

NOTE:

With a few exceptions, Ruth and Marina speak to each other in Russian.

INT. PAINE HOUSE LIVING ROOM - DAY

Ruth is crying as she and little Lynn are lighting candles.

In the background voices on the TV are reporting the activities and chaos at Parkland Hospital.

Ruth cannot control her tears.

Marina sits passive and silent watching the images being broadcast.

MARINA

I am sorry I cannot cry. I'm very confused. It does not seem real to me.

RUTH

We light candles as a form of prayer. I'm praying for our President and his family. This is so awful. I'm so sad for him and our country. I almost never cry like this. I can't help it.

Ruth and Lynn continue in their little prayer ritual.

MARINA

I have to fold clothes. I must keep busy.

INT. PAINE HOUSE - DAY

Ruth folds clothes while watching television.

Marina takes a basket full of clothes from the washing machine in the kitchen, to the clothes line in the backyard.

EXT. PAINE HOUSE BACKYARD - DAY

Marina is hanging clothes on the clothesline.

Ruth comes out from the back door.

She approaches Marina slowly.

RUTH

They just reported that the shots  
fired, came from the Texas  
Schoolbook Depository.

Marina freezes for a moment and continues hanging clothes,  
looking straight ahead, hiding any overt emotion.

Ruth joins in with the clothes hanging.

RUTH (CONT'D)

Can you believe it? I'm sure, Lee  
will come and stay tonight. He'll  
have to tell us the big story,  
don't ya think?.

Marina stops and slips into the house, without saying a word.

Ruth looks perplexed but continues hanging the clothes.

INT. PAINE HOUSE GARAGE - DAY

Marina cautiously enters the dim garage and slowly makes her  
way to a stack of boxes. She whispers to herself.

MARINA

Please Lee, no, no, no.

She looks down and sees the folded plaid blanket on the floor  
where it's suppose to be.

She exhales with relief.

MARINA (CONT'D)

You scare me all the time. Don't  
scare me like this no more.

INT. PAINE HOUSE LIVING ROOM - DAY

Marina comes from the garage and finds Ruth frozen halfway  
into folding a towel.

She is staring at the TV.

RUTH

Marina, the President is dead.

Marina finally allows herself to cry, with Ruth.

RUTH (CONT'D)

How can this happen?

MARINA

Poor, Mrs. Kennedy. What will she do? What do they do in America when this happens?

RUTH

The Vice President will become the President automatically.

MARINA

How can her children survive without their father?

Ruth reaches out her hand and Marina slowly takes it in hers. They look at each other.

TIME PASSES with the television news.

Ruth and Marina try and keep busy but continue to end up fixated on the television like the rest of the world.

Bits and pieces of news regarding a policeman being killed in Oak Cliff, an arrest in the Texas Theater, an employee of the Texas School Book Depository, world reaction.

SOUND: Knock! Knock,!knock! Loudly at the front door.

INT. PAINE HOUSE - DAY

Ruth goes to the door.

The main door is open. Looking through the screen door, in front of her are three plainclothes detectives and six uniformed policemen.

Ruth seems strangely calm or numb.

RUTH

Yes?

DETECTIVE

May we come in?

RUTH

Do I need to ask for a warrant?

DETECTIVE

Ma'am, we don't have one yet. But I assure you I can have one here in no time at all.

Ruth backs into the hallway.

RUTH  
That's OK. Come in. We're all very  
upset.

Ruth leads them into the living room.

Marina stands up clutching the baby.

MARINA  
Oh my, no.

RUTH  
It's alright Marina.  
(to the Police)  
Please come in and sit down.

Instead of sitting down, the police spread out into the house  
like water.

RUTH (CONT'D)  
What is going on? What is this  
about?

DETECTIVE  
We have Lee Oswald in custody. He  
has been arrested for killing a  
police officer.

MARINA  
What is happening? Is it Lee?

DETECTIVE  
Can you tell me, did Lee Oswald  
have any weapons or guns?

Ruth stiffens.

RUTH  
No, of course not.

Marina begs Ruth.

MARINA  
Please, what do they want?

RUTH  
They want to know if Lee has any  
guns.

Marina says nothing.

RUTH (CONT'D)  
Marina, does Lee have any guns?

Marina says blankly.

MARINA

Yes.

Ruth is dumbstruck.

INT. PAINE HOUSE GARAGE - DAY

Ruth and Marina take the police into the garage.

DETECTIVE

(to Ruth)

Would you ask her where it is.

RUTH

He wants to know where the gun is.

Do you know?

Marina walks through the mess.

An officer opens the garage door allowing more light to come in.

MARINA

I saw part of it in there.

She points to the blanket roll on the floor.

The officer reaches down and picks it up.

It hangs limp in his hand.

Marina turns white

Ruth gasps and ducks back into the house where she leans against the wall, clutching her breast and struggling to breathe.

DETECTIVE

(to police officer)

Keep an eye on her and stay with her.

Ruth slides down the wall and sits on the floor.

The policemen file back into the house with Marina in their grasp.

They are also hauling boxes and stacking them in the house.

Ruth watches in disbelief. Then she gathers her wits.

## EXCERPT 2

EXT. PAINE HOUSE FRONT YARD - MORNING

The Life reporters are loading Marina's luggage into a car.

