

Side #10: Andrei/Chebudykin/Solyony

Sweet ones, happy ones!

She goes out.

ANDREI. Our house will be empty.

The officers will go, you will go,

My sister will go and get married, and I'm staying in the house, all alone.

CHEBUTYKIN. What about your wife?

Ferapont enters.

ANDREI. A wife is a wife. She's honest, decent – well, good in her way – but she has something in her that reduces her to a petty, blind, crude little animal. In any case, she isn't a person. I say this to you as a friend, the only person I can open my soul to. I love Natasha, I do, but sometimes she seems to me incredibly vulgar, and then I get lost, lose myself, I don't understand what I love her for, or why – I love her so – or – at least, loved-

CHEBUTYKIN. (*rising*) Brother, I'm leaving tomorrow, we may never meet again, so, a word of advice: put on a hat, carry a big stick, and go – be off, go, without a glance back. And the further you get the better.

Solyony walks by the rear with two officers; he turns to Chebudykin.

SOLYONY. Doctor, it's time. 12:30 already.

Solyony waves to Andrei.

CHEBUTYKIN. Coming. I'm sick of you all. (*to Andrei*) If anyone asks for me, Andrusha, say that I'm – (*He sighs.*)

SOLYONY. A man can't breathe in any case

When a brown bear comes and sits on his face. (*Walking with Chebudykin.*) Why the groaning, old man?

CHEBUTYKIN. So!

SOLYONY. How's the health?

CHEBUTYKIN. (*angry*) Like butter from a cow!

SOLYONY. The old man is getting upset for no reason. I'll just indulge myself a wee bit, I'll only nip his wing like a wood-snipe. (*Sprinkling perfume on his hands.*) See, today, I poured out a whole bottle, and still they smell. Smell like a corpse.

Remember the poem?

The restless soul seeks out a storm

As if in storms were in-laid peace

CHEBUTYKIN. A man can't breathe in any case

When a brown bear comes and sits on his face.

Shouts are heard. Andrei and Ferapont enter.

Solyony is about to kill Irina's fiancée, Tuzenbach, in a duel for Irina's love. Chebudykin and Solyony are moving out of town with their army regiment, abandoning the town where they have lived for their adult lives. Solyony fancies himself a bit of a poet.

FERAPONT. What else are papers for, but to be signed.

Ferapont exits.

Enter Irina and Tuzenbach, Tuzenbach in a straw hat.

Kulygin crosses the stage, calling: Aoooo, Masha, Aoooo!

TUZENBACH. The only man in town who's happy to see the soldiers go.

IRINA. It's understandable.

Our town will be empty now.

TUZENBACH. (*Looking at his watch.*) Sweet girl, I'll come right back.

IRINA. Where are you going?

TUZENBACH. I have to go into town...see my comrades off.

IRINA. That's not true... Nikolai, why are you so distracted today?

What happened yesterday, by the theater?