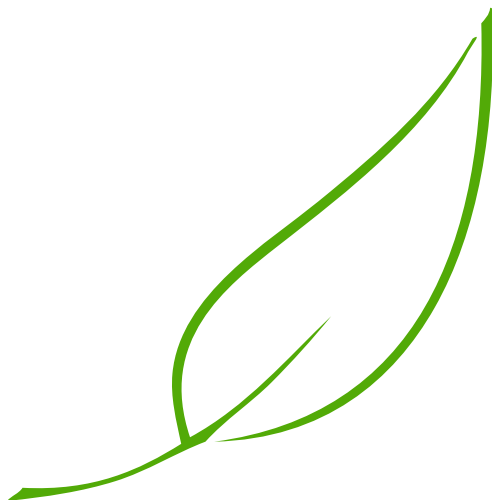


SINCERELY, SAMANTHA

Music by Larry Nestor

Book by Randall G. Mielke &
Gary Peterson



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CAST OF CHARACTERS
(in order of appearance)

STAVLANA
SOPHIA
NINOTCHKA
NATASHA
TANYA
NELDA

} girls at a Russian youth camp

COUNSELOR KOZINSKY
for the youth camp

SAMANTHA
a young American girl

ANTON and PETROV
boys from a neighboring youth camp

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SCENE ONE

Overture

(The Day Room of the Girl's Dormitory at Camp Crimea, a summer camp for elite Russian children, near the Black Sea. This very spare setting features a small table with a few chairs, bookcases along the back wall and one window, which looks out onto the entrance of the camp. A door on the Stage Left side leads into the dormitory proper, and the Stage Right door leads outside.)

SAMANTHA: *(Voice heard over loudspeaker, reading her letter.)*

Dear Mr. Prime Minister, my name is Samantha and I live in the United States. There is something that has been bothering me for a long time, and I hope you don't mind me writing you about it. Everyone says that there's going to be a big war between our two countries — a nuclear war. Have you thought about what would happen if we really did? The future of the world would be in terrible trouble. Would your people vote for a war with us?
Sincerely, Samantha.

(Six girls, STAVLANA, SOPHIA, NINOTCHKA, NATASHA, TANYA and NELDA, come running in from Stage Right, laughing energetically. They all wear the same uniform: white blouse, blue skirt, blue cardigan and red scarf.)

STAVLANA: I won. I won! I can't believe it!

SOPHIA: You did it, Stavlane; you did it!

NINOTCHKA: This is a first.

NATASHA: I never thought I'd see the day you'd beat Nelda.

TANYA: *(In defense of NELDA)* Stavlane had a head start.

1 SOPHIA: How about it, Nelda? Did she have a head start?
2 (NELDA does not answer.) She's pouting by
herself again.

3 NINOTCHKA: In any case, Stavlane won. (To STAVLANA)
You actually won the race.

4 SOPHIA: (To STAVLANA) Good for you! (She pats
STAVLANA on the back, then pulls out an apple
5 from her pocket and takes a bite of it.)

6 NATASHA: Where did you get that apple?

7 SOPHIA: Same place I got this one. (Takes another apple
8 from her other pocket and shows it; then replaces it.)

9 I have a way to smuggle 'em out of the commissary.
10 Counselor Kozinsky will never find out.

11 NINOTCHKA: She'd better not. You'd get detention for sure.

12 STAVLANA: Just like you with your love novels.

13 NINOTCHKA: What?

14 STAVLANA: (Knowingly superior) The current book is called
15 *Escapade in Austria*, (She moves toward the
16 bookcase) and is here, behind Trotsky. (She takes out a well-
17 worn paperback from behind the pedestrian hardcovers and
18 displays it for all.)

19 NINOTCHKA: (Grabbing book) Gimme that! How did you know
20 about it?

21 STAVLANA: I'm your roommate, and you talk in your sleep.
22 Besides, I'm reading it, too, when you're not
23 looking.

24 NINOTCHKA: I thought someone moved the bookmark!

25 TANYA: Have either of you found out who Magda is in
26 love with?

27 NINOTCHKA: Not you, too!

28 STAVLANA: I think it's Georg, but I'm not sure; Sergei is
29 very attentive. (A commanding voice is heard
30 Offstage Right. KOZINSKY, even when she isn't,
31 speaks as through a megaphone.)

