

STEFAN #1

Stefan and Mike look up at their tenement apartment

STEFAN This hole is even worse than the last hole.

MIKE If a hole like this gets us the tickets sooner, you can live with it for a while. The ticket counter should be open already. Let's go get the tickets for Mama!

They head down the fire escape and come face to face with Rebecca Almazoff, carrying a bundle of fliers.

Stefan Hello...

REBECCA Hello.

STEFAN Stefan Sokolowski. We just moved in.

REBECCA Rebecca Almazoff.

STEFAN And my father.

REBECCA Mr. Sokolowski...

MIKE Stefan. Come on.

STEFAN Well...

REBECCA You might as well have one of these.

STEFAN *(glancing at it)* A meeting?

And she's off. Stefan smiles.

(to Mike) You know, this place doesn't look so bad.

(Mike gives him a whap on the head)

MIKE Stay away from that. Come on.

And they as they walk, the scene becomes –

STEFAN #2

SOKOLOWSKI APARTMENT – NIGHT

Stefan skulks into the room. Mike is seated on his bed. Awkward silence.

MIKE Where have you been?

STEFAN Nowhere. Just looking for work.

MIKE You're doing that a lot. Except I'm seeing no money but lots of ink on your hands.

Stefan tries to hide the ink stains on his hands.

STEFAN There isn't much work with the strike.

Mike just nods.

MIKE How stupid do you think I am?

STEFAN What? I never said any-

MIKE Do you think I have no eyes? No nose, to smell how much you have been near her?

STEFAN I...I...

MIKE And as if that's not bad enough, you've been helping with her strike and not making money for your family. For that, you should go to hell.

STEFAN Tatoh.

MIKE Don't Tatoh me. I'm becoming ashamed of you.

STEFAN They are helping us. We will never earn fifty dollars by scabbing, no matter what you say - I'm not doing this to hurt our family, I'm doing exactly what Mama would want, I know she would, because this is right!

MIKE What? Are you out of your mind?

STEFAN With the strike we have a chance –

MIKE (stands) Shut up. Just shut up. I'm saying this once and for all. Forget about that Jewish girl's strike. Or don't call yourself my son.

STEFAN No.

MIKE What?

STEFAN I'm not forgetting about her or the strike.

Mike slaps him hard in the face - not in anger, in terror. Stefan stares - his father has never hit him before. Stefan leaves, slamming the door. Mike is left on the edge of panic.

STEFAN #3

TENEMENT - NIGHT

Mike leans back against the wall of the building, hurting badly from a hard binge. His eyes snap open at a sound from the street.

MIKE Stefan?

STEFAN Tatoh!

MIKE Where the hell were you?

Stefan stops short seeing his condition.

STEFAN Where was I? Where the hell have you been?

Mike sees Rebecca walking towards them. He pulls Stefan away.

MIKE We need to talk.

STEFAN Tatoh –

MIKE Stefan, I've got enough money to buy the last ticket.

STEFAN Tatoh, listen to me –

MIKE Come we have to write a letter to home.

STEFAN Tatoh, stop, you don't know –

MIKE We'll go to Myroslav's farm, we can work. We have to stay safe now, until they get here –

Rebecca approaches tentatively.

MIKE You are not wanted here.

STEFAN Tatoh!

She stops. Then heads up the front stairs.

STEFAN Rebecca, I'm sorry –

She waves him off.

MIKE Stefan, get packed. No more city, no more strike -
Stefan pulls out the black bordered envelope.

STEFAN Tatch, stop, listen to me –

STEFAN They're dead!

MIKE What are you talking about-

Stefan takes the letter out of the envelope and holds it for Mike to see.

STEFAN Mama, Demyan, Taras, Tekla-

MIKE No –

STEFAN All of them.

MIKE No...

Mike takes the letter from Stefan. The words are gibberish to Mike who is illiterate, but he can recognise the names of his wife and children.

MIKE What does it say?

STEFAN The Russian army - they were all killed—

MIKE No it can't be. You read it wrong.

STEFAN The priest gave it to me. It's true.

Mike's grips the letter in his hands as if trying to hold onto his family.