADYA

Oh, right. Yes, it will be.

TROTSKY

...You okay?

NADYA

I...just saw what the Kadets posted, that's all.

TROTSKY

Another bear picture?

Trotsky holds up a rival newspaper. There is a picture of Lenin as a bear, storming a stage.

Nadya just stares at it.

TROTSKY (CONT'D)

What's really on your mind?

INT. OFFICE-LATER

Trotsky sits behind Nadya's desk. She stands on the other side, pacing around like a caged animal. She is mirroring her husband when he is backed in a corner.

NADYA

...Standing around and printing his articles is doing nothing!

TROTSKY

It seems to have an effect-

NADYA

-That's shit Leon! We've gotten weaker without him! We've resorted to having Inessa's articles printed!

TROTSKY

Are you not comfortable with this? Why didn't you say something? She said-

NADYA

-What am I supposed to say Leon? Answer me that!

TROTSKY

How you feel. I'm just trying to help. Do you want more pages? Give me articles, I'll print them-

NADYA

-No! Don't try to hide this, Leon. Admit it, you know just as well as I do that there is more to this cause than printing articles!

TROTSKY

Propaganda is incredibly crucial to the cause-

NADYA

-And so is action!

TROTSKY

You sound like your husband.

NADYA

And you sound like a Menshevik!

Trotsky is taken back.

TROTSKY

What do you want me to do, Nadya?

NADYA

Be a leader while he's gone! Do something other than have me print!

TROTSKY

I gave a speech-

NADYA

-And look at the good it did, Leon!

Nadya waves the rival paper around. She throws it at him.

NADYA (CONT'D)

Not a word about it from either the Mensheviks or the Kadets! Get out there, do something!

TROTSKY

I'll see what I can do, Nadya.

NADYA

Do more! Be more!

TROTSKY

You want me to be Vladimir, and I'm not!

NADYA

Nobody can be! So I'd appreciate it if you stayed out of his way when he comes back!

TROTSKY

He can't come back, they'll kill him! I'm trying to protect him-

NADYA

-You're trying to ruin the cause!

TROTSKY

What do I have to do to show you that this is my life! I'm tired of everyone saying I'm a god damn Menshevik!

NADYA

Stop acting like one! Blood and violence! That is the only way!

Trotsky gets up from behind the desk. He is frustrated.

TROTSKY

Odd that the farther away he gets, the more you sound like him.

NADYA

Unity in the party, that is the appearance you wanted.

Trotsky exits the *Pravda*.

EXT. PRAVADA PRINTING HOUSE—CONTINUOUS

Trotsky exits in a rage. He puts his hat on.

Kamenev is approaching the printing house.

KAMENEV

Comrade Trotsky-

TROTSKY

-Shut up, and come with me.

Kamenev is taken back for a second. He watches Trotsky storm off down the street and then quickly follows after him.

EXT. SMALL RUSSIAN VILLAGE-DAY

Zinoviev walks the streets. He has a smoke. He approaches a house and knocks on the door.

A MAN opens it, it is the same one from the montage.

Zinoviev holds out a stack of papers.

ZINOVIEV

Another stack for you.

The Man takes it.

MAN

I'll be in Petrograd tomorrow morning.

ZINOVIEV

Good, I'll have something for you when you get back.

MAN

Have you heard the news?

ZINOVIEV

What news?

MAN

Trotsky and Kamenev were arrested.

Zinoviev is taken back.

INT. PRISON (PETROGRAD)

Trotsky and Kamenev sit behind bars. They stare at the walls, thinking of important things. They do not speak to each other, they are focused on much bigger things.

EXT. STREETS OF PETROGRAD-EVENING

People rant and cheer as they march through the streets. Inessa is among them. She is bundled up heavily, she must be freezing. However, nobody else is.

She coughs a bit as she waves the paper in the air. She is struggling, there is something wrong with her.

She hands out the party newspaper and some pamphlets.

A wall of police are trying to keep the people back. They are shouting something but the roars of the crowd are too much, we cannot understand the officers.

Suddenly, the officers are overtaken and the riot moves on through the streets.

Inessa moves through the riot, coughing and hacking as she goes.

EXT. FARM HOUSE-NIGHT

Lenin places a bag of grain near a small shack. He begins to head inside. He is sweating, he's been at it all day.

Suddenly, a small TRUCK rolls up. Zinoviev steps out of the home with the farmer.

Out the back of the truck hops a MAN, his face is covered by the night. He helps out a WOMAN. They walk towards the farm house, revealing their faces. It is Stalin and Nadya.

STALIN

Comrade, Lenin. We'd like a word.

LENIN

Nadya?

Lenin gives her a hug. He is more enthusiastic about it than she is.

NADYA

Hello.

LENIN

I've missed you.

NADYA

I think you've missed everything.

FARMER

Come inside, please.

They all begin to move indoors.

INT. FARM HOUSE-LATER

Stalin and Nadya sit across from Zinoviev and Lenin.

STALIN

It is getting close. We need you back home.

LENIN

With Trotsky imprisoned-

STALIN

-Him and Kamenev will be released. The people demand it, it looks bad on the Soviet Provisional. They can't hold them much longer. It is about time to get the revolution going, comrades.

ZINOVIEV

To return to the city is suicide.

LENIN

But to not return is cowardice. If it is coming, then I want to be there.

ZINOVIEV

It's risky.

LENIN

How will we go?

NADYA

These fake passports and tickets will take you to the Finnish border. From there, you can sneak into Petrograd on your own accord.

ZINOVIEV

And where will we stay?

STALIN

The same safe house, it is still undiscovered.

LENIN

We won't be staying there long, Grigory. If I come back, I demand action. No more twiddling our thumbs as we wait around for the Soviet Provisional to fall on its ass. Do you understand?

STALIN

Yes, comrade.

LENIN

Grigory, start packing our things.

EXT. FARM HOUSE-LATER

Stalin climbs into the truck. Nadya is about to follow. Lenin is behind her, helping her board. He doesn't look like he's ready to go.

NADYA

A car will come and get you.

LENIN

I'll be home soon.

NADYA

Things are getting bad. I don't know if this will work out.

LENIN

With me there, it will.

NADYA

I will see you in Petrograd.

Nadya boards and she sits.

Lenin turns to enter into the home.

LENIN

Nadya?

She looks back.

NADYA

Yes.

He wants to say something more but can't.

LENIN

Be safe.

EXT. RUSSIAN LANDSCAPE-DAY

A train steams across the landscape. ON BOARD, Lenin stands at the back of the car. He stares out across the landscape. His hands are in his pockets as he thinks. He wears a wig and some poorly made clothes.

EXT. FINNISH LANDSCAPE-NIGHT

Lenin hasn't moved on the TRAIN. He stares out into the vast fields of Finland. This man is determined. He writes down notes in a small handbook.

Zinoviev is sleeping on the train.

EXT. STREETS OF PETROGRAD-EVENING

Trotsky exits the prison. Kamenev is with him. The two walk down the street together.

TROTSKY
Nothing's changed...

KAMENEV
They will.

TROTSKY
We keep saying that, but nothing will come of it. Should we fold?

KAMENEV
Fold? To the Provisional? No. You sound a bit like a traitor.

TROTSKY
There has to be some leaning room here. They want this over with as much as we do.

KAMENEV
All of this work, and you want to set us back a notch?

TROTSKY
I want to jump us forward ten.

KAMENEV
Peace won't do that.

TROTSKY
I think you'd be surprised, Kamenev. The end is near, all of this-

Before Trotsky finishes his sentence, five trucks roll by. Trotsky and Kamenev turn and see the trucks stop. Loads and loads of RUSSIAN SOLDIERS begin to get out.

They carry rifles, machine guns, and side arms. They are here to do business.

Trotsky looks to Kamenev:

TROTSKY (CONT'D)
They want to crush us under their boot heel like roaches...

KAMENEV

But they won't-

TROTSKY

-Run, get the council together. We need to talk about this. We've been gone too long.

INT. MANSION ROOM-NIGHT

Rows and rows of BOLSHEVIKS sit around the room. Inessa and Nadya are among them.

Inessa doesn't look well.

The room is poorly lit.

Kamenev sits near the front of the room.

Trotsky paces around in front of the crowd as he speaks.