32 KOZINSKY: Children! This is your counselor speaking!

1 NATASHA: Sh! It's Counselor Kozinsky!
 2 NELDA: Kommandant Kozinsky, you mean.
 3 NATASHA: Stavlane, shh!
 4 KOZINSKY: *(Entering)* What's all the commotion about,
 5 hmmmmmm? *(All girls freeze.)*
 6 KOZINSKY: Plots and espionage, hmmm? Cadet Sophia,
 7 answer!
 8 SOPHIA: *(Takes one step forward and answers clearly.)* We
 9 had a race from the commissary here,
 10 Counselor Kozinsky. Stavlane won. We were, um,
 11 congratulating her for her excellent victory.
 12 KOZINSKY: There were no wagers placed on your race,
 13 were there? Betting in any form will not be
 14 tolerated.
 15 SOPHIA: Oh, no! We were just excited for Cadet Stavlane.
 16 It was her first win, ever.
 17 STAVLANA: Not ever.
 18 KOZINSKY: You have something to add, Cadet Stavlane?
 19 Something pertinent to the matter at hand?
 20 STAVLANA: *(Quietly)* No, Counselor Kozinsky.
 21 KOZINSKY: Then you will do us all the courtesy of keeping
 22 your commentary to yourself. Unnecessarily
 23 talking is not seemly in an intelligent Russian girl. *(Pause)*
 24 Now, it is time for inspection! Attention, cadets! *(The girls*
 25 *line up in this order, at attention, facing the audience)*
 26 NINOTCHKA, SOPHIA, NATASHA, STAVLANA, NELDA
 27 TANYA. KOZINSKY parades back and forth in front of them.)
 28 KOZINSKY: Cadet Tanya! *(TANYA steps one pace forward)*
 29 Tanya, look at this uniform. Straighten your
 30 scarf, will you? And comb your hair . . . pay more attention
 31 to your appearance! Remember, you individually are
 32 reflection on the camp as a whole.
 33 TANYA: Yes, Counselor.
 34 KOZINSKY: You may step back. *(TANYA does.)* And you,
 35 Nelda! *(NELDA steps forward.)* I have been

1 watching you lately. I know what your problem is. You just
2 refuse to get involved with activities like the others.
Remember, the unit works best that works as a team!

NELDA: Yes, Counselor.

KOZINSKY: You may step back. *(NELDA does. As KOZINSKY continues talking, each girl will step out as she is addressed, then retreat when passed.)* I hope I needn't have to remind you what today is. Staviana! You were late for swim practice twice this week; you must be more prompt in the future.

STAVLANA: Yes, Counselor.

KOZINSKY: Good. *(Continuing)* Today is the day that our little guest from the United States is coming. Natasha, do you remember her name?

NATASHA: Samantha Jones, Counselor.

KOZINSKY: Quite right. We are indeed very honored that Camp Crimea was the one chosen to show her what life is like for children within the Soviet Union. So when she arrives, we must all be on our best behavior.

SOPHIA: *(Now forward)* But we are always on our best behavior.

KOZINSKY: *(Smiles)* Of course. But I mean no little transgressions, like pilfering apples from the commissary, for example. *(KOZINSKY holds out a hand.)* It is a bad reflection on our food preparation here at camp. *(SOPHIA places the whole apple from her pocket on KOZINSKY's open palm.)* Only one, Sophia? *(Reluctantly, SOPHIA brings her other hand out from behind her back and presents an apple core to KOZINSKY. KOZINSKY smiles grimly, but accepts it.)* You may step back.

SOPHIA: Yes, Counselor.

KOZINSKY: Which brings us at last to Ninotchka. *(NINOTCHKA steps forward.)* Ninotchka, while we do wish Miss Jones to understand that a Russian girl may read anything she likes, we *prefer* our Russian girls to

1 like the textbooks and official newspapers. Do we
2 understand each other? (*KOZINSKY holds out her empty hand*
3 *and NINOTCHKA sheepishly places her book in it.*) You may
4 step back.

5 **NINOTCHKA:** Thank you, Counselor Kozinsky.

6 **KOZINSKY:** All right. Now that we are all on our best
7 behavior, let us go outside and welcome our
8 little guest, shall we? Right face! (*They execute a right face*
9 *and follow KOZINSKY Offstage. NELDA stops, ostensibly to tie*
10 *her shoelace, and TANYA lags behind as well.*)

11 **TANYA:** Come on, we should go outside, too.

12 **NELDA:** (*Sits at the table.*) They can have their welcoming
13 committee. I don't want anything to do with it.
14 You can go on if you want.

15 **TANYA:** (*Coming over.*) Are you upset because the
16 American girl is coming here, Nelda?

17 **NELDA:** What do you mean?

