

#4 CHAVA, FYEDKA, SASHA

CHAVA

Of course.

MOTEL

Thank you, Chava. *(They all exit from the shop, calling Mazeltovs.)*

VILLAGERS

(To CHAVA)

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

CHAVA

Thanks — thank you very much.

START

(All but CHAVA exit. FYEDKA, SASHA and another RUSSIAN enter at the same time. They cross to CHAVA, blocking her way into the shop.)

SASHA ~~and RUSSIAN~~

(Mockingly, imitating others, with a slight mispronunciation)
Mazeltov, Chava. Mazeltov, ~~Chava~~.

CHAVA

Please may I pass.

SASHA

(Getting in her way)

Why? We're congratulating you.

~~RUSSIAN~~ SASHA

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. *(SASHA and the RUSSIAN hesitate.)* I said goodbye!
(They look at FYEDKA curiously, then exit.) I'm sorry about that.
They mean no harm.

Mazeltovs.)

CHAVA

Don't they? (*She enters shop. He follows her.*) 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. (*A sudden thought strikes him. He extends the book he is holding.*) Would you like to borrow this book? It's very good.

enter at the shop.)

CHAVA

No, thank you.

iation)

FYEDKA

Why? Because I'm not Jewish? Do you feel about us the way they feel about you? I didn't think you would. And what do you know about me? Let me tell you about myself. I'm a pleasant fellow, charming, honest, ambitious, quite bright, and very modest.

CHAVA

I don't think we should be talking this way.

FYEDKA

I often do things I shouldn't. Go ahead, take the book. It's by Heinrich Heine. Happens to be Jewish, I believe.

CHAVA

That doesn't matter.

FYEDKA

You're quite right. (*She takes the book.*) Good. After you return it, I'll ask you how you like it, and we'll talk about it for a while. Then we'll talk about life, how we feel about things, and it can all turn out quite pleasant.

END (~~CHAVA puts the book on the table as MOTEL enters.~~)

MOTEL

~~Oh, Fyedka! Can I do something for you?~~

FYEDKA

~~No, thank you. (*Starts to leave.*)~~

goodbye!
out that.