TROTSKY

I'm not demanding peace with the Provisional, I'm demanding change from them. Nothing has come from our violence or harsh words. Maybe, now that I've been released, there is a way we can make this thing happen. Our party can still gain power, more seats in the Provisional Government is power. Comrade Lenin asks us to use our fists, our blood to move this cause forward and nothing has come of it. There has to be another way-

As Trotsky speaks. Lenin stands from the back of the room. Zinoviev is next to him, as well as Stalin.

LENIN

-Another way? And what way is that?

The room gasps.

Trotsky is taken back a second. He collects himself, he needs to confront this man.

TROTSKY

Through peace, Comrade Lenin. With blood painted on our hands, nobody will choose to follow us.

LENIN

You've been in prison a while now, Comrade Trotsky. They must've been filling your head with those Menshevik ideals that I thought were swept away.

TROTSKY

You attack me for being a Menshevik but yet I've led all of these people as a Bolshevik in your absence. I say that I've proven myself time and time again. Yet-

LENIN

-You say that nothing has come of the bloodshed, nothing has come of our sacrifice. Would you say that to the family of Comrade Bronski? Would you say that to the proletariat that cut their hands fighting for their lives? No. You say that to us. Why?

Lenin begins to move towards the front of the room.

LENIN (CONT'D)

Why would Comrade Trotsky say such a thing? I'll tell you why. Because in my exile, you Bolsheviks have done nothing unless I asked. You have not moved forward with anything! You sit idly by while we lose everything we've worked for. Are you revolutionaries?

The room is quiet.

LENIN (CONT'D)

I asked if you are revolutionaries!

The crowd murmurs.

LENIN (CONT'D)

I thought you'd be a little more sure than that...Comrade Trotsky is wrong. We do not need peace with the government. We need to be the government. Months ago, I published the plans for a take over. I ask you now, as revolutionaries, to move forward with that plan.

TROTSKY

You want us to take over? There are government troops in the city now-

LENIN

-Do you think they will stop us? Do you think the will of the proletariat is not as strong as bullets, or steel? I say it is stronger. Rally the people! Let us move forward, no more of this waiting.

TROTSKY

Comrade Lenin...let us take a vote here among the party.

LENIN

A vote? You want to vote over such matters-

TROTSKY

-Party matters must be decided by a vote, not one man.

LENIN

Fair enough. The true Marxist, ladies and gentlemen.

The room giggles a bit.

Trotsky isn't amused.

LENIN (CONT'D)

We will have your vote, Leon. But I want action, tonight.

INT. MANSION ROOM-LATER

Kamenev sits at the front of the room. He has a stack of little folded paper, the votes.

He opens them and puts them into a hat.

He is almost done.

He looks to Trotsky when he is finished.

KAMENEV

Fourteen for Comrade Lenin...

Trotsky's face lights up.

TROTSKY

And?

KAMENEV

Two against Comrade Lenin...

Trotsky's face becomes distraught.

KAMENEV (CONT'D)

The rest did not vote.

TROTSKY

(to the crowd)

You Bolsheviki should be ashamed. A crucial moment in our people's history is chosen by those of sixteen, not the masses?

LENIN

Maybe someday it will be one.

TROTSKY

Well, Comrade Lenin...it looks like it is your way.

LENIN

Do not be so disappointed, Comrade Trotsky. There will be change, and I forgive you for your...foul Menshevik ideals from time to time.

(to the crowd)

Rush! Gather the masses! Tonight is the night we take what is ours! Go! Hurry! Riot in the streets! Power to the Soviets!

The room stands and begins to clear in a hurry.

Lenin is tense amongst the chaos.

Trotsky is not happy about the situation.

Lenin looks to him.

LENIN (CONT'D)

If you're scared of a one man government, I'll make you a chairman for the Soviets under our new flag. I just need you to show the people that you are a full fledged Bolshevik.

TROTSKY

Will you listen?

LENIN

Will you?

EXT. STREETS OF PETROGRAD-NIGHT

People rush through the streets. They carry makeshift weapons. Some of the rioters have rifles and handguns. They rush the TROOPS standing in the square.

The soldiers open fire, killing a few of the rioters. Hand-to-hand combat ensues as the people fight the troops.

IN ANOTHER PART OF THE CITY:

Lenin stands on a podium. He speaks to another group of rioters.

LENIN

Comrades! Our revolution has begun!
We march now! We take what is ours!
Let us go! Let us make our name in
history!

BACK TO THE STREETS BEFORE:

More people are being murdered by the troops but the troops have become scattered. Some get their brains bashed in by the rioters with bats and clubs, others stabbed with their own bayonets.

As this chaos ensues, Lenin's voice can be heard as he gives the speech to the other rioters:

LENIN (V.O.)

Above all, the significance of this
coup consists in the fact we'll
have a Soviet government as our own
organ of power! There will be no
bourgeoisie to influence us! Just
the power of the Soviet people,
workers, maids, proletariats like
yourselves!

The crowd cheering can be heard off screen while the skirmish takes place on screen.

LENIN (V.O.)

Power to us! Power to the Soviets!

The crowd roars and cheers.

EXT. STEPS OF CAPITAL BUILDING-NIGHT

A crowd has gathered. The crowd breaks apart as Trotsky and Zinoviev approach with other Bolsheviks.

LENIN (V.O.)

Right now, everything you know
about Russia is changing...

Dead soldiers are near the gates of the building.

Trotsky and the other Bolsheviks begin to move the gate open, it takes effort but it swings open with great force.

Trotsky and the rioters begin to move up the stairs towards the capital building.

LENIN (V.O.)

Too long have we sat by and watch
the rape of our country! Too long
have we done nothing! Not today!
Today we will be given our right!
Today is a new day, not just for
Russia but for the whole of Europe!

The crowd cheers.

INT. CAPITAL BUILDING-CONTINUOUS

A group of STATE OFFICIALS are running around like a bunch of chickens with their heads cut off.

OFFICIAL 1

Go! They're coming!

The doors to the capital break open and Trotsky enters with his mob.

They are armed with guns from the dead soldiers as well as their makeshift weapons.

The Officials flee when they are drawn on.

TROTSKY

By order of the Soviet people, you
are hereby under arrest.

The Officials are grabbed by the rioters.

Some of the officials are Mensheviks that we've seen before.

OFFICIAL 1

What is this?! This is...treason!

TROTSKY
We're taking over.

EXT. PETROGRAD SQUARE-DAY

Lenin stands on a podium, addressing an enormous crowd of people. Red flags wave, it is the most dominant color there.

Lenin's beard is back in full now.

LENIN
It is over! The Soviet Provisional
is gone! Now we take its place, a
better Russia replaces it!

The crowd cheers.

LENIN (CONT'D)
We are now the Soviet Government!
Victory for this cause has been
secured! Long live the revolution
of the workers, soldiers, and
peasants!

The roars of the crowd are deafening.

Lenin is happy.

INT. WILHELMSTASSE-EVENING

Zimmermann sits in his office. He is flipping through papers. He is smoking from his pipe as he does so.

The door to his office bursts open and in steps Von Begen. He is carrying a telegram. He slides it onto Zimmermann's desk.

ARTHUR ZIMMERMANN
What is it?

He lifts the paper and reads it.

ARTHUR ZIMMERMANN (CONT'D)
Is it true?

VON BEGEN
The Bolsheviks have taken command
of the Russian government.

ARTHUR ZIMMERMANN
Get the word out. Hindenburg and
Ludendorff will want to be moving
troops as soon as possible.

VON BEGEN
Yes, Herr Minister.

Von Begen exits.

Zimmermann continues to read the telegram over and over.

INT. CAPITAL BUILDING-DAY

Lenin walks with Nadya and a group of Bolsheviks. There are some few workers with them, they're there for public approval.

Lenin walks through the capital and stands in front of a door. He opens it. There is a desk and a huge library behind it.

On the desk sits a statue of a monkey holding a human skull that says "DARWIN."

Lenin breaks away from the group and shuts the door. He stands in his office alone.

He makes his way to the chair and sits down. He is happy of where he is.

OUTSIDE HIS OFFICE:

The crowd clears. A sign hangs, "NO SMOKING."

INT. APARTMENT-DAY

Lenin sits at a desk. He is writing something down. He is heavily focused on it.

There is a knock at his door.

LENIN
What is it?

Nadya enters.

NADYA
Are you going to be heading up to the capital soon?

LENIN
Yes, I want to finish this address first.