18 **TANYA:** I think I know you well enough to tell when
19 you are bothered by something. And you're
20 always talking about how they all have it made
21 in the United States.

22 **NELDA:** (*Defensive*) They're all millionaires! Go
23 anything they want! Go anywhere they want
24 **TANYA:** — Even to Camp Crimea?

25 **NELDA:** She got to put a wreath by the Unknown
26 Soldier. She went to Lenin's Tomb. She got
27 treated like a princess just 'cause she wrote a letter to the
28 prime minister.

29 **TANYA:** And she's American.

30 **NELDA:** Do you think that if I wrote their president
31 that I'd get to go to Washington? Or Los
32 Angeles?

33 **TANYA:** They are wild places. You know what they told
34 us. They are not safe for Soviet citizens; thieves
35 and agents everywhere!

- 1 **NELDA:** I could use a publicity agent.
- 2 **TANYA:** I meant secret agents. What is it? CIB?
- 3 **NELDA:** (*Slowly, thinking*) FCI. I'm not sure they are so
bad as they say, anyway. We have the KGB.
- (*There is some Russian march music heard
Offstage — perhaps **Procession of the Nobles**, by
Rimsky-Korsakov.*)
- 4 **TANYA:** Did you ever meet a KGB agent?
- 5 **NELDA:** (*Proudly*) My father knows somebody who
knows this other guy's uncle whose second
cousin is in the KGB. Or so they say.
- 6 **SOPHIA:** (*Entering from Stage Left*) Hey, you two! Aren't
you coming? Samantha is here already and
Counselor Kozinsky wants us all outside.
- 7 **NELDA:** I'm sure she'll not need us to make her feel
welcome.
- 8
- 9 **NINOTCHKA:** (*Entering*) Are they coming? What's wrong?
- 10 **SOPHIA:** Nelda doesn't want to greet our guest.
- 11 **TANYA:** Me, neither!
- 12 **NINOTCHKA:** Counselor Kozinsky is upset that you are
missing! (*TANYA looks concernedly at NELDA.*)
- 13
- 14 **NELDA:** (*Calm*) I don't understand what all the fuss is
about. A girl from America. Big deal!
- 15
- 16 **SOPHIA:** (*To NINOTCHKA*) Come on! Let's get back to
the others.
- 17
- 18 **NINOTCHKA:** Last chance, Nelda . . .
- 19 **NELDA:** (*To NINOTCHKA, without looking*) See you later,
Ninotchka. (*NINOTCHKA and SOPHIA exit Stage
Left.*) I wrote to the prime minister once. He never even
acknowledged my letter. (*As soon as the others are Offstage,
TANYA runs to the window to get a glimpse of the American
outside. She speaks to NELDA — who is at the table — over her
shoulder.*)
- 30

1 TANYA: I see her!

2 NELDA: (*Uninterested*) So you see her. She is not
3 invisible, despite reports to the contrary.

4 TANYA: She looks like a normal girl. I thought she'd be
5 different, somehow . . . worldly or sophisticated
6 or something.

7 NELDA: I told you it was no big deal.

8 TANYA: She's not even wearing makeup.

9 NELDA: (*Interested*) What? (*She turns and goes to the*
10 *window, also, crowding TANYA.*) I thought all
11 American girls wore makeup.

12 TANYA: Do you see the limousine? She came to camp
13 in a limousine!

14 NELDA: Now, that's American!

15 TANYA: What do you think of her dress?

16 NELDA: It's pretty enough, I guess. Better than this
17 uniform. She wears her hair nicely.

18 TANYA: She seems like a nice girl, Nelda.

19 NELDA: You just wait until we meet her in person. She
20 will be loud and raucous; overtly American.

21 TANYA: They're coming.

22 NELDA: Get away from the window. (*NELDA and*
23 *TANYA go more Center Stage. KOZINSKY is first*
24 *in, then SOPHIA, NINOTCHKA and NATASHA*
25 *who line up in their places.*)

26 KOZINSKY: (*To TANYA, quietly*) I hope you have a good
27 explanation for your absence just now.

28 TANYA: Well, uh . . .

29 KOZINSKY: No excuse? That's just as well; no excuse is
30 acceptable.

31 NELDA: We weren't feeling well, Counselor.

32 TANYA: Yes, that's it. We didn't feel well after lunch,
33 then running here.

34 KOZINSKY: Perhaps a trip to the infirmary will make you
35 feel better?

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1 NELDA: *(Quickly)* That won't be necessary, Counselor.
2 TANYA: I'm really feeling much better already,
3 Counselor.

