

MOTEL

Yussel, do you have a wedding hat for me?

YUSSEL

Lazar Wolf ordered a hat but it's not cheap.

MOTEL

I got his bride, I can get his hat!

YUSSEL

Then come, Motel, come.

MOTEL

Chava, can you watch the shop for a few minutes? I'll be back soon.

CHAVA

Of course.

MOTEL

Thank you, Chava.

(ALL exit from shop, calling Mazeltovs. INNKEEPER rushes out as LAZAR crosses)

YUSSEL

Come, Motel. I'll show you.

ALL

We just heard about your sister ... Mazeltov, Chava ... Mazeltov, Chava.

CHAVA

Thank ... thank you very much ...

(FYEDKA and two other RUSSIANS enter at the same time . As OTHERS exit, THEY cross to CHAVA, blocking her way into the shop)

RUSSIANS

(Mockingly, imitating others, slight mispronunciation)

Mazeltov, Chava ... Mazeltov, Chava ...

CHAVA

Please may I pass.

SASHA

Why? We're congratulating you.

RUSSIANS

Mazeltov, Chava.

FYEDKA

(Calmly)

All right, stop it!

SASHA

What's wrong with you?

FYEDKA

Just stop it.

SASHA

Now listen here, Fyedka ...

FYEDKA

Goodbye, Sasha ...

(THEY hesitate)

I said goodbye!

(THEY look at FYEDKA curiously, then exit)

I'm sorry about that. They mean no harm.

CHAVA

Don't they?

(SHE enters shop. HE follows her in)

Is there something you want?

FYEDKA

Yes. I'd like to talk to you.

CHAVA

I'd rather not.

(SHE hesitates)

FYEDKA

I've often noticed you at the bookseller's. Not many girls in this village like to read ...

(Sudden thought ... extends book HE is holding)

Would you like to borrow this book? it's very good.

CHAVA

No, thank you.

FYEDKA

Why. Because I'm not Jewish? Do you feel about us the way they feel about you?

I didn't think you would

CHAVA

What do you know about me?