NADYA
On your way...

She is hesitant, she doesn't want to say anything.

Lenin doesn't stop working, he has no time for games.

NADYA (CONT'D)

On your way you should stop by the hospital.

Lenin doesn't flinch.

LENIN

Who is dying?

NADYA

Inessa...

He drops his pen.

He's shocked.

It looks as if he is fighting back tears.

INT. HOSPITAL-DAY

Lenin rushes through the hospital. He is in a hurry.

He dashes to a room and looks in.

Inessa lays on a bed, there are other beds in the room and a few are occupied with other sick people.

Lenin opens the door and rushes to Inessa's side.

The door closes behind him.

Nadya approaches, looking into the room as Inessa and Lenin speak.

LENIN

Inessa...what--what's wrong with you?

INESSA

I'm going to die, Vladimir.

LENIN

No, you're not. This sickness, whatever it is, it'll pass.

INESSA

No, Vladimir. It is my time to go.

LENIN

Please...Inessa, why did you leave?

INESSA

I had to. For the sake of you...

(off of seeing Nadya)

And Nadya.

LENIN

I needed you...I still need you.

INESSA

You've done wonderful without me.

LENIN

You keep me focused, you keep me-

INESSA

You are a strong man, Comrade Lenin. You've lead our glorious revolution...you've changed our world. A pity I couldn't stay in it much longer.

LENIN

Don't talk like that!

INESSA

I'm going to die and there is nothing that you can do...there are things that will be out of your hands Vladimir...just be strong when you deal with them.

Lenin is about to weep.

LENIN

I love you, Inessa.

INESSA

And I loved you.

Nadya watches, it is unsure if she heard.

She turns, she's seen enough. She slides down the wall and begins to weep as well.

Lenin holds the hand of Inessa as he weeps.

EXT. CEMETERY OF PETROGRAD-DAY

Lenin stands in front of the tombstone of Inessa Armand. He is alone. Dark clouds roll overhead.

He looks a bit older, he has more grey in his beard than he did before.

It sounds as if he is muttering under his breath.

The scene mirrors when he visited the grave of his brother.

He turns, walking down the hill of the cemetery.

On the TOMBSTONE of Inessa sits a pile of red flowers.

He exits the cemetery.

FADE TO BLACK.

I/E. CAR/STREETS OF PETROGRAD-DAY

Zinoviev sits in the backseat of the car with Lenin.

ZINOVIEV

It's just another factory morale speech.

LENIN

I don't like it.

ZINOVIEV

You used to give them all the time-

LENIN

-Used to. I just don't like it.

ZINOVIEV

With things getting heated among the people, we need to keep hopes up.

LENIN

You keep saying that but what we give them should keep it up on its own.

ZINOVIEV

They don't think you've delivered...

Lenin shoots him a stern look.

ZINOVIEV (CONT'D)

Some don't think...

LENIN

These people are ungrateful for everything I've given them.

ZINOVIEV

These are rough times, Comrade Lenin but-

LENIN

-Yes, yes they are.

EXT. FACTORY IN PETROGRAD-DAY

Lenin's car pulls up to the factory. There is a crowd of people outside, all waving little red flags.

Off to the SIDE of that crowd, RED GUARDS (police) hold back another. They wave white flags and yell things.

RIOTER

Dog! Lying dog!

Lenin ignores both crowds as he heads into the factory.

INT. FACTORY IN PETROGRAD-LATER

Lenin stands on one of the foreman platforms. Below him are a bunch of workers. Zinoviev is off to his side.

LENIN

Workers, true Soviets, you are the heart and soul of this country. The hardships that you've endured are terrible, they are...difficult to express. They are something of feeling. But do not ever forget, the Soviet government brought you power. Our way of life is that of the future! Your bloodshed has changed Russia, your bloodshed will change the world!

The factory workers clap, some of them do at least. The others stare blankly at Lenin. Their allegiances must be aligned somewhere else.

EXT. FACTORY IN PETROGRAD-LATER

Lenin stands next to his car. There are armed guards around. Zinoviev stands near the entrance to the factory, he is smoking a cigarette.

Lenin has his leg propped up on the front tire of the car as he chats with a WOMAN. He is one hell of a politician.

WOMAN

...what you do for us-

LENIN

-Our people work hard. We try to take care of all of them.

WOMAN

I've never felt so important.

LENIN

And that was the problem with the Provisional, women are the backbone of our society. Without them, there'd be no men. My wife Nadya helped me see that.

WOMAN

She must be excellent.

LENIN

Yes...she is very much so-

A FACTORY WOMAN approaches from behind Lenin.

FACTORY WOMAN

Comrade Lenin?

Lenin turns.

He sees the Factory Woman holding a revolver. It is pointed right at him.

Lenin's eyes widen and then BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG!

A bullet pierces Lenin's chest and part of his neck. He falls to the ground, bleeding heavily.

The woman he was speaking to dashes off screaming.

Others run in panic.

Zinoviev dashes towards the Factory Woman, he tackles her and wrestles the revolver from her hand.

Red Guards dash over, holding her down.

FACTORY WOMAN (CONT'D)

Long live the White Russians! White Russians! White-

She is cracked over the head with the butt of a rifle. She blacks out.

Zinoviev moves to Lenin.

ZINOVIEV
Comrade Lenin! Lenin?--

Lenin is unresponsive.

INT. ROOM OF LENIN (PETROGRAD)-DAY

Lenin is laying in his bed. His neck is bandaged and he is propped up. His eyes are closed, he's sleeping.

Suddenly his eyes move. He stirs.

NADYA (O.S.)
Ilyich?

Lenin opens his eyes. Everything is a blur. He sees two figures sitting in front of him. His eyes adjust and he sees it is Nadya and Trotsky.

NADYA (CONT'D)
We were wondering when you'd wake.

LENIN
How long was I out for?

TROTSKY
Just the night.

LENIN
Good, I need to work.

Lenin tries to get out of bed but Nadya jumps up. Pushing him back down. Lenin groans, she was a bit insensitive on his stomach where he was hit.

NADYA
Rest. You're in pain.

LENIN
What happened?

TROTSKY
A woman, factory worker, she shot you twice. Do not worry though, you're fine now.

LENIN

Good, I feel fine. I need to get to work-

NADYA

-You need to rest! Dammit!

Lenin goes quiet. He looks to Nadya.

LENIN

Can you leave us for a moment?

She is taken back.

LENIN (CONT'D)

Just for a moment.

Nadya gets up. She isn't happy about this.

NADYA

(to Trotsky)

Leon, do not let him leave.

TROTSKY

Sure thing.

She exits the room.

Lenin wastes no time.

LENIN

Why did that bitch try to kill me?

TROTSKY

She was a White Russian. One of the rebels being backed by the Allies of the war.

(a beat)

This civil war is starting to get out of hand.

LENIN

Those savages! Can't fight with words, but with guns!

TROTSKY

You demanded the same thing, remember?

LENIN

Those were different times, under different circumstances.

TROTSKY

I told you, the elimination and banning of other parties other than the Bolsheviks was going to cause problems.

LENIN

Yes, yes, Leon. You're always the rational one.

TROTSKY

Then maybe you should listen to me more often.

LENIN

Then you should be in power, not me. Balance, Leon. Balance.

TROTSKY

Riots are popping up in various cities. The Red Guards curbed another one last night.

LENIN

Do we hold the majority?

TROTSKY

Nobody knows, if someone is asked if they're White or Red...they always say Red.

LENIN

Then their loyalty is with the power that be, which must remain us.

TROTSKY

Right.

LENIN

Get Red Guards where they need to be. I will return to work soon enough.

Trotsky stands. He begins to make his way to the door but then is stopped as he sees Lenin standing.

TROTSKY

Comrade-

Lenin waves off Trotsky's comments. He stands and moves to the window. He looks out over Petrograd and the Capital in the distance.

LENIN

I'm getting tired...I find myself
tired all the time now.

TROTSKY

Then rest.

LENIN

I can't Leon...there is much more
to do...

(a beat)

I want that woman hanged for all to
see. I don't want these White
Russians to think they've won. Any
other you find, have them killed. I
want them driven out of those
stinking rat-holes they live in and
exterminated.

Trotsky doesn't know what to say, so he doesn't say anything
at all.

He exits, leaving Lenin to look out the window.

