

TWO LOVERS and a BEAR

An occult romantic comedy about soul mates and the roles we play

written by Tjaša Ferme

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CHARACTERS (in order of appearance):

MALINA, Princess Aquamarine - A complex young woman, she thinks she knows what she wants. She constantly and suddenly changes her opinions and moods; she thrives on drama. She is comical because she takes herself so seriously.

KARST, Prince Proteus - Patient and philosophically inspired young man, which doesn't mean that he is not practical. It is comical how seriously he takes Malina.

BEAR - A tall man, dressed up as a bear. He looks dignified and even handsome, but he is not for jokes.

VOICE behind the door

/ indicate rapid fire

PLACE:

Many different settings and worlds. Much of the action and even set elements can be solved with video projections. Here are some of them:

- KARST's car
- a Cheap Russian hotel
- a Russian Pub
- Mexican jungle
- Siberian wilderness
- Temazcal (sweat lodge) in Siberian wilderness
- New York apartment
- Macedonian restaurant

TIME: NOW

At some moment in the play the characters on stage realize that every scene has a different lighting design. These lighting changes may be reminiscent of instagram filters, but it is up to the design team. Perhaps this play explains soul mates and soul groups, but don't we all just play roles, anyways?

SCENE ONE*Spotlight on a bed*

MALINA

Do you know when I realized that this is something special?

In Macedonia! Because I was so happy every time I saw you. Because you were so intensely present and we lingered over breakfast for so long that it was suddenly lunchtime.

The fact I love you and I could even fall in love with you is less indicative that we should be together than the fact that I can stand you. And that you make me happy every time just by looking at you.

It is true that I am a tad stubborn and inflexible, but you are flexible. Yet you have the integrity to quickly put me in my place when I am out of line. I like that.

It's easier to consider all these options if I pretend my life is fiction.

She says everything, even some of the stage directions, except if it's in italics. She is the creator of reality as well as the actress in it.

MALINA

Scenario 1:

Your face completely brightens up, you kiss me and that's it. I smile.

Karst kisses her.

In affected language with no regional specialties.

Bravo. You brilliantly felt the moment when they kiss, like in a Hollywood movie. Because you're a movie director you instinctively felt what's the most appropriate.

Scenario 2:

Your face lights up with a smile and in a sexy provocative way you ask me:

KARST

And in what case could you fall in love with me?

MALINA

(With a smile of a satisfied princess)

If you swear that you'll love me, that you're mine and you'll do anything for me.

KARST

Aha, so does this oath require anything special? Like kneeling?

MALINA

Yes, of course, kneeling.

KARST

I swear I love you and I'd do anything for you, for you to be happy and fulfilled and...do you think this is good?

MALINA

With a smile of a shyly satisfied princess, giggling out of the excitement, I sigh I do.

They kiss. Then they look at each other for a while and then laugh.

MALINA

She is excitingly squealing like a Fairy Raspberry ("Vila Malina" for reference)

KARST

He is laughing his strange belly laugh in even patterns with mini pauses; it is coming out of wonder and excitement as if he had just witnessed a daisy birthing a ladybug.

KARST

And now you're in love?

MALINA

I shrug.

MALINA erupts even though she wants to hold back; it isn't exactly easy to talk about this:

MALINA

Once I was upset with you because you didn't protect me. When the Russian Sasha in Siberia wanted to fuck me, and I didn't want to fuck him, you just left me because you misread the signals. Or when the other Russian, also Sasha, went after me in Macedonia, you also withdrew, cause you didn't get that I wanted you! And that it's normal that everybody always wants to fuck me and that it's different for women. I won't just go with anyone that's into me. But I do know that if a woman is crazy about a man, it is necessary to accept. That pissed me off less because of these concrete examples and more because it testifies about your values.

Scenario 3:

MALINA

You know if you reject me, we'll never see each other again? My ego couldn't take it.

KARST

Oh, come on. Why would I reject you?

MALINA

Because you never want to commit to anybody.

KARST

Well... no.

MALINA

Maybe you became “the guy” in my imagination because you were the only man to ever live my version of the perfect life with me: travel with me, work on my projects with me, the man I can talk to about everything I’m interested in and go deep. Well, also a guy with whom I have seen a stuffed Siberian wolf and in front of whom I dared to be a bad girl.

(aparte)

-Oops I slipped into a real cliché of contemporary American kitchen sink drama, I look into the audience if this really is a show and I also say all the stage directions aloud

(back to Karst)

- and I peed in front of you in a teapot.

(to herself)

-Still pretty literary sounding

(Back to Karst)

- by that I took revenge for the poor hospitality of a Moscow hotel. Or does “Russian hotel” sound better? *(asks Karst)*

I just realized that between every scenario there is a different Instagram light filter on stage. *(Looks at the technician in the booth)* Have you been doing that?

TECHNICIAN

Yup.

MALINA

By the way, I don’t know if you noticed that I said “the guy” - not “the one” because I’m too aloof and insecure. I would never say that - “the one.” Love confessions are risky. Because if you weren’t feeling the same, you would be flattered, and if your freedom was more important to you, you would still say no. With a lot of kind apologizing, and even if I ever forgave you, I would never admit it, cause I would be too ashamed. That a man won again, that I admitted my love to someone, and he said, “No, thank you, but I’m really honored.” Oh, again the pain: when you're ripped open in the middle and your guts spill out. You'd rather the flames swallow you alive than have anybody notice what just happened. One is, of course, most afraid of public humiliation. Please just don’t post about it! Old wounds open up, old stitches break apart, and old scabs that have been slyly hiding underneath the surface of the skin, gush out, flooding the marinas, crushing bridges and demolishing dams.

This is expressed overtly poetically on purpose. *Turns to the audience*, I want to give you diabetes.

KARST

Oh, I would never want to hurt you this much, please stop.

MALINA

And, you know who would play you on stage? Ethan Hawke-twenty years younger, of course, also one of the loves of my life, who got off the hamster wheel...

