

INT. KONSTANTONOVSKY PALACE/THE BLUE HALL ENTRANCE (ST
PETERSBURG) - NIGHT

At the doors of the Blue Hall, WAITER#3 and WAITER#4,
silver trays with champagne glasses in their hands, stand.

Angela, wearing the Swarovski mask, takes a glass of
champagne from a tray and enters--

THE BLUE HALL

An exquisite interior is illuminated by crystal
chandeliers. Their light plays upon a sea of feathery,
silky, and lacy masks.

The room is abuzz with LAUGHTER, CHEERS, and crystal glass
CLINKING.

Elegantly dressed WOMEN converse with MEN in tuxedos.

Kazimir, wearing a Griffin mask, throws a handful of silver
metallic streamers at Angela. She catches them and throws
the streamers back at him.

KAZIMIR

(coming over)

You look dazzling.

They make their way to--

THE VIP AREA.

Cigar smoke, pierced by pulsating magenta spotlights, hangs
over burgundy Louis XV canapés with masked men and women
lounging on them.

Angela spots two vacant canapés. They head towards them.

Angela motions at a WAITER#5.

The waiter#5 pours champagne into the glasses.

Kazimir lights up a cigar, inhales deeply and blows out
smoke towards the ceiling.

KAZIMIR (CONT'D)

Is Voronov here?

Angela takes a sip of her champagne.

ANGELA (CONT'D)

Life doesn't revolve around Voronov.

KAZIMIR

(drawing on his cigar)

For me, it does.

ANGELA

Then it is an obsession.

KAZIMIR

Obsession or not, the thought of him persistently loops in my head.

ANGELA

Let it go.

KAZIMIR

I cannot. Thanks to people of his ilk.

ANGELA

But he has nothing to do with the 'favouritisms' of the presidential office.

KAZIMIR

Maybe he doesn't, but his father does.

ANGELA

Maybe you should deal with his father then?

KAZIMIR

Maybe.

ANGELA

We need to talk.

KAZIMIR

Aren't we just doing it?

ANGELA (CONT'D)

We need to talk about our agreement.

KAZIMIR

I think we should move from talking to action.

ANGELA

There won't be any action.

Kazimir gulps his champagne in one go.

KAZIMIR

How disappointing.

ANGELA

C'est la vie.

KAZIMIR (CONT'D)

What's that?

ANGELA

Such is life.

KAZIMIR

I presume you're pulling out of our agreement.

ANGELA

The presumption is spot on.

Kazimir refills his glass with champagne.

KAZIMIR (CONT'D)

You've been gaming me?

ANGELA

Life is a game. You should know it.

KAZIMIR

I know it, but, sometimes, I just want to forget about it.