EXT. HOME OF LENIN (HALLWAY)-CONTINUOUS

Trotsky exits the room and is met by Nadya.

NADYA

What is he yelling about now?

TROTSKY

Politics.

NADYA

Did he say anything about me?

TROTSKY

I don't think you crossed his mind.

NADYA

I don't think I have in a long
time...

Trotsky realizes she took what he said the wrong way. He puts
his hand on her shoulder.

TROTSKY

He'll get better, he'll come around
soon enough.

NADYA

I've been telling myself that for too long.

TROTSKY

He respects you-

NADYA

-So he gets the support from other women. I'm his crutch to hold up his political career. That's why he doesn't throw me to the side.

Trotsky agrees but this isn't a place for him to have a conversation on this matter.

He puts on his hat.

TROTSKY

I'm...sorry, Nadya.

Trotsky exits.

Nadya cradles her head in her arms as she sits on the floor in the hallway.

EXT. OPEN FIELD-DAY

The Factory Woman stands with the blue sky behind her. The sun beats down overhead and she is sweating. She looks terrible, her face is dirty and her eyes are sunken in.

SOLDIER (O.S.)

Now!

Suddenly the Factory Woman falls from view. There is a quick scream she gives but it is cut short by a CRACK!

We pan out, seeing her hanging from a noose. Soldiers and Red Guards stand all around.

There is a crowd there.

People clap as her body sways in the wind.

EXT. RUSSIAN LANDSCAPE-DAY

A group of WHITE RUSSIANS are led by two soldiers. They put them into a line and bind their hands.

The White Russians bow their heads as the sound of ten rifles are cocked.

We pan out, seeing a bunch of soldiers aiming their rifles at them.

WHITE RUSSIAN

Long live the White Russian-!

Before he can finish, BANG! BANG! BANG! All of them fall dead as the soldiers open fire.

Blood flies into the air and the White Russians fall dead.

EXT. PETROGRAD SQUARE-DAY

Lenin walks slowly with Zinoviev and Trotsky. There are people cheering all around him. Red flags wave, music plays.

Lenin shakes hands with a BOLSHEVIK.

BOLSHEVIK

You're out here so soon? I'm surprised you can walk!

LENIN

The power of the people keeps me going!

The crowd cheers.

MAN

Where were you shot?

Lenin points to his wounds.

LENIN

Here!
(to another)
And here!

The crowd cheers and Lenin goes about his business.

He is loving this.

INT. STUDY OF LENIN-NIGHT

Lenin sits in his home study. He has a small light on as he is reading and writing.

For a moment he looks out his window, seeing the city of Petrograd. It brings him an odd satisfaction and he goes back to his work.

There is a KNOCK at the door and before Lenin can say anything, it opens.

Nadya enters. She looks as if she is going out.

LENIN

What is it?

NADYA

Are you feeling better?

LENIN

Back to my old self.

NADYA

You didn't rest long-

LENIN

-Nadya, I'm alright.

NADYA

Right...well...I'm leaving.

LENIN

Where are you going?

NADYA

I don't know. But I refuse to stay here...with you.

Lenin shuts his book. She seems like a nuisance.

LENIN

What are you talking about?

NADYA

You don't love me, you don't respect me, you don't-

LENIN

-I don't do a lot of things! But what I do is run this god damn country!

NADYA

That has nothing to do with this-

LENIN

-It has everything to do with this! First you were jealous of Inessa, now it is the people of the nation? What is wrong with you?

NADYA

No, what is wrong with you?

LENIN

Not a damn thing! I led these Soviets through harsh times, something you don't understand-

NADYA

-Something I don't understand? I don't understand hardships? Who lived in a shack with you in Siberia when exiled? Who chose to be exiled again when you were forced to leave the country? Whose mother disowned them for political beliefs? Who chose a life of poverty, eating cold horse meat, because they cared for somebody? And...who chose to stay by that somebody, when it was obvious that they loved another person?

Lenin is quiet.

NADYA (CONT'D)

I can't do it anymore...I can't take this-

LENIN

-Inessa is dead!

NADYA

And whatever part of you loved her, died with her! Every day, I see another part of you die, and now I realize I should've left a long time ago.

LENIN

But you never did.

NADYA

You asked me to stay.

LENIN

You didn't have to.

NADYA

I love you. I did have to.

LENIN

Then why go now?

Nadya is quiet.

LENIN (CONT'D)

Do you know what everyone will say, when they find out my wife, the picture of feminine labor, left their leader? Do you? Do you know what they'll say when you try to explain it to them?

NADYA

I don't care-

LENIN

You will be disowned. They will hate you. They will treat you as a traitor.

NADYA

I work for the paper, they know-

LENIN

-No. You walk out that door, you have nothing. No job. No cause. No me. They'll see you for what you are.

NADYA

And what exactly is that?

LENIN

A traitor. And you'll be treated as such.

NADYA

You can't do that. You can't just take away my life-

LENIN

-You are taking away your life. Not me.

NADYA

You...you use me. You keep me here for you own image. I am nothing to you but a prisoner, a puppet to clap my hands and stomp my feet when you pull the strings.

LENIN

If you feel like leaving. Leave. I just want you to know the consequences of your actions.

Lenin sits back down. He opens his book. He goes back to reading. He coughs a few times under his breath.

Nadya slowly exits the room.

IN THE LIVING ROOM:

Her suitcase sits by the door. She picks it up and stares at it, then looks to the door.

She is hesitant.

She puts the suitcase down and then exits the home.

INT. APARTMENT OF ANNA AND MARK-NIGHT

Anna is in the kitchen when she hears a KNOCK at the door. She moves to it and opens it.

Nadya stands in the doorway, distraught.

ANNA

Nadya?

NADYA

Can...I come in?

ANNA

Of course...of course.

Nadya enters and Anna shuts the door.

INT. APARTMENT OF ANNA AND MARK-LATER

Nadya and Anna sit at the table.

They drink from cups, Nadya's face scrunches as she takes a big drink. They must be having something strong.

ANNA

Another?

NADYA

No...thank you.

ANNA

He loves you, Nadya.

NADYA

I know he doesn't.

ANNA

He's always been hard to understand. You know this by now. Nobody can understand that man.

NADYA

I always told myself the same thing. "He loves you, you just don't understand him sometimes" but the more I realized...I do understand him. I see who he is, and I shouldn't love a man like that...but I do.

ANNA

Do you want to leave him?

NADYA

He has me backed into a corner like one of the Whites or a Menshevik...

ANNA

He's scared, like in the old days. That's what fuels him. He's afraid of waiting around for something to happen, he's afraid of what will happen-

NADYA

-If I leave him, I'll have nobody.

ANNA

That's not true. You'll have me.

Anna smiles.

Nadya gives a small one back.

NADYA

Can I stay here...tonight? As I figure out what I'm going to do.

ANNA

Of course Nadya. You're always welcome here...but I think you already know what you're going to do.

INT. HOME OF LENIN-MORNING

Lenin wears a nice suit. He has his cap on and is brushing up as he makes his way through his home.

He stops as he passes through the front door.

He sees that Nadya's suitcase has vanished, she must've come back and gotten it.

Lenin stands in the hallway staring at the open space. He is boiling with rage.

He is about to have a meltdown but he is stopped and begins coughing erratically. He keeps his mouth closed as he does, but that can only go for so long before he has full forced coughs.

He regains his composure, he is still furious.

He exits his home.

I/E. CAR/STREETS OF PETROGRAD-DAY

Lenin and Zinoviev sit in the backseat of a car. Lenin is staring out the window. He is thinking of something important.

Zinoviev looks through some papers.

ZINOVIEV

Just a simple address about the Whites. Then we move on, wrap it up with something powerful. You know what to do, standard stuff.

LENIN

Not standard, I feel like I'm lying.

ZINOVIEV

The White Russians are getting weaker. Resistance is becoming less and less. Rumor has it, funding has fallen through. We'll see an end to the Civil War soon enough.

LENIN

That's the least of my problems now.

ZINOVIEV

Everything alright?

LENIN

Fine. I've heard another rumor.

ZINOVIEV

And I as well. Is it true that Nadya is gone?

LENIN

No.

ZINOVIEV

Right...and what rumor did you hear?

LENIN

A split in the party.

ZINOVIEV

It's a little more complicated than a simple split, comrade.

LENIN

Is it true?