KARST

“got off the hamster wheel”? He had a great life, awesome career, ran away with the nanny... if he’s a hamster, I’m a hamster...

MALINA

You actually look like one.

KARST can't help to laugh

I lay down seductively, oh, I’m really glad that you’re playing this game with me now...

They kiss.

KARST

Yes.

They kiss again.

MALINA

Want to have kids with me?

KARST

We could arrange something...

MALINA

I’m a little bit worried they would be too pale-skinned, I always imagined I would have a mixed child. We look too much alike. But I think you’d make a great dad. I guess we’ll just be making pasty babies then.

I always dreamed of having a United Colors of Benetton family. Every child of different color. But I wouldn’t birth them myself and I wouldn’t serve them myself! I guess it was more an idea of children I wanted to hang out with as a child than having them. Little Berlin hipsters.

Our household will have to be really democratic - I can’t do everything by myself!

I would like to live in some kind of a commune, but once we get together, I would like us to be in love for a while. I want to feel chosen, special for a while. Then we can discuss polyamory since I know that’s what you’re thinking.

I’m also concerned about Au pairs. For her to be too beautiful, too young, too French, and you’d have an affair with her.

Scenario 4:

MALINA

But honestly does it make sense to have children now?

KARST

You mean because of the pandemic?

MALINA

I mean, because of the state of the world. With how dysfunctional our systems are...

KARST

But it's always been this way.

MALINA

It has? What do you mean?

I think we've never been so overpopulated and polluted.

KARST

We've had other problems in the past, but it always felt like bringing more humans on board is a bad idea and not safe.

Beat

MALINA

You know there's a corona baby boom, right?

KARST

I didn't notice.

MALINA

Yah, all my friends are having kids.

Beat

MALINA

But I wonder, you know... I think we might go extinct in the next ten years or so.

KARST

Noooo, that's a bit exaggerated.

MALINA

Maybe, but flu vaccines have a 6-13% success rate and they've been around... I don't know how long.

KARST

Long.

MALINA

Yeah, right.

KARST

Right.

MALINA

And with corona, it has...

KARST

Such a complicated structure and mutating proteins.

MALINA

It's impossible to grab the bull by its horns.

KARST

Exactly!

MALINA

So, I think that's it. It won't go anywhere, it won't be cured or eradicated.

KARST

Just keep getting stronger and more and more devastating...

MALINA

Exactly!

So, I think of the children that are incarnating now - how come they want to be born and live maybe ten years only to die...

KARST

Wow, your outlook is so morose. But maybe, if that's the case, it's like "last call, last call, who wants to go play down on Earth. Last chance."

MALINA

Haha, so these are the volunteer babies that will walk us into the apocalypse.

KARST

But do you think it really works this way?

MALINA

Of course, every baby chooses.

Scenario 5:

KARST

So what would you like to tell me? That you love me or that you would rather kill me than admit it? Or that, now that you've admitted your love, you gotta kill me?

MALINA

The last one. But just thinking about it makes me severely depressed. I think I'd rather just do myself in.

KARST

Oh come on...

MALINA pulls a long nail file out of her purse.

KARST

Princess! Please, don't be so dramatic! I love you, of course! Tons!

MALINA

Look, I've gone too far, I gotta do it. I gave my word.

I take the nail file, I plunge it into my neck vein and I cut it open.

KARST

No! Malina is shaking. I jump to her, hold her for her shoulders. Hold her while she's trembling. I press her to my heart. She's lost. I start banging with fists and I howl. It is too late.

This can be acted out as well as narrated.

MALINA'S VOICE (voice over)

It's all just a game. But it was a stupid way of exiting the game just when it could be beautiful, and we could be together. Stupid "keep your word." I'm stupid. The saying should mention the exception: don't hold your word if it's *killing yourself* over a young love.

Scenario 6:

MALINA

Wait a second Karst, I haven't been completely honest with you.

KARST

Oh, what's up?

MALINA

That I actually care more for you than I'm willing to admit and that I took you seriously.

KARST

What's wrong with that? It's beautiful.

MALINA

Yeah, but I think I've gone too far in my daydreaming, I've lived through all these scenarios and now they're chewed up and I'm over it and I know for sure it wouldn't work anyways.

KARST

Why wouldn't it work?

MALINA

I'm not even sure I have the courage to ask you to be with me, you know, free will and all that.

KARST

Well, I think I would be with you even if I have free will.

MALINA

You're agreeing too much! It has to be because we're in my head (oh my god, perhaps my head is the world, god of this universe). Well anyways, you're agreeing too much.

KARST

Yeah, you like to dominate and maybe I *am* just a figment of your imagination.

MALINA

This reminds me of a nightmare I had as a child. When the prince on a white horse finally entered my dream forest, he was so apathetic or, rather, he so feverishly agreed with what I said or, rather, he wouldn't fight for me, that I woke up all sweaty, kicking the wooden wall. I'm not certain that I didn't get a splinter!

Hey, I actually really think this won't work.

KARST

Why?

MALINA

To be perfectly honest, because I'm disgusting.

KARST

What are you talking about... We're all a bit gross.

MALINA

Exactly, if I can't put up with my own body, how could I put up with anybody else's?

I probably shouldn't have told you at all.

BLACKOUT.

SCENE TWO

In Karst's car.

MALINA

Hey, do you remember when we returned from Klagenfurt over the mountain pass?

KARST

From the documentary screening across the border?

MALINA

On the other side, yeah.

KARST

Yeah, I remember, it was a nice ride, a night ride.

MALINA

Yeah, I remember when we arrived back to Ljubljana and stopped at Križanke *(the colosseum). The whole night we were followed by a full moon. And when we stopped, I felt like we got stuck in a dream. *(searching for the right words)* Landed in a dream. No, stuck is better, like we drove to the countryside and got stuck in the mud. *(she nods to herself, like that's a good conclusion)* But we got stuck in the moonlight.

