

## **GLEB**

We hear you, comrades! The revolution hears you! Yes, our way is long, the journey hard. The chains of the Romanovs were heavy. Three long centuries they bound us. But we have broken them! Together we will forge a new Russia. A fair and compassionate Russia that will be the envy of all the world. That is the promise we have made. Fellow Russian to fellow Russian. The Tsar's St. Petersburg is now the people's Leningrad!

## **DMITRY**

Are you ready to become the Grand Duchess Anastasia Nikolaevna Romanov? It won't be a lie. We're going to help you remember the truth. If the Dowager Empress recognizes you as her granddaughter, Vlad and I will get a small reward for our efforts and we will all live happily ever after. Either way, it gets you to Paris and it gets us out of Russia. Everybody wins. My father used to bring me here. He put me on his shoulders so I could get a better view. *(in a voice)* "Bet you can see all the way to Finland from up there, Dima!" That's what he called me. There isn't a day I don't miss him.

## **VLAD**

It's a special train. Aristocrats and intellectuals. Everyone the Bolsheviks want to be rid of. We'll be traveling as members of the Diaghilev Ballet Russe. They've taken Paris by storm. I recognize that man. He's the Count Ipolitov. He's not just an aristocrat, but an intellectual as well. He's a dead man on both counts. In Paris, your first challenge will be the Dowager Empress's lady-in-waiting. Lily, the Countess Malevsky-Malevich. No one has access to her majesty without *her*. Lily was beautiful, voluptuous, married; everything I look for in a woman. She gave me a watch, studded with diamonds.

## **DOWAGER EMPRESS**

He's like a dog with a bone, that one. If only I could lose hope entirely. I used to open each one with a beating heart. Could this be my precious Anastasia? *(a beat)* But, after so many disappointments, I've come to dread the daily post. Another day, another imposter. Dearest Lily, I know I am a proud and difficult woman. You are the only one I've allowed to see what's become of me.

## **ANYA**

She wouldn't even look at me. 'Tell this imposter, Lily, I know her kind too well. She wants money and will break an old woman's heart to get it'. I was a pawn in a scheme of yours. You made me think I was someone I never was or ever could be. I was cold and hungry and desperate, Dmitry, when I met you; but I wasn't dishonest. I hate you for that.

## **LILY**

She'll turn up. Why would she disappear in the first place? You've accepted her as the heir to the Romanov fortune. She'll live like a queen. Even though people don't want queens anymore. Well, the English do, but they're crazy.