ZINOVIEV

Stalin wants more power, people think you've given him a bit of a taste when you made him General Secretary.

LENIN

He wants this for himself when I'm gone, yes?

ZINOVIEV

Yes.

LENIN

And the other...Trotsky?

ZINOVIEV

Correct, Comrade Lenin.

LENIN

I see.

ZINOVIEV

Stalin doesn't seem to care for your state capitalism idea but-

LENIN

-You approved of my motion to make him General Secretary. And he will come around to it. The idea is only temporary, it will get the country on its feet. He has to see this.

ZINOVIEV

Of course, he just thinks it goes against everything we've worked for. But Comrade Trotsky likes the idea-

LENIN

-And what do you think should happen when I'm gone? Huh?

ZINOVIEV

Maybe you should go ahead and declare a successor.

LENIN

I don't plan on leaving anytime soon.

ZINOVIEV

It wouldn't help. Do you have anyone in mind?

Lenin thinks for a moment. He knows his answer.

LENIN

No.

The car drives on.

EXT. PETROGRAD SQUARE-DAY

Lenin stands on a podium. There is a large crowd around him. Zinoviev stands off to the side.

LENIN

...The White Russians have not opened their eyes to see the greatness before them! Our country has created something better than Europe! We are all equal! No one person can claim greatness over another! The White Russians do not see this! They are blinded by bills signed and paid for by Americans, British,, the Japanese, and even the French! Their blindness will end them!

The crowd cheers.

EXT. PETROGRAD SQUARE-LATER

Lenin moves through the crowd. His Red Guards keep them at bay. He waves and keeps a smile on his face.

Lenin rubs his head, there is something wrong.

Zinoviev notices.

ZINOVIEV
Comrade, you alright?

LENIN
Fine. Yes, I'm fine.

Zinoviev doesn't believe him.

INT. HALLS OF CAPITAL BUILDING-DAY

Zinoviev walks with Stalin.

STALIN
...you have to tell him that state
capitalism is going to ruin the
idea of socialism.

ZINOVIEV
He is set on it.

STALIN
Do you believe in it?

ZINOVIEV
Not particularly.

STALIN
Then you must see that I'm right
here.

ZINOVIEV
To an extent.

STALIN
Nobody backs Lenin on this, tell
him it is not worth the effort in
chasing this dream.

ZINOVIEV
Trotsky backs him, I think.

STALIN
Trotsky is a dog, don't listen to
that man.

(MORE)

STALIN (CONT'D)

He jumps from one ship onto the
decks of others more than anyone
I've met.

ZINOVIEV

Lenin is adamant that state
capitalism will get Russia on its
feet. It will progress us into
prosperity.

STALIN

But we lose our ideals along the
way.

ZINOVIEV

Yes...I agree.

STALIN

Persuade him away from it.

ZINOVIEV

I'll try.

STALIN

If not him, then get the others.

INT. ROOM OF LENIN-DAY

Lenin sits with a DOCTOR across from him. They are alone.

DOCTOR

...You need rest for these
headaches. It could come back and
make things worse. The stress you
deal with on a daily basis...no man
can live through that forever-

LENIN

-Comrade doctor, I've been living
with this stress for a long time
now. I've handled it during exile,
I've handled it during the
revolution. I can handle it now.

DOCTOR

But not forever.

The doctor gets up and makes his way to the door.

They open it and exit.

Lenin sits silently in his room, thinking for a moment.

INT. CAPITAL BUILDING-DAY

Trotsky walks with Zinoviev through the building.

TROTSKY

He's getting worse.

ZINOVIEV

There's nothing we can do. He's tired, he gets more sick, but he won't quit. He had a cough for weeks just because he was so tired.

TROTSKY

Either that or he'll blame your smoking.

ZINOVIEV

Look, he needs to relax. He doesn't listen to me-

TROTSKY

-He doesn't listen to me either, Grigory.

As Trotsky and Zinoviev cut a corner, they pass Stalin and Kamenev. They look older, and Stalin appears more like the dictator we know.

ZINOVIEV

(off of Stalin and
Kamenev)

You think they're right on the state capitalism issue?

TROTSKY

Not at all. I trust Lenin's decision.

ZINOVIEV

But you didn't trust the decision to make Stalin General Secretary.

TROTSKY

Sometimes things get a bit hazy. I don't trust the man. But I trust Lenin and I believe he was blinded by something. Why do you ask? Do you not support the idea of state capitalism?

ZINOVIEV

I don't know what I support anymore.

TROTSKY
Support Lenin, that's it.

ZINOVIEV
You have to talk to him.

TROTSKY
And what do I say? Don't die?

ZINOVIEV
Tell him to take a break. Maybe
retire. Things will only get worse
if he leaves us in the middle of
this mess.

TROTSKY
I'll see what I can do. I can't
promise that he'll listen.

INT. HOME OF LENIN-DAY

Lenin is in the kitchen. He is cleaning something. He is home
alone.

Suddenly his eye begins to twitch and he starts trying to say
something.

There is a KNOCK at the door.

LENIN
W--who--

He can't finish. He is slurring his words and appears dizzy.
He stumbles and falls, knocking some plates and glasses over.

The door opens and Trotsky enters.

TROTSKY
Vladimir?

Trotsky comes around the corner and sees Lenin on the floor.

TROTSKY (CONT'D)
Oh, god!

INT. HOSPITAL-DAY

Lenin sits in a hospital bed. He is wrapped in a blanket and
stares ahead.

Trotsky is in the room, watching him.

A NURSE enters.

NURSE

A woman is here to see you, comrade minister.

TROTSKY

Thanks.

Trotsky exits the room INTO THE HALLWAY:

In the hallway, Nadya stands.

TROTSKY (CONT'D)

Nadya. How are you?

NADYA

How is he?

TROTSKY

He suffered a stroke. They think this is his second.

NADYA

When did the first happen?

TROTSKY

I don't know, he didn't tell me...but he's...Nadya he's mute right now.

NADYA

What?

TROTSKY

He can't speak, let alone run a government.

NADYA

What is to happen?

TROTSKY

I don't know...you need to be with him. He needs you now.

NADYA

Yes...

Nadya looks at Lenin through the window.

NADYA (CONT'D)

I'll be with him. I'll go home.

Trotsky looks around and pulls Nadya close.

TROTSKY

I need you to do something for me.

NADYA

What is it?

TROTSKY

I don't think he has a lot of time left...there's an argument over what is going to happen with the Soviet government...

NADYA

He has it all outlined-

TROTSKY

-But there are loopholes. You need to make sure things are clear. Who takes over when he is gone?

NADYA

You...you want me to have him write his will?

TROTSKY

Yes, Nadya. More than his pride is on the line here. He has to write it down, the people need to hear this.

NADYA

I don't know if he'll listen-

TROTSKY

-He never does, but you have to force him to. Everything relies on it. Understand?

NADYA

Yes, I understand.

TROTSKY

Good. Take care, Nadya. Look after him.

Trotsky begins to walk down the hallway.

Nadya enters into the hospital room.

INT. HOME OF LENIN-DAY

Nadya wheels in Lenin. He sits in a wheelchair and has a blanket wrapped around him.

He is looking down. He's depressed and unhappy.

Nadya doesn't say anything, she just wheels him to another room of the house.

INT. ROOM OF LENIN-DAY

Lenin sits at a window. He is looking out it. His face twitches with agony. He's in pain.

We pan out, seeing a doctor with an incision tool and some tweezers. He is digging in Lenin's neck.

DOCTOR

Just a second, comrade.
One...second...

He digs in and Lenin's face explodes with frustration and pain. He would scream and curse if he could.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

There it is!

The doctor holds up a mushroomed bullet.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Should've taken it out when the wound was fresh.

He drops it in a tray.

He dresses the wound on Lenin's neck.

Lenin just stares out the window, thinking.

INT. CONGRESS HALL (PETROGRAD)-DAY

Stalin stands at the front of the room. Everyone is in attendance, minus Lenin.

Trotsky stares at the open chair as Stalin goes on a rant.

STALIN

What Comrade Lenin wants to do is submit to the capitalists! So what if we're isolated? I say we stay strong and keep our market closed! It goes against everything we've fought for, everything we've shed blood for-

Trotsky isn't really listening, he just stares at the empty chair, dreading the world he currently lives in.

INT. HOME OF LENIN-NIGHT

Lenin sits at the window. He stares out over the city. There is a knock at the door. It opens.