Marguerite holding the baby, is giving them precise instructions.

Near the front door, Ruth and Marina bid farewell.

RUTH

Marguerite is going to be difficult. Can you handle it OK?

MARINA

She will help me with the baby.

RUTH

Well, she doesn't like me. That's for sure.

MARINA

Lee does not like his Mother.

RUTH

I don't think his brother likes me either.

MARINA

They are worried about Lee.

RUTH

How about you? Are you worried about Lee?

MARINA

Like you say, What will be, will be, no?

Marina see's everyone is waiting for her.

MARINA (CONT'D)

I am afraid to go back to the police building. I think everyone must hate me.

Ruth takes Marina by the shoulders and looks her straight in the eyes.

RUTH

Be strong. Call me when you need me.

(MORE)

RUTH (CONT'D)

I'll come and get you or the kids,  
whenever you need me to. Remember  
there is a power, a good spirit  
that will help you. You're going to  
need it often. If you just need to  
talk, call me.

MARINA

Thank you, Ruth. You are my good  
friend.

RUTH

Hurry back, I'll see you soon.

Ruth gives her a gentle hug.

RUTH (CONT'D)

I wish you'd eaten more breakfast.  
It's going to be a very hard day.

Marina walks to the end of the walkway, and receives  
directions from Mama Oswald.

Ruth waves.

Marina waves back.

MUSIC: "I Left My Heart in San Francisco."

Ruth embraces the good-bye like a old photo.

RUTH (CONT'D)

Call me.

Marina looks back one last time and gets into the car.

The car drives off.

Ruth watches it go.

NINE MONTHS EARLIER - FEBRUARY 1963 - DALLAS, TEXAS.

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

A small get together is attended by six or so young urban  
couples.

It is lively but not lavish.

The apartment is paneled with dark wood. An orange swag lamp hangs in a corner from a large black chain. A picture of large eyed cartoon-like child hangs on the wall.

Couples chat, laugh, sip wine and sample finger foods and chips.

SOUND: Doorbell

The male host EVERETT GLOVER opens the door and greets the arriving couple.

GLOVER

Michael, Ruth, you made it. I'm so glad. Come on in.

The Paine's shed their coats and join the gathering.

GLOVER (CONT'D)

Hey everyone, this is Michael and Ruth Paine. Ruth is a friend of mine from the madrigal group we sing in. Or squawk in, whatever you call it.

Everyone says hi.

GLOVER (CONT'D)

Ruth is a student of Russian language and Mother extraordinaire. I haven't a clue what Michael does.

A few chuckle. Michael shrugs.

Glover introduces a young couple sitting on the sofa. Compared to the other guests, they look obviously poor and out of the element.

GLOVER (CONT'D)

Ruth, here is the couple I told you about. This is Lee and Marina Oswald. Fresh from Minsk, in the good ol' USSR. Lee is an American who lived and worked there, and Marina is a native born Russian, trying to make her way in the good ol' USA.

Marina is bouncing a crying baby on her lap and smiles at Ruth. Lee say's nothing and continues to address the group.

LEE

...and they've lost all of the pure  
Marxist values in place of a very  
unyielding bureaucracy.

The baby intensifies it's crying.

Lee gives Marina a very dirty look.

MARINA

Excuse me.

She gets up and goes to a back room.

Michael pulls up a chair and sits down. Ruth watches Marina  
go into the room and then follows her in.

INT. APARTMENT BEDROOM - NIGHT

Marina is sitting on the edge of the bed fumbling through a  
diaper bag for a bottle. She sees Ruth in the doorway. The  
baby flairs up again and Ruth steps inside and closes the  
door behind her.

MARINA

I am sorry, I not speak English.

Ruth speaks in very hesitating Russian.

RUTH

I speak bad Russian. My name is  
Ruth.

Marina perks up sensing a chance to connect.

MARINA

Don't worry, please try. My baby is  
very tired and I wish my husband  
would not talk so much, so we can  
go home.

Ruth sighs.

RUTH

I only understood a few words that  
you said. I really mean it when I  
say my Russian is not very good,  
yet.

MARINA

You are doing good.

RUTH  
It's still pretty embarrassing.

She sits next to Marina on the bed.

RUTH (CONT'D)  
Is your baby a little girl.

MARINA  
Yes, girl.

RUTH  
She's very pretty. I have two  
children a boy 2 and a girl 3.

MARINA  
So nice. You have a boy?

RUTH  
Oh yeah. But if you count Michael  
it's like two little boys, except  
one is very big.

MARINA  
I am sorry I don't understand.

RUTH  
See, I told you. My Russian needs  
help. Do you speak any English?

MARINA  
Oh no. Lee says no English.

RUTH  
Why?

MARINA  
Lee does not like America too much.

RUTH  
Why is he here?

MARINA  
He does not like Russia too.

RUTH  
That's got to be a problem.

MARINA  
Excuse me? What do you say?

RUTH  
Never mind. I'll spare you the  
torture and go back inside

MARINA  
Can you say again?

RUTH  
Maybe we can talk later.

MARINA  
Yes, talk later. Thank you..  
(pause)  
Ruth?

RUTH  
Yes, Ruth. Your very welcome. I'm  
really happy to meet you. And  
welcome to America.