KARST

Did we drive to the countryside to have sex in the fields? Or the woods?

MALINA

It doesn't matter. Listen...

KARST rolls his eyes, starts laughing

MALINA

Then, in the moonlight, *(shouts towards the tech booth)* Moonlight filter-please!

The lights change. KARST notices.

MALINA *(continues)*

I felt as full as the moon. I felt I found you there and really saw you, like you were actually inside of me. It felt like you grew inside of me. And obviously that was such a kiss moment, but I pulled a hundred euros out of my pocket and paid you for running tech.

KARST

I remember, yup.

MALINA

Maybe it was a bit more than a hundred. I think I added something for the travel expenses.

KARST

Yup.

MALINA
Are you agreeing again?!

KARST
Am I?

MALINA
Just don't overdo it.

KARST
I remember that, I felt "in it" as well.

MALINA
Yeah, it was a feeling like we went to the aquarium to watch the dolphins and in the next moment we were behind the glass and we *were the* dolphins.

*The light changes to aquarium setting.
MALINA notices and approvingly nods.*

KARST
Are dolphins aware of themselves?

MALINA
Oh, I've heard everything there is to know about dolphins. They sing, harmonize with each other, have lots of sex, make scientists masturbate them. Apparently, they love pregnant women and they swim to the frontlines if women are giving birth in the ocean and they have magical skills to alleviate the pain of labour and make women come instead.

KARST
What?! Where did you hear that?

MALINA
In the flower of divine... something... a known metaphysical text.

KARST
Never heard. Anyways, we're by the colosseum in my car.

*Both of them look at the lights which turn to
the moonlight setting.*

MALINA
Stuck in the mud/

KARST
Or behind the aquarium glass/

MALINA
But I envisioned a gigantic one, with multiple chambers/

KARST

Yeah as if the entire Madison Square Garden were an aquarium

*The lights change to the aquarium setting.
They both notice and exclaim: No!
Moonlight. They look at each other. They kiss.*

KARST

Won't Carlos be mad?

MALINA

Won't Claire be mad?

They laugh and kiss again.

MALINA

Look, both their names start with C.

MALINA

But in reality, I paid you and left.

KARST

But then we had a really awesome lunch at the Fish Restaurant.

MALINA

Yeah, that lunch was crazy! You were looking at me with a special fire in your eyes! Like, your eyes could melt all the Swiss glaciers in that moment.

KARST

Ah, that's why they're melting.

Karst tries to make a joke, but Malina doesn't let herself be bothered.

MALINA

And that's when I asked you if you would go to Siberia with me.

Cause I had no idea you were a Russiafille.

KARST

Yup, yup, but I think we went to the fish place before the moonlight.

MALINA

That's perfectly possible, but I think the memory of the Moon claustrofucked all my other memories.

BLACKOUT.

SCENE THREE

*A cheap hotel room in Moscow, Russia.
KARST is laying on the bed. MALINA walks
in wearing a workout outfit; she's pissed.*

MALINA

This hostel sucks. Nothing in their gym works! I booked this place because of the gym!

There was a sweaty creep standing there and gaping as I was doing squats. Does it bother you if I work out here for a bit?

KARST

Go for it.

*MALINA starts working out. KARST puts on
some uber gangster Russian rap. Super
kitschy video is playing on the video
projection. They're both enjoying this.*

MALINA

Hey, guess what, it says breakfast is between seven and nine thirty, but everything was gone by nine! I barely saved a hard-boiled egg.

She pulls it out of her sports bra.

KARST

One? Only one?

MALINA

Yeah, sorry, do you want it?

KARST

One egg?

MALINA

Yeah, hard boiled.

KARST

No, you go for it.

MALINA

One doesn't do much, does it?

KARST

No, one sole egg doesn't really cut it.

*MALINA is now meditating. KARST puts on
another kitschy rap video. MALINA suddenly*

awakens, she tilts her head, but doesn't open the eyes.

MALINA

Where is the teapot?

KARST

I don't know.

MALINA

They don't clean our room, huh, even though I booked this hotel just because of that! But they come in to snatch the teapot back?!

KARST

Didn't you book it because of the gym?

MALINA

fast and angry

Because of the gym and room service!
I'm not gonna make my own bed on my vacation in Russia!

KARST

Well, the condom from last night is still here.

MALINA

Where?

KARST

By my bedside, on the floor. I mean - it's not from last night, but the night before!

MALINA

Oh, yeah, I know, I planted that one on purpose. That was the test. If they had cleaned it up, it would have meant we do have room service. Wait - so, how many condoms are on the floor total?

KARST

Oh, just that one. I threw the other two in the bin.

MALINA

Good boy, don't touch it, let's keep running the experiment.

She gets up and bolts out. KARST is ponderingly looking after her.

MALINA comes back with a teapot and two cups.

She sits down on the windowsill and pulls down her tights.

KARST

What are you doing?!

MALINA urinates.

MALINA

Golden shower for this fabulous hospitality.

Russian kitschy rap pours over us.

BLACKOUT.

SCENE FOUR

MALINA and KARST in the Siberian wilderness. By the fire.

KARST

I can't believe we're here.
You kinda tricked me into this...

MALINA

Do you have a knife?

KARST

Yeah, I do, three different types and sizes.
Do you think that's gonna do anything for us?

MALINA

You've never used them before?

KARST

No, I have never fought a bear.

MALINA

Well, there's a first time for everything.

KARST

Yeah...

MALINA

It's not guaranteed he will come after us.

KARST

"Come after us?"
We're not talking about the big bad wolf from Little Red Riding Hood; if he comes, we're dead meat.

MALINA

Look, the other day I read in the “worst case scenario booklet” that you just have to calmly look at him and surrender your food to him. Or sing something!

KARST

“Surrender food?” We *are* food!

MALINA

C'mon don't be so paranoid, this is exactly why Roman brought us to the wilderness - to face our own demons for a night!

KARST

This was your idea!