Trotsky enters.

TROTSKY
Comrade Lenin.

LENIN
Leon, come in.

Lenin turns to face him.

Trotsky just stands in the center of the room.

LENIN (CONT'D)
You're a long way from the capital building.

TROTSKY
I figured I'd come see how you're doing.

LENIN
How do I look?

TROTSKY
Like you've seen better days, my friend.

There is an awkward silence.

LENIN
Did you come here to just make jokes at me, or what is it?

TROTSKY
I wanted to talk to you about Comrade Stalin...

LENIN
What about him?

TROTSKY
He's...not a good man. I didn't support your decision to make him General Secretary and I don't want you to make the wrong decision-

LENIN

-I've heard...

TROTSKY

He wants more. He's got backing. He opposes everything you want to do for the nation...even after you're gone.

LENIN

And you don't?

TROTSKY

I support your state capitalism plan. Stalin doesn't. He outwardly demands it never gets put into action.

LENIN

I see.

There is an awkward silence.

Trotsky wants to say more but fears he can't.

TROTSKY

I...must be going back.

LENIN

Yes...well, it was good to see you Leon.

Trotsky exits.

Lenin thinks for a moment, staring out into the city.

INT. HOME OF LENIN-DAY

Nadya stands in the kitchen with Anna. The doctor is with them.

DOCTOR

You need to keep him away from politics.

NADYA

It is hard to do, comrade doctor. That is his life.

DOCTOR

It will kill him. He cannot handle the stress.

NADYA

What would you have me do?

DOCTOR

Try getting him out of here. Maybe some time away from Petrograd will do him some good.

ANNA

I agree with the doctor. It would be nice for him to get some time away.

NADYA

And where would I take him? I don't think either of you realize that you can remove the man from politics, but not the politics from the man.

ANNA

It is worth a try, Nadya...

INT. ROOM OF LENIN-CONTINUOUS

Lenin sits at the window. He is staring out over the city. He is blank faced and in deep thought.

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. HOME OF LENIN (GORKI)-DAY

Lenin stares out a window in a new home. It is not in Petrograd, it is in a rural area. He stares at a nice garden, it is beautiful. Lenin has a scowl on his face.

INT. CAPITAL BUILDING-DAY

Trotsky walks alone. He is headed to his office.

He cuts a corner and runs into Stalin and Kamenev.

KAMENEV

Comrade Minister, how is he?

TROTSKY

Wanting an update on his death?

STALIN

Is he dead?

TROTSKY

Why? Want that seat all to yourself?

KAMENEV

Don't you want it for yourself, comrade?

STALIN

If he's on his way out, he needs to make up his mind on who is taking over.

KAMENEV

He knows we're loyal.

TROTSKY

He knows that your against him on state capitalism.

STALIN

More than half the country is. It is against the cause, like you.

TROTSKY

I've done my work for it.

STALIN

And so have we. Don't act so high and mighty. You seem scared that Lenin will make the right choice.

TROTSKY

And you think you're the right choice? Please.

Stalin and Kamenev move past Trotsky. They want nothing to do with him.

INT. HOME OF LENIN (GORKI)-DAY

Lenin is staring out the window again. He stares at the garden.

The door opens.

Nadya enters with a plate of food.

NADYA

Are you hungry?

LENIN

Yes...

His voice is soft. He is regaining his speech slowly.

LENIN (CONT'D)

Thank you.

She places the plate on his lap, giving him a knife and fork.

LENIN (CONT'D)

I'm happy you are here, Nadya.

NADYA

I couldn't refuse.

LENIN

You are a strong woman.

Nadya sits down, she looks over Lenin in his condition.

NADYA

I need to talk to you about something.

Lenin begins eating. He stares out the window as he does so, but he is listening.

NADYA (CONT'D)

I think...it's important for you to write a will.

LENIN

But I won't die.

NADYA

We all die sometime, Ilyich.

LENIN

Not soon.

NADYA

But what if it is soon.

Lenin chews his food slowly. He is thinking about it.

LENIN

Who put you up to this?

NADYA

The party. They need to know. The people need to know.

LENIN

I guess...I owe them that.

NADYA
Will you write it?

LENIN
I...don't want to...but I
can...if...need be.

Lenin is getting weaker.

NADYA
Just relax now. Eat your food,
think about it later.

Lenin nods.

Nadya is about to exit.

LENIN
I want to see Leon.

NADYA
I'll call for him.

She exits.

EXT. HOME OF LENIN (GORKI)-DAY

Lenin sits on a bench in the backyard of his home. He is taking in the nature around him. It is calm, relaxing. Yet by the look on Lenin's face, he isn't.

The back door opens and Stalin enters the garden.

STALIN
Comrade Lenin!

LENIN
Stalin...

STALIN
I was on my way to Moscow, thought
I would come and see you. How are
things?

LENIN
As good as they look.

STALIN
We miss you back in Petrograd. Any
return plans?

LENIN
No.

STALIN

I see...

LENIN

Why did you come here, Comrade Stalin?

STALIN

I...wanted to see how you're doing-

LENIN

-Or did you come to laugh about state capitalism to my face. I don't take kindly to you undermining my proposals.

STALIN

It is politics, my friend. We're here for the party and state capitalism-

LENIN

-Will move the country forward! Not backwards like your idiotic ideals! I should've listen to my gut about you, Comrade Stalin! I knew you were a fool in the revolution and I should've known you'd be a fool now!

INT. HOME OF LENIN (GORKI)-LATER

Nadya is in the living room. She is helping Anna with something.

The door opens and Stalin enters.

He rushes towards Nadya, grabbing her and shaking her.

STALIN

You bitch! You worthless, filthy bitch! You had that fucker Trotsky here! Didn't you? What the fuck have you two been telling him? Huh?

Nadya is trying to speak but Stalin won't let her.

STALIN (CONT'D)

Shut your face, you whore! Listen to me here! You broke doctor's orders by allowing him to deal with politics with Trotsky!

(MORE)

STALIN (CONT'D)

I should have you hanged for this,
you bitch! You're killing your
husband, you're killing my friend!
No more politics around the man!
Understand? No more Trotsky!

He shakes her.

She is terrified.

Stalin storms out of the Gorki home after pushing Nadya back.
He is enraged.

He slams the front door.

Nadya crumples to the floor, fighting back tears. Anna begins weeping.

EXT. GORKI GARDEN—CONTINUOUS

Lenin sits in his wheelchair, he can hear Anna crying and talking with Nadya. It is muffled and we cannot hear what they are saying.

Lenin looks infuriated.

INT. CONGRESS HALL (PETROGRAD)

Stalin stands on at the front of a room. There are people everywhere, all party members.

STALIN

It doesn't sound like our leader is getting much better. If by some chance, things get worse, I believe that it is our job to step up and take his place. He believes this as well, he has entrusted in me to lead our people by appointing me General Secretary. Our party will remain glorious under a new leader, but the heart will always remain the same...

Stalin continues to ramble.

The people love him, they stare at him wide eyed.

INT. HOME OF LENIN-NIGHT

Trotsky enters. He sees Anna and Nadya working in the kitchen. One is cleaning while the other cooks.

TROTSKY

Nadya. Anna.

NADYA

He's in the study.

INT. STUDY OF LENIN-NEXT

Lenin reads a book. He is still in his wheelchair and is wrapped in a blanket.

The door opens and Trotsky enters.

TROTSKY

Vladimir.

LENIN

Leon, good...to see you.

TROTSKY

Doing better?

LENIN

No...

Trotsky finds a seat.

TROTSKY

At least you're speaking again-

LENIN

-It shouldn't be a surprise, Leon.
I'm dying.

TROTSKY

I...figured as much.

LENIN

And I suppose you are the one that
told Nadya to ask for my will.

Trotsky is silent.

LENIN (CONT'D)

You want my place. You want to
lead. No?

TROTSKY

Look, it has nothing to do with what I want. I don't care-

LENIN

-Don't lie to me, Leon.

Trotsky falls silent.

LENIN (CONT'D)

I understand your motives. And, I hate to say it, but I want you to take over when I pass.

TROTSKY

...what?

LENIN

You've always been a man of the people, and a pain in my ass. But, I see that you have the Soviets in your heart.

TROTSKY

You know that-

LENIN

-I know that you're the one I want in charge, not Stalin.