4 KOZINSKY: *(Pause)* Well, get in line, both of you. Now!

(SAMANTHA, holding some flowers, enters Stage Left with STAVLANA almost on her arm. They are chatting, and STAVLANA is hanging on every word SAMANTHA says.)

5 SAMANTHA: Yes, I've been to New York City. It's a bit scary
6 and too fast-paced for me, though. I'm really
7 just from a little town in Maine.

8 STAVLANA: Where's Maine? I never heard of it.

9 SAMANTHA: It's in the northeast of the United States.

10 KOZINSKY: *(Stepping forward, genial)* This is the dormitory
11 you'll be staying at, Miss Jones.

12 SAMANTHA: Please, *(To all)* everyone, call me Samantha. I
13 never was called Miss Jones in my whole life!

14 KOZINSKY: Certainly, *(With an uneasy smile)* Samantha.
15 These girls are to be your roommates for the
16 next week.

17 SAMANTHA: Well, I know Stavlane here, and that's Natasha
18 and Sophia . . .

19 NINOTCHKA: I'm Ninotchka.

20 SAMANTHA: Thank you; Ninotchka.

21 KOZINSKY: And here is Nelda, and Tanya. They were
22 unable to come to the official welcome.

23 SOPHIA: We have a little song for you, Samantha.

24 NINOTCHKA: Do you want to hear it?

25 SAMANTHA: Sure.

26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33 *(Music up.)*
34
35

1		<i>Welcome Now to Camp Crimea</i>
2		
3	RUSSIAN	
4	GIRLS:	<i>(Singing)</i> Welcome now to Camp Crimea!
5		Welcome to our summer camp.
6		Welcome to the Old Black Sea — ah!
7		Days are hot and nights are damp!
8		
9	SOPHIA:	Hey! Hey! In the commissary,
10		Menu is incredible.
11		Hey! Hey! Lots of fish and dairy.
12		Some are even edible!
13		
14	RUSSIAN	
15	GIRLS:	Welcome now to Camp Crimea!
16		Glad you're staying in our dorm!
17		This world needs a panacea;
18		Lots of love to keep it warm.
19		Hope you like the uniform!
20		
21	NATASHA:	Hey! Hey! We will all go swimmin'
22		Morning, noon and nighttime, too!
23		Hey! Hey! All us younger women
24		Need to sit and talk with you.
25		
26	RUSSIAN	
27	GIRLS:	Welcome now to Camp Crimea!
28		Hope you had a splendid trip!
29		Coming was a great idea.
30		We shall build a fellowship.
31		
32		Welcome now to Camp Crimea!
33		Hope that you'll enjoy your stay!
34		Ev'ryone's so glad to see ya.
35		You made this a special day.

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1 **La, la, la, la, la! Hey! Hey!**

2

3 **SAMANTHA:** **Wonderful! Thank you; thank you very much.**

4 **NINOTCHKA:** **We have a present for you, too.**

5 **SAMANTHA:** **Oh?**

6 **NINOTCHKA:** *(Goes to the bookshelf and gets a box.)* **Here you go.**

7 **STAVLANA:** **Let me take your flowers.** *(She does and places them in a vase on the table.)*

8 **SAMANTHA:** *(Looking in box)* **Oh, a uniform!**

9 **NINOTCHKA:** **We wanted you to feel at home with us.**

10 **SAMANTHA:** **I'll put it on as soon as I get to my room.**

11 **NATASHA:** **You're sharing with me. You don't mind, do you?**

12 **SAMANTHA:** **Oh, no! I have two sisters at home and we share a room, too.**