MALINA

Maybe we could name him, this way he'll be more humanized and less terrifying in our imagination.

KARST

Igor!

MALINA

I was thinking the same!

The hologram of a bear shows up.

*Then he morphs into a Czech bear cartoon
“[Medved Uhec](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gdc_6v-T)”*

*(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gdc_6v-T
[hvl](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gdc_6v-T)). He is really curious, and he bounces his
head a lot*

*He brings corn on the cob and
marshmallows. It is obviously somebody
dressed in a bear costume, but MALINA and
KARST act really respectfully as if he is a
grand elder. They eat and look at each other,
then MALINA gets up.*

MALINA is rehearsing her Russian phrases.

MALINA

Gdje ja magu uvidit šamana?
Ti viglidiš kak potencialni šaman?

SUPERTITLES:

“Where can I see a shaman”

“Do you see any potential shamans around here?”

She turns towards the bear.

MALINA

Ti šaman?
Šaman si ti!
Pokažite mnje kak magičijski ritual!

SUPERTITLES:

“Are you a shaman?”

“You are a shaman!”

“Show me a magic ritual”

The bear and KARST are both looking at her with much interest. MALINA leans forward.

The bear - if it's a hologram, it vanishes; otherwise, black out.

SCENE FIVE

MALINA

It's not guaranteed he'll come after us.

KARST

“Come after us”

We're not talking about the big bad wolf from Little Red Riding Hood; if he comes, we're dead meat.

MALINA

Look, the other day I read in the “worst case scenario booklet” that you just have to calmly look at him and surrender your food to him. Or sing something!

KARST

Aha, and what would you, say, sing to him?

BLACKOUT.

SCENE SIX

MALINA

Maybe we could name him, this way he'll be more humanized and less terrifying in our imagination.

KARST

Igor!

MALINA

I thought the same!

The Bear or somebody blatantly dressed in a bearsuit shows up.

MALINA and KARST start singing "kekceva pesem": Kaj mi poje pticica, pticica sinicka, dobra volja je najbolja, to si piši za uho, mile jere, kisle cmere, z nami vstric ne pojdejo!

Alternate reference: MALINA and KARST start signing - Captain Planet is the hero, he can bring pollution down to zero...

BLACKOUT.

SCENE SEVEN

Back at the fireplace. MALINA is rehearsing her Russian phrases.

MALINA

Gdje ja magu uvidit šamana?
Ti vglidiš kak potencialni šaman?

SUPERTITLES:

"Where can I see a shaman"

"Do you see any potential shamans around here?"

She turns towards the bear.

MALINA

Ti šaman?
Šaman si ti!
Pokažite mnje kak magičijski ritual!

*SUPERTITLES:**“Are you a shaman?”**“You are a shaman!”**“Show me a magic ritual”**The bear is looking at Malina, then gets up and gestures to follow him. KARST and MALINA follow.**They're walking over snowy mountains covered with fir trees. The bear stops at every bush and points at animals; they meet a wolf, a rabbit, a fox, a huge eagle.**The bear pulls them into a “temazcal” - a sweat lodge - and, in the dim amberish light, the Bear looks deep into MALINA's eyes.***BEAR**

We all have four souls. One of your souls has been abducted - the orange one - the one that tells us what we want and where we're going. The green one, though, inherited from your mother, is very strong.

*A shamanic drumming starts; we can't tell exactly where it's coming from.***BEAR**

I'll take you on a shamanic journey to find your spirit animal and find wholeness again. Imagine a hole in the ground. Let it slowly suck you in, then go through a tunnel - don't get stuck, just continue.

You get out of the tunnel and you're in a landscape: in the wilderness, by the sea, in the mountains... an animal approaches you, you're communicating without words, the animal licks you and takes you away in an unforgettable dance.

The drum is rumbling.

If he wants to eat you, that's a good sign - it wants to hand over its powers to you. Let go and you'll be reborn into a new self with magical powers.

As the bear is leaving, he says:

Totem.

BLACKOUT.***SCENE EIGHT****Night, Mexican jungle.*

MALINA

Hey, this is totally crazy, do you even know where we are?

KARST

Yeah, of course.

MALINA

Cause it all looks the same to me.

KARST

What do you think about right here?

MALINA

Sure.

They put down the backpacks.

KARST

It is recommended to eat only lightly, more of a snack, with very little water; otherwise, you'll attract too many mosquitos.

I will have only one sip, only what's absolutely necessary.

MALINA

(murmurs)

You're acting strange.

Well, I'm hungry. What do we have here?

KARST

Burritos and crepes.

MALINA

Fantastic. Just what I need.

KARST

You gonna eat both?!

MALINA

Yeah, I'm hungry!

We walked for three hours straight!

KARST is building a firepit to make fire.

MALINA is eating.

MALINA

Are you sure there are no wild beasts here?

KARST

Yup, the coast is clear.

MALINA

Do you want to smoke weed?

KARST

Yeah but that makes me totally high and lose myself.

MALINA

Yeah, me too! That's why we smoke!

They get high, KARST is feeling her up, with reservation.

They are both laying on yoga mats on the ground watching the stars through the thick of the jungle. KARST is really losing it and he is loudly moaning; MALINA is pretending she is going through the same.

KARST

Hey, are you also feeling super hot?

MALINA

A little bit.

KARST

Would you be OK if I take my clothes off?

MALINA

OK.

KARST rolls onto her and starts kissing her.

KARST

Hey, I have to tell you something: I have been celibate for seven years, for a whole seven years, I haven't had sex...

MALINA

Ok..

They have sex.

BLACKOUT.

SCENE NINE

MALINA and KARST are walking through the jungle.

KARST sees something in the distance, runs towards it and starts shouting joyfully.

KARST

Water! Sweet water!

MALINA

That means that crocodiles are here.

KARST

Yeah maybe...

MALINA

Can you spot any?

KARST

doesn't look

No.

MALINA

OK, I'd like to advance as soon as possible. If you see anything scream, so I can climb a tree.