TROTSKY

He gave a speech today.

LENIN

I heard. Anna was in attendance.

TROTSKY

People believe him.

LENIN

They shouldn't. I should've never trusted that man. He's...diabolical. I've read his ideals, some of what he thinks...breaks everything we've accomplished.

TROTSKY

He likes to follow some of your passion.

LENIN

Too much. The problem is, he never had someone rational nipping at his heels. I had you and Nadya. He has Kamenev, who is just as stupid.

Trotsky smirks.

LENIN (CONT'D)

Funny at first, but dangerous, Leon. You must see that Stalin does not come into power. He will take what...we've done, and bring it to a bitter end.

TROTSKY

I'll try everything in my power-

LENIN

-Promise me.

TROTSKY

He has a lot of people backing him-

LENIN

-Promise me.

TROTSKY

I promise.

LENIN

My will is almost complete. Nadya will be sending it to the capital when I'm through. Look for it. It'll be addressed to you.

TROTSKY

I'll read it for all to hear.

LENIN

Do not let that man take over, it will be the ruin of our country.

Trotsky nods in agreement.

INT. HOME OF LENIN-DAY

Nadya watches Anna reading a newspaper.

NADYA

What are they saying?

ANNA

They think he's returning.

NADYA

They just say that. Propaganda. Ilyich wouldn't want it any other way. He doesn't like when the people worry.

ANNA

Stalin says that Lenin is trusting him.

NADYA

I know that's a lie.

ANNA

I know it too. Too bad nobody else does.

Nadya looks over to Lenin's study. The door is open and he is behind his desk, typing away.

NADYA

He will clear the air. That's for sure. Stalin will be shown as the rat he is.

Lenin clicks away at the typewriter. He looks terrible.

INT. OFFICE OF TROTSKY-DAY

Trotsky is with Zinoviev. They are going over some paperwork.

ZINOVIEV

If he made you dictator, then announce it in front of everyone.

TROTSKY

He will have it in his will. I'd rather him say it than me. If I were to demand power, I'd look no better than Stalin.

ZINOVIEV

It's over then? You'll lead us.

TROTSKY

Once Lenin's will calls for me to take power over Stalin, I'll announce my promotion. I'll have no reason to worry about backing.

ZINOVIEV

And...you will put state capitalism
in place?

TROTSKY

I plan to, yes.

Zinoviev doesn't look to happy about that.

He continues to work on his papers.

INT. HOME OF LENIN-DAY

Lenin has finished his will. He is carrying it. He gives it
to Nadya who looks over it.

NADYA

It is done.

LENIN

Yes...it is done.

NADYA

I'll have it sent.

Lenin smiles to her.

She walks away, she is now all about business.

EXT. STREETS OF MOSCOW-DAY

Nadya carries an envelope. She walks by the post office and
enters.

She soon exits. The envelope is no longer in her hand.

She walks down the street the way she came.

INT. CAPITAL OFFICE (PETROGRAD)-DAY

A SECRETARY sits behind his desk. He looks over some
paperwork. A WOMAN walks up, carrying a pile of paper.

She sets it on his desk.

WOMAN

Mail is on top.

SECRETARY

Thanks.

The woman exits.

He begins sifting through the mail and sees a letter, coming from the address of Lenin.

He looks around and opens it.

He pulls out the paper and begins to read. His eyes get big and he scrambles to his feet.

He runs down the HALLWAY until he gets to another officer.

He BANGS on the door.

A VOICE mumbles something from inside and the secretary enters.

INT. OFFICE OF STALIN-CONTINUOUS

Stalin is sitting behind his desk. He is chatting with Kamenev about something.

STALIN

What the hell is it?

The secretary hands him Lenin's will.

SECRETARY

It's Comrade Lenin's last will and testament.

Stalin leans forward as he reads.

He looks angry and confused.

STALIN

(to the secretary)

Who have you told about this?

SECRETARY

Nobody.

KAMENEV

What does it say? Should we show anybody?

Stalin just stares at the letter.

INT. CONGRESS HALL (PETROGRAD)

Trotsky, Zinoviev, Stalin, Kamenev and some others are all gathered around. It is a fairly crowded place.

A SECRETARY stands at the front of the room, holding Lenin's will.

SECRETARY

(reading)

The past few months have been difficult being away from Petrograd and politics. One thing has become clear to me however, the state of the Party is not clear. Comrade Zinoviev and Kamenev have good intentions but are no more Bolshevik than Comrade Trotsky...

Zinoviev and Kamenev sink in their chairs. Trotsky is also a bit hurt.

SECRETARY (CONT'D)

Comrade Stalin, having become Secretary General, has unlimited authority concentrated in his hands, and I am not sure whether he will always be capable of using that authority with sufficient caution. Stalin is too rude, and in dealings among us Communists, comes intolerable in a General Secretary. That is why I suggest that the comrades think about a way to remove Stalin from that post and appoint in his place another man who in all respects is more loyal, and more considerate of the comrades...

The room gasps.

Stalin sits in his chair coolly, unworried.

Trotsky stares at him, knowing something is up.

SECRETARY (CONT'D)

...I have no intention of forgetting so easily what has been done against me, and it goes without saying that what has been done against my wife I regard as having been done against me...

Trotsky perks up, waiting to here what is said about him.

SECRETARY (CONT'D)

Comrade Trotsky, on the other hand, is not only distinguished for his outstanding ability but he is personally perhaps the most capable man in the present CC, but he has displayed excessive self-assurance and shown excessive preoccupation with the purely administrative side of the work...

Trotsky is let down.

The room looks at him.

Stalin smirks in his seat.

EXT. CONGRESS HALL-DAY

Trotsky walks with Zinoviev.

TROTSKY

Does the man want me to take over or not?

ZINOVIEV

It sounds that way to me but-

TROTSKY

-He just had to make a fool of me in front of everyone.

ZINOVIEV

He also made Stalin look like a fool.

TROTSKY

He attacked Stalin on his personality, not his politics. Non-Bolshevik? Who marched on the Provisional?

ZINOVIEV

Should we release it to the public?

Trotsky thinks for a moment.

TROTSKY

Yes, it is what Lenin wants. Make sure it gets out there.

ZINOVIEV

It'll put you in poor light.

TROTSKY

It'll put Stalin in a worse one.
The people can't distinguish
politics from personality. I
thought I wasn't going to need the
backing from people, but it seems
like now I have no choice.

Trotsky walks off.

Zinoviev continues on his own. He is flagged down by Stalin,
Kamenev, and some others.

Zinoviev approaches.

ZINOVIEV

Comrade Stalin, Kamenev.

STALIN

What did you think?

ZINOVIEV

Trotsky wants it read publicly.

STALIN

But what do you think?

ZINOVIEV

I say no. It will make us look more
disorganized and lost than before.

STALIN

I agree.

KAMENEV

As do I.

STALIN

Can you make sure that the votes go
away from making this public?

ZINOVIEV

I'm not going to lie.

STALIN

I'm not asking you to. I'm asking
for you to make your thoughts on
the matter known to the others. Not
Trotsky's.

Zinoviev thinks.

INT. CONGRESS HALL (PETROGRAD)

Everyone is gathered around.

Stalin stands at the front of the room.

Trotsky stands at the back, near the door.

STALIN

It is quite clear that the will is
more harmful than beneficial. Those
opposed of making it public?

Almost the entire room is raising a hand.

STALIN (CONT'D)

For?

Nobody raises a hand, not even Trotsky. It is pointless.

STALIN (CONT'D)

Good.

INT. ROOM OF LENIN-NIGHT

Lenin is in bed, he looks terrible. Nadya is in the room,
keeping it clean for him.

She moves some paperwork around, trying to keep it in order.

NADYA

This place is a mess.

LENIN

I'm sorry.

NADYA

Just keep it clean, you used to be
so organized.

LENIN

I'm sorry Nadya...I'm so sorry.

Nadya stops shuffling around the paper.

She realizes what he is getting at. She turns, holding back
tears.

LENIN (CONT'D)

There were times I was selfish.
There were times that I took you
for granted and I never woke up to
realize it. I'm sorry. You loved me
and I hurt you. I'm sorry.

NADYA

Are you saying this because you are
dying?

LENIN

I'm saying this because I mean it.

NADYA

I'm sorry too.

LENIN

Don't be. Because of you, I was
able to accomplish everything I
wanted.