KARST

OK.

They're both walking with feverish eyes.

They come to a sign with a sketch of the area, including plant and animal species.

MALINA

Look, fuck! There are really crocodiles here! And pumas and lynxes in the mountains! Fuck - that's where we camped last night!

She looks at him angrily and walks away.

BLACKOUT.

SCENE TEN

In the bunker.

BEAR

Totem.

MALINA looks at KARST.

MALINA

Ugh, I had a strange vision. I went back in time and relived Mexico, the Cacaluta beach specifically and camping in the jungle. I was with a guy, who was Romanian, but he had your face. He wanted to explain things to me all the time and be a smartass and I have to admit I really like how much you agree all the time.

*KARST is sitting, looking at her, confused;
MALINA continues.*

MALINA

He was teaching me about Carlos Castaneda, and when we were finally alone in the middle of the jungle he wanted to have sex. I said OK, since it seemed appropriate.

KARST

Appropriate?

MALINA

Yeah, what else should we be doing in the jungle, by the fire, at night, alone?

KARST

Among the tigers/

MALINA

Lynxes.

KARST

Lynxes.

MALINA

So we had sex, but he notified me during it that he hadn't had sex for seven years and that this really matters to him. I mean, me, I matter to him. But he was annoying me, and I also didn't really feel it.

KARST

Wait a second, so he hadn't had sex for seven years?

MALINA

The seven year itch.

KARST

And then he finally decided that he was ready to go for it by the fire, among tigers, with you, and you're complaining that it wasn't good? I thought that women always want it to be something special and this dude...

MALINA

Romanian.

KARST

Ok, Romanian, but that bears no importance to the story, does it?

MALINA

No, sorry, just - when you used "dude," an uber American surf word, it struck me where he was from.

KARST

So, this Romanian guy has decided that in the darkness, in the jungle, by the fire, among the tigers, it's time to break his celibacy and you're not only complaining that you didn't *like* it, but that he was *annoying* you even?

MALINA

Look, I didn't feel anything, nothing! And he only told me about the celibate after he'd already put it in.

KARST

But he was annoying you before that?

MALINA

Yes, Karst.

KARST

So you could have told him earlier this might not be the best idea...

MALINA

Karst, are you a woman? Are you even remotely aware how often women have sex because that's less trouble or maybe even less violent than explaining why not or lying? If I, as a woman, say it was appropriate, I mean that all the other options were worse.

Especially in the jungle, in the dark, by the fire, among the tigers.

KARST

Lynxes. OK I got it.

MALINA

Good.

KARST

Was that after our Russian adventure?

MALINA

Yeah and before Macedonia, do you have a problem with that?

KARST

Well, maybe I do.

MALINA

Wow, I know it's your superpower that you are never jealous, what is this??

KARST

Maybe I'm just a little bit tired, this Bear is a real percussionist.

MALINA

(lies down, looking at the stars)

Can we go back to the jungle lights of the bonfire?

The lights start fading slowly.

KARST

Come on, come here...

MALINA

Oh no, are you my tiger?

KARST

Lynx.

While rolling on the floor, they both playfully shout over each other: Tiger-Lynx. When they stop, MALINA is on top.

MALINA

Do you see now why sex is sometimes the most appropriate?

BLACKOUT.

SCENE ELEVEN

The bear is drumming on a shamanic drum, KARST and MALINA are on the floor in a trance.

Total darkness, no sound. Slowly, a small light starts coming up on KARST's body. But it's so faint we can only see doodles of our own imagination.

We see KARST, whose face is under a shirt, made of stretchy fabric, and it looks like he is trying to cocoon out of it in slow motion.

Everything is silent, but it looks like he is shouting and opening his mouth. Then a small sprout of a green plant grows out of his head. The plant has sprouted, KARST relaxes, stops “screaming” under the fabric. The head moves back and now we have a waning light that is again drawing doodles of imagination.

BLACKOUT.

SCENE TWELVE, Part One

MALINA's New York apartment.

MALINA

I can't believe you're here! Fuck, anyways, welcome to my crib!

KARST

Thank you, thank you, Malina, Princess. *(smiling)*

MALINA

I just can't believe it, you just sat on the plane and flew to me, I mean, here.

KARST

Yeah, I mean, the flights were dirt cheap.

MALINA

From LJ to NYC?

KARST

Milano, but yeah.

Hey, don't worry, I know you're busy. I got a room on Airbnb and I have some other friends here, too, so no worries.

MALINA

Aha, OK, which other friends?

KARST

A friend.. A girlf... a woman friend...

MALINA

Hey, this Friday and Saturday I'm doing a show, come and then we'll go party! My Italians are also in town, so I've been doing some research and I found a pretty innocent starter sex party. I've never been, you down?

KARST

Omg, my first night in New York, and going to a sex party, that's too much.

MALINA

Sex party in Brooklyn.

They're looking at each other.

MALINA

What about your *friend*, will she join us?

KARST

Ugh, I don't know, I mean, probably not the first night.

MALINA

"The first night?" What exactly are your plans with her? Which night would she join us? How many nights exactly do you need with a chick to get her ready for group sex?

KARST

Eh, I don't know, I can't promise anything...

MALINA

Karst, the answer is zero! If she wants it she will say yes, otherwise no. Your love won't *warm* her up for group sex. If you date her, the love and possessiveness will grow and she won't all of a sudden say "Yes, let's have group sex" unless you have been together for a hundred years and it starts really lacking luster, then maybe out of desperation. And if she's a slut, then no worries she will be up for doing you and for the group situation.

KARST

Ok, I will try, but why is this so very important?

MALINA

Well, to me that would be an interesting adventure. That fact that you came to see two girls in NYC, whatever...

She stumps into the kitchen. She brings hazelnut butter, honey and unpeeled carrots. She dunks a carrot into hazelnut butter and eats. KARST is looking confused. She offers it to him.

KARST

What exactly is this?

MALINA

I'm stress eating.