NADYA

You should...get some rest.

LENIN

Yes, I feel tired. Very tired.

NADYA

All those years have caught up to
you.

LENIN

I...will rest now.

Nadya begins to exit.

LENIN (CONT'D)

I love you.

NADYA

And I love you.

She exits.

INT. HOME OF LENIN (HALLWAY)-CONTINUOUS

Nadya shuts the door and wipes her eyes. She makes her way
down the hallway. She hears voices talking.

She ENTERS into the LIVING ROOM where Trotsky is with Anna.

TROTSKY

...He has too much backing. I don't know what is going to happen.

ANNA

Nadya sent the will-

TROTSKY

-And we read it! Nobody wants it read publicly! Vladimir made us all look like fools!

Nadya enters.

NADYA

What's wrong, Leon?

TROTSKY

I need to speak with Vladimir.

NADYA

He is resting.

TROTSKY

He made things worse Nadya! Don't you understand? There is nothing we can do now!

NADYA

The people back Lenin, who backs you. They'll see that when everything is read publicly.

TROTSKY

Nothing will be released, Nadya! I need to speak to Vladimir! I need him-

NADYA

-Stop it! He needs to rest! When the time comes, we'll deal with this!

Trotsky begins to exit, he is upset.

TROTSKY

It has come, Nadya. We are in trouble.

INT. ROOM OF LENIN (GORKI)-MORNING

Lenin lays in bed. He is sleeping, or so it seems. A HAND checks his pulse. It belongs to a doctor.

He keeps checking but he is getting no response.

Lenin looks cold and dead.

The doctor looks disappointed. He shakes his head and mutters something to himself.

He exits the room.

INT. HOME OF LENIN (HALLWAY)-CONTINUOUS

Nadya waits in the hallway. Anna has her arm wrapped around her. Mark is there also. He looks just as concerned.

The doctor enters the hallway and looks at Nadya.

DOCTOR

He must've passed sometime in the night.

Nadya lets out a loud cry as Anna continues to hold her. Mark holds them both.

Anna weeps as well.

Down at the end of the hallway, we see Trotsky leaving. He's heard the news and doesn't know what to do.

INT. HOME OF LENIN (GORKI)-DAY

Nadya stands alone at the window. She stares out in the garden but has an emotionless face. A reflection catches her attention and she looks back.

She sees doctors and nurses taking a covered body from her home.

She weeps. She is alone.

INT. MOSCOW BUILDING-DAY

Trotsky sits at a desk. He is staring blankly at papers but not working at all. He is in another world, mentally. People are around him but he is feeling very alone.

He smokes quietly.

TROTSKY

(softly/to himself)
And this is how it all ends...

He sits for a moment and slams his cigarette into an ashtray. This draws the attention of some people but Trotsky does not notice. He has become upset.

He throws his coat and hat on, exiting the Moscow building.

EXT. STREETS OF MOSCOW-DAY

Trotsky stands near the capital building. He wears a hat and an overcoat. He is smoking a cigarette.

Next to him is Zinoviev, who is smoking as well.

ZINOVIEV

It's over, there's nothing we can do now, Leon.

TROTSKY

The people have to find out. This is not what Lenin wanted.

ZINOVIEV

It doesn't matter what he wanted anymore, it's what Stalin wants. He has the backing, it's over.

TROTSKY

Nadya can speak-

ZINOVIEV

-You want her dead? My gut told me to do the same thing too, but Stalin is backed into a corner. You really think he's going to just lie down and have what he desires most ripped from his grasp.

TROTSKY

I made a promise to Lenin.

ZINOVIEV

You said you'd try.

TROTSKY

I told him I would do everything in my power to make sure that man doesn't get into power.

ZINOVIEV

I think it is too late for that.
Once he assumes office, we'll all
have to keep our mouths closed
unless death and exile sound
appealing to you.

TROTSKY

Everything we worked for will be
destroyed by that man, don't you
see?

ZINOVIEV

And everything we've become will be
destroyed if we go against him,
Leon.

TROTSKY

Take care of things back home, I
have matters to attend to here, in
Moscow. Mail me when you have word
on the funeral.

ZINOVIEV

I will. Do take care, be safe.

INT. CAPITAL BUILDING (PETROGRAD)-DAY

Zinoviev walks through the hallways. He stops at a door and
knocks. It opens. He enters.

INT. OFFICE OF STALIN-CONTINUOUS

Stalin sits behind his desk. Zinoviev walks in.

ZINOVIEV

Lenin is dead.

Stalin is taken back.

STALIN

Where is Trotsky, I thought I'd
hear this from him?

ZINOVIEV

He has business in Moscow.

STALIN

When is the funeral?

ZINOVIEV

I heard sometime later this week.

STALIN

I have something to ask of you...

ZINOVIEV

What is it?

STALIN

I need you to make sure that Comrade Trotsky does not make it to the funeral.

ZINOVIEV

What? I cannot do that-

STALIN

-I understand Grigory. I understand. I just want to make sure that nobody stands in the way of what is mine. Do you understand that?

ZINOVIEV

Yes...

STALIN

Can I count on you?

Zinoviev thinks.

EXT. RED SQUARE-DAY

Lenin's body lies in a coffin, it is open and he looks like he died just yesterday. The coffin is a beautiful red ornate piece. It is very honorable.

Stalin and Kamenev walk beside it.

Behind them marches Nadya, Anna, Mark and other Bolsheviks.

Trotsky isn't there.

There is a crowd of people standing around, they all watch as the coffin is carried down a path through them.

In the distance is the HOUSE OF THE TRADE UNIONS.

The people sing "YOU FELL IN SACRIFICE" as the funeral procession makes its way to the house.

INT. HOUSE OF THE TRADE UNIONS

Inside, Lenin's coffin is on display. People are gathered around and mourn him as he lays lifeless before them.

EXT. HOUSE OF THE TRADE UNIONS

Stalin stands on a podium in front of a large crowd of people.

He speaks with power.

STALIN

Departing from us, Comrade Lenin
enjoined in us to strengthen with
all our might the alliance of the
workers and the peasants. I vow to
you Comrade Lenin, that this behest
too, I shall fulfil with honor!

The crowd roars and cheers.

Nadya stands in the crowd next to Zinoviev.

They are not cheering.

NADYA

Where is Leon?

Zinoviev shrugs his shoulders. He contemplates on what to say but all that comes out is:

ZINOVIEV

I don't know...

EXT. HOUSE OF THE TRADE UNIONS-EVENING

The crowd is starting to diminish. Some are still gathering around outside.

Stalin stands with Kamenev and a few other followers.

A car pulls up. Trotsky steps out.

He looks around in disbelief. He looks like he rushed to get there in a hurry.

He begins to make his way through the crowd of leaving followers.

He shakes a few of their hands as he makes it through. The place is somber.

He spots Nadya with Zinoviev and Trotsky's demeanor changes to something negative. He rushes over quickly.

TROTSKY

Zinoviev, what is the meaning of this!

He is waving a letter in his hand.

Zinoviev turns to him.

ZINOVIEV

Leon, where the hell have you been-

TROTSKY

In Moscow you buffoon! What the hell is this? You gave me the wrong date!

ZINOVIEV

I swear to you, Comrade Trotsky, I didn't.

(on the letter)

May I see it?

Trotsky shoves the letter into Zinoviev's chest.

ZINOVIEV (CONT'D)

This...this is not my letter?

TROTSKY

The hell it isn't! It came two days-

Trotsky stops himself.

TROTSKY (CONT'D)

What did I miss?

Nadya looks to him.

NADYA

Stalin assumed power.

Trotsky is defeated. He looks to the stage in disbelief. Stalin is there, laughing with his friends.

ZINOVIEV

This isn't my letter. I don't know whose it is, Comrade Trotsky. I swear it-

TROTSKY

-Your lies don't matter now...

Trotsky realizes that he's been had.

Nadya looks up at the sky and wipes away some tears. She begins to walk away.

Zinoviev stands behind Trotsky for a moment longer but then disappears into the crowds of red.

Nadya turns back to Trotsky, who is still staring at the stage in rage.

NADYA

Leon, we should get going. It's dark.

Trotsky keeps watching Stalin who looks to him. Stalin gives him a slight nod of the head in victory.

TROTSKY

And I fear it is getting darker.

FADE TO BLACK.

END.