KARST turns around the living room.

KARST

Nice apartment, nice furniture and stuff.

MALINA
I found everything on the street.

KARST
Huh?

MALINA
Everything is from the street.

KARST
Everything? Really... no way...

MALINA
Yup, I found this table by the subway station, it was obviously too heavy to carry, so I grabbed the three legs, cause what are they gonna do with only one, right? I brought them home, grabbed my roommate, we smoked a joint and then went to get the table. When we came back I was so exhausted and stoned, she had to assemble it by herself.

Then, I found this on the street. My best collection comes from the street.

She wipes her honeyed fingers into her jeans and goes to her room to show him her dresses.

This and this.

All of a sudden, they lock eyes like bears and throw themselves at each other and start kissing.

KARST
Hey, this friend is not important. I came because of you. Seriously. Look me in the eye.

He holds her face; they're gazing at each other's eyes.

SCENE THIRTEEN, Part Two

KARST
I'm sorry, I can't. (*gets up*) Hey, that's actually my first girlfriend... Tanya. You've already met. Now she's here and we've been on and off for 15 years, we really just have to talk...

SCENE TWELVE, Part Three

They stop kissing.

KARST

Hey, I have to be completely honest with you. I just met this girl last week, but the bug got me so hard that I just had to buy a ticket, and of course I was happy to spend some time with you as well.

MALINA

You know how I told you in a previous scene that, if I confess my love to you, I'll have to kill you?

KARST

Yes, are you serious?

MALINA grabs the Christmas lights, puts them around his neck, KARST is laughing, MALINA plugs them in. KARST relaxes, pulls her to him, they're making out, then MALINA gets up, she seductively takes her dress off, she turns to show him her bare ass. KARST hoots and moans, he loves ass. MALINA bends down, seizes something in her hand, turns her head in profile.

MALINA

Any last wishes?

KARST

WOOHOO!

MALINA throws water in his face; the lights fry, shock, KARST twitches.

SCENE TWELVE, Part Four

MALINA

Any last wishes?

KARST

(in satanic voice)

Yeah, ride with me baby!

*He pulls her on himself.
Satanic sound and red flames in the
projections swallow them up.*

BLACKOUT

SCENE THIRTEEN

In a “different”, out-of-worldly world: it’s white, misty, transparent.

MALINA

Do you remember that photo from Siberia? The one where the light of the setting sun went through our bodies and you could see the river, the shore, the mountains in the distance on us through us?

KARST

Yeah. Here we are.

BLACKOUT

SCENE FIFTEEN

On the mountain, among lynxes, in the jungle, in the wilderness., by the fire.

KARST

I envy your shamanic adventures; your trips and journeys...

MALINA

MALINA slowly and with patience

Yes, I’m an explorer of layers of human consciousness.

KARST

Only human?

MALINA

Haha, no you’re right, cosmic.

They’re looking at each other.

MALINA

What was your closest experience of surfing on the cosmic layers of big secrets?

KARST

Do you remember in Stajerska where my family has a weekend house? Once we decided to climb a mountain in vicinity, a couple of guys and me. The dusk was falling... We started racing who would make it to the top first, just typical dudes, you know, we also drank a beer before, but no more than that. There were different tracks, so we each chose one. But the one we chose with my Irish friend Liam were pretty parallel, so we made it to the top pretty much at the same time. The third guy hadn’t made it yet. We weren’t too worried. We strolled up to the little mountain register hut, where a faint light was coming from.

There were some dudes there, I couldn’t really see their faces distinctly, they spoke a strange language, but we quickly got acquainted and we had a great time; we were singing, drinking, laughing like fools...

And the next thing I remember Liam and I woke up in the grass lower down the slope. Nobody knew how we got there. We had the exact same memory of what happened. When we checked the time only 30 minutes had passed. When we walked downhill we soon thank fucking god found our third friend, who was also sleeping in the grass and had the exact same story.

And there was a full moon. Totally full.

MALINA

Ooooh Karst!

MALINA is staring at him without blinking, she grabs his wrist.

Karst, I SAW it, really SAW it...
Fuck, what do you think it was?

KARST

I don't know, really don't... We discussed this so many times, played with some many possible answers but never came to a satisfying conclusion.

MALINA

Do you think it was aliens? Or some kind of fata morganas, hallucinations because of the booze, or exhaust, maybe a cloud of radiation blew by and changed the atomic structure of the area?

Fuck, I can *feel* it.

KARST

Oh, this radiation is an interesting theory. We haven't thought of that.

MALINA

Hey Karst, I would like to travel with you and solve mysteries and get to know myths, shamans, other cultures...

KARST

More shamans? *(he smiles)*

MALINA

YES! We have to go to Buryatia, or Mongolia, but in Buryatia we have friends now. Then, I'd like to go to Australia, where I would like to learn how the Aboriginal dreamtime works.

KARST

Yeah, yeah, I'm super down.

They're looking at each other and nodding. MALINA comes closer and climbs into his lap. BLACKOUT. The blackout happens so

bombastically and completely that it looks like the universe devoured them.

BLACKOUT

SCENE SIXTEEN

MALINA's Lucid dream.

MALINA

I am at Alexis's birthday party in a mighty villa "Eyes Wide Shut" style and I'm walking around, looking for her - my childhood best friend. When she spots me she barks at me insultingly "go wash your hair". I fling my scarf around my head, look into the mirror and say playfully "Like this?"

When I see myself in the mirror I am Middle Eastern, a desert woman with black hair and the shawl trick was magic because it rearranged my hair style completely. Alexis curtly retorts again: No, go wash your hair.

I'm walking through a gray tunnel of this house where everybody is partying and I'm thinking "this is absurd, ridiculous. I'm already HERE, at the party, why would I waste my time washing my hair?!" At that moment I become aware that I am dreaming.

Out loud, I say "I am dreaming. I am in a dream," and then I say as I was taught in Guatemala, to the spirit guides "take me, show me"

Gong sound, slowly a white light seeps in and swallows Malina.

We can only hear MALINA'S voice.

MALINA (voice over)

Take me, show me.

The sound of an implosion.

I stepped into an airless space, vacuum, there was no sound, no whisper, not a single rustle...

We see a projection of the Planet Earth as seen from space with continents moving and forming.

They showed me a formation of the entire planet. In the south Atlantic, by South America, there is a string of small islands of low bush greenery. From the water emerges something that looks like a very small crocodile with very long eyelashes.

In the projection a very small crocodile with long eyelashes emerges out of the water.

MALINA

This is me.

Then we are in a “white space” in front of the “door” and there’s a voice coming from behind it.

Projection of the vast white space.

VOICE (voice over)

You can meet three people and tell them you love them and how much they mean to you.

Projections.

MALINA

In a moment I’m back at Alexis’s place, villa, at the party and now I know what my intention is. I cannot find her anywhere, but I still entrust the wind with the truth that I love her and that she is my soul sister.

Then I go to Karst, KARST looks like a magnet, the way you would draw it in mathematics.

MALINA sketches a magnet on the projection wall

At the same time he also looks like a transparent blue crystal with a really beautifully harmonized energy. I remember Carlos Castaneda and how he always said that when women are hysterical men have to align their sacral center over the woman's womb and that calms them down. I did just that; I aligned our sacral centers and then moved up to the solar plexus and then to the heart chakra. That was all the communication there was, everything was said with energy, we spoke like two crystals.

Then I went to visit Cristhian - the love of my life - in Salento, in the south of Italy, I found myself in a house with an Arab family watching TV and they were fixing the antenna. I couldn’t find Cristhian anywhere. At that moment, I realized that I am IN the movie Cristhian was watching but trapped inside of the screen. I looked out and felt a roundness of the lens of the TV screen but I couldn’t bridge the gap, I couldn’t reach him. I started losing my power and my energy began dissipating from this field and wanting back into my physical body.

Bang, the light flashes and we’re back.

BLACKOUT

SCENE SEVENTEEN

Text message on the screen, from Cristhian.

MALINA

Wow, you're the second person who told me you had a lucid dream about me last night!

I did watch an Arab movie last night.

Somebody *was* fixing my antenna on the roof in Salento.

My neighbor said: "ah la tua anima ha ja arrivata"

BLACKOUT

SCENE EIGHTEEN

In the darkness.

MALINA

Your soul is already here.

Lights up on the Bear, Karst and Malina. They are in a small hut with a faint yellow light, we can't see their faces very well, but they're passing drinks, maybe they even sing and perhaps there might be a couple more other people.

VOICE (VO)

Nobody can know for sure.

BLACKOUT

SCENE NINETEEN, 1st part

White blinding lights start to blink. They seem like a stronger version of flash used in photography.

Then we see the Bear and Malina; Malina is wearing only underwear, and together with the Bear they pose like in a photo shoot. The poses are beautiful and full of tenderness. Some of them remind us of "pieta." Malina is being wrapped by the Bear. Then it's Karts's turn. They change the pose with every flash, everything is precisely choreographed. Malina and Karst each change 5-10 poses with the Bear.

Blackout

SCENE NINETEEN, 2nd part

The Bear is playing an instrument. The instrument could be a clarinet, an accordion, or any of the strings (violin, viola, cello). At first, the song is quiet and full of sorrow, then it suddenly morphs into a hot blooded tango. Malina and Karst dance tango.

SCENE NINETEEN, 3rd part

MALINA and KARST are laying in the grass in the dark and waking up.

Hey MALINA

Yeah? KARST

Did you see it, too? MALINA

Were you also there? KARST

Yeah, that was us! MALINA

They are looking at each other in confusion.

KARST

Finally speaks

Maybe the time really does jump.

BLACKOUT

SCENE TWENTY

In a Macedonian restaurant.

MALINA

Oh my god, yeah I also once had a really strong feeling that the aliens would kidnap me.

KARST

Oh yeah? What gave you that feeling?

MALINA

We were completely high, on a rooftop in a small village of island Krk and everybody fell asleep. I had a crippling paranoia that just because I was so afraid I would actually attract them. At the same time, we were listening to Elvis Jackson and the moment everybody fell

asleep I heard a baby cry, coming from the ground below-it was a part of the recording-but I thought that the aliens were trying to prank me, isolate me and abduct me.

KARST

Aha, you weren't expecting them showing up on a saucer but already here setting you hoops and traps down below?

MALINA

Like in thrillers. First, I was waiting for them to glisten down from the sky, but because I was so very afraid, I thought they maybe already had and now at this point they're just playing recordings of babies to get me down from the roof.

The thing was, I actually thought that the sky would literally suck me in, and I was so proud of myself for being, "no, I'm not gonna fall for that babies crying trick." When the sky didn't suck me in and when the baby stopped crying and the song started, I knew that, if those aliens didn't kidnap me then, they never will.

KARST

Wow.

MALINA

Hey Karst, have you heard about a special zone at the Panama Canal, where everything is closed off but the villagers from the nearby inhabited areas spread rumors about space saucers disappearing into the sea?

KARST

How about space forks?

Karst cracks up, Malina shoots him an angry look.

No, I haven't heard. Do you mean... how do you mean?

MALINA

I heard from a Romanian friend that they come and go into the sea, that they have some kind of an underwater base there.

Do you want to go?

Karst, what if this is your next documentary?

KARST

Yeah, I think I'd be down... I'll poke around on the internet to see if I can find anything about it.

MALINA

I want to go with you. Lately, I really have incredible powers of communicating with different worlds. I want to go there as a medium.

KARST

Let's.

MALINA

Let's.

MALINA

Karst... *(she starts giggling)*, wow, this is so exciting, I could do this my entire life. Travel around the world, hosted by film festivals, where I weave and untangle mysteries.

KARST

We are enjoying life. We are lucky. Real happy go lucky.

BLACKOUT

SCENE TWENTY-ONE

In the car on the mountain pass in the full moon.

KARST

Do you believe in souls?

MALINA

Absolutely.

KARST

I mean, what do you think about soul mates?

MALINA

Oh, I know that we come from a group of souls. More soul families than soul mates. Before you reincarnate, you choose who you will reincarnate with and how you will connect. Some are your mother, your father - you determine together who will play what part, it's almost like casting a play. Even the folks that kill each other, choose each other and discuss it first.

KARST

What?! How?

MALINA

These are some of the most important characters in each other's lives because they represent a key learning assignment.

KARST

So the victim chooses the murderer? The victim is not innocent?

MALINA

No, they are not innocent, no. They choose each other because they choose this experience they want to go through to learn...

KARST

I don't entirely understand why...

MALINA

The difficulty and complexity of levels are growing in life and throughout lifetimes. Like in a video game: each level is more demanding. And no matter how fucked up the situation, the trick is to choose the highest potential, to always choose love, honor, courage, constructiveness - instead of depression, aimlessness and belief that it's all in vain. Some people have intercepted bombs, their skin fried, they lost their mobility, had to learn how to walk and talk again, and after the incident they received a perfect clarity of how the universe works and they started working as the translators of this universal language. The accident wasn't an accident; it was a key moment of transformation, planned before the incarnation. The bomb was in their soul contract. But the victim and murderer choose the life of trauma and social stigma and still their task is to find the path toward love and growth.

We are in a human body. We think it's just us, that we are individualized, but we are so much more. Karst, this is a game that we will be playing into infinity in this universe, there is no end to our roles, games and mirages. We are just little "bits" in the computer of the universe, the experiments from which the universe is reading data and improving itself. Learning from our experiences.

KARST

Do you really believe in this?

MALINA

Karst, I saw it.

KARST

And when you say, "saw it", you saw this... where, how? In reality? Where are you getting these messages from?

MALINA

Right now, from the moon, haha. Nature is full of guides. When I meditate or when I'm in higher states of consciousness I feel it, certain voices guide me and show me little "movie" visions, and at the same time, whisper the meaning of it all.

KARST

Wow, I also want that!

MALINA

Do you meditate?

KARST

Well, not really. I tried many times, but I didn't go very far, I didn't see or hear anything like that.

MALINA

What about weed, it doesn't function introspectively on you?

KARST

No, it makes me laugh.

MALINA

What was your deepest experience so far?

KARST

There were more moments of it. Flashes of total clarity, like everything in the world is perfect and I feel some kind of connection with everything.

MALINA

I know exactly what you mean.

BLACKOUT

SCENE TWENTY-TWO

In a Russian Pub.

MALINA

Do you think we will meet somebody special tonight- to invite to our hotel room and try group sex?

KARST

Could it be a she?

(looks around)

Well, I'm not sure, there are five of us all together in this bar.

MALINA

Maybe a Rusalka? Sometimes I yearn for a beautiful woman's skin and long silky hair and hot lips...

SUPERTITLE: Russian mermaid on the cue of "RUSALKA".

KARST

Wow, me too! Let's do it! Where are they? Rusalka!!

MALINA

Yeah, wouldn't it be nice if she danced and sang something for us?

KARST

Haha, that would be tops!

MALINA

I think I really want to experience a Russian mermaid now. Maybe we should walk down to the riverbank and look for her. Now that she's in our consciousness I'm sure we could find her, how she is washing clothes...

KARST

Wait a second - Rusalka are like mermaids, they don't wash clothes!

They're looking at each other like they've heard what only they can and it remains unsaid. We hear a very faint sound of a river, an oar that breaks the water's surface and a call: Rusalka's call, a whale's call or something otherworldly and undefined. Up to this point Malina was giddy, perhaps a bit inebriated. From this moment on though, a channel or her higher self awakens, showing knowledge that was inaccessible and hidden before.

MALINA

Did you ever hear of the fish people that first came down to Planet Earth and shared their civilisation's secrets, knowledge and wisdom with the ancient peoples of Babylon?

KARST

You mean mythological creatures?

MALINA

Ha, yeah *like* mermaids. But they were here.

KARST shakes his head no.

KARST

Wait, do you mind if I actually wiki this?

MALINA

Sure.

She smiles.

KARST checks his phone, then reads

KARST:

“The Apkallu appear again, also described as fish-men who are sent by the gods to impart knowledge to people. In Berossus, the first one, Oannes, is said to have taught people the creation myth.”

MALINA

Mermaids are the women they left behind. They were real a few millennia ago. Singing for their men in the sea, wailing a siren's song to be heard across dimensions to be picked back up from this God-forsaken planet.

KARST is staring at Malina.

KARST

So what happened to them?

MALINA

They came for them, their husbands and lovers heard their siren wail, that pierced their hearts and made them save them. That's why there are none left. But it's not a myth; like mermaids so are now rhinoceroses facing extinction on this planet, just nobody is there to save them. But women still know the siren's song.

Beat. Karst ponders this.

KARST

Do you think people in a thousand years will think a rhino is just a myth, a mythological creature?

MALINA

If there are any humans left.

Beat

KARST

How do you know this about mermaids?

MALINA

I once wailed like a siren for my man to come find me.

Beat. Malina and KARST are looking at each other.

KARST

How will you know it's him?

MALINA

With a song./

KARST

Which song?/

MALINA

A siren always knows. It's men who can't remember.

Beat

It's the song of the soul, we each carry a tune.

KARST

I can't carry a tune.

MALINA

You carry a tune. I can hear it when I close my eyes.

Beat. Looking at each other.

KARST

Do you believe in twinflames?

MALINA

Yeah, I believe in twinflames, why? Do you think that we are..?

KARST

Well, it could be possible, anything is possible...

MALINA gets up, goes to the jukebox, starts playing a song and dancing and singing to it.

Closing video from Medvedek Uhec cartoon, good night.

END OF PLAY.