13 **KOZINSKY:** **We hope your stay will be very comfortable.**

14 **SAMANTHA:** **I'm sure it will be. You people have already**

15 **been so nice to me.**

16 **KOZINSKY:** **Right now, I shall have to excuse myself, though**

17 **... I'm supposed to see that your parents are**

18 **happy with their rooms, as well. Relax and chat**

19 **with your new friends.**

20 **SAMANTHA:** **Thank you.** *(KOZINSKY leaves.)* **I really am glad**

21 **to talk with girls my own age; there have been**

22 **so many adults to listen to on this trip.**

23 **NELDA:** **All like Kommandant Kozinsky?**

24 **SAMANTHA:** **Everybody's been real nice to me. And you all**

25 **speak such good English!**

26 **STAVLANA:** **We're taught it in school.**

27 **NINOTCHKA:** **Don't they teach you other languages in your**

28 **schools?**

29 **SAMANTHA:** **You can take them as electives; I don't, though.**

30 **NATASHA:** **What's an elective?**

31 **SAMANTHA:** **That's a class you decide whether you want to**

32 **take or not.**

1 TANYA: They let you choose your courses?
 2 NINOTCHKA: *(Disbelieving)* No!
 3 SAMANTHA: Some, they do. Most are required, though, like
 4 math and science.
 5 STAVLANA: Do you have sports lessons?
 6 SAMANTHA: I'm on our school swim team.
 7 NELDA: Swim team?
 8 NATASHA: We're going to have a swim meet later this
 9 week; perhaps you could be on our team.
 10 NELDA: There is only room for six girls on our team.
 11 NATASHA: Oh, Nelda, we'll work out something!
 12 SOPHIA: We're going to have lots of fun!
 13 STAVLANA: We sure hope you like your stay at Camp
 14 Crimea!
 15 NATASHA: We have so many things planned for you,
 16 Samantha!
 17 STAVLANA: I hope you like puppet shows.
 18 SAMANTHA: Puppet shows?
 19 STAVLANA: Yes, some boys from the neighboring camp are
 20 coming over tomorrow to do a puppet show.
 21 SAMANTHA: Sounds like fun!
 22 NINOTCHKA: And one of them's really cute.
 23 NELDA: One of the puppets? *(Girls laugh. NINOTCHKA*
 24 *blushes.)*
 25 TANYA: She means Anton.
 26 STAVLANA: Well, he sort of has muscles.
 27 NELDA: In his head!
 28 NINOTCHKA: You know he wants to be a cosmonaut!
 29 NELDA: He's picked the right profession for one who
 30 takes up so much space. *(Girls groan.)*
 31 TANYA: Tell us more about your home town, Samantha.
 32 NATASHA: Yes, tell us more about it.
 33 NINOTCHKA: What is the name of your town, Samantha?
 34 SAMANTHA: It's called Manchester. Manchester, Maine.
 35 SOPHIA: What's it like?

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1 SAMANTHA: Manchester? It's very quiet; it's... well...
2 homey.

Manchester, Maine

3 SAMANTHA: (Singing) I live in a little town
4 Just west of Augusta, our capital.
5 North of us lies Canada;
6 South, the Atlantic Ocean.
7 Just a quiet little town,
8 With beauty all around.

9 Manchester, Maine, is my home town,
10 Where rolling hills and lovely lakes
11 abound.

12 Seven thousand miles across the sea;
13 Manchester, Maine, is a part of me.

14 From the beautiful Atlantic, we get
15 lobster and fish.

16 There are farms, industry and
17 education.

18 It's a place to build a dream or make
19 a birthday wish;

20 As Maine goes, so goes the nation.

21 My being here's a sweet surprise;
22 I never dreamt I'd zoom up thru
23 the skies.

24 It was such fun aboard the plane.

25 Someday, you must come to
26 Manchester, Maine.

27 (The girls applaud.)
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35

1 SOPHIA: Oh, that sounds beautiful.
2 NINOTCHKA: Yes, it really does.
3 NATASHA: I've never flown in a plane.
4 SAMANTHA: I like flying a great deal.
5 NINOTCHKA: What other things do you like, Samantha?
6 STAVLANA: Horseback riding?
7 TANYA: Dancing?
8 SOPHIA: Eating?
9 SAMANTHA: Well, I like to go shopping.
10 STAVLANA: Shopping? Shopping for what?
11 SAMANTHA: Oh, for this and that; a new dress or handbag;
12 often, it's just window-shopping.
13 TANYA: You mean you buy glass panes?
14 SAMANTHA: (*Smiling*) No; I just go shopping to look at what
15 I *could* buy, if I wanted to.
16 NINOTCHKA: Gee.
17 NELDA: (*With a snort*) Millionaires!
18 NATASHA: Well, how would you like to see our room?
19 Samantha? You could put on your uniform.
20 SAMANTHA: Oh, yes. That would be nice.
21 NATASHA: (*Leading her Offstage, left*) It's this way.
22 SOPHIA: (*After they're gone*) I think she's sweet.
23 NELDA: You would.
24 STAVLANA: She seems very nice.
25 NINOTCHKA: I like her, Nelda.
26 NELDA: I think she's butting in where she doesn't
27 belong.
28 SOPHIA: What?
29 STAVLANA: Why do you say that?
30 NELDA: She writes a letter to the prime minister, and
31 suddenly, she's taking over the whole camp.
32 She's nobody special.
33 NINOTCHKA: But she is special, Nelda. She's from another
34 country.
35 STAVLANA: She's from *America*!

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1 SOPHIA: She could tell us things about that strange
2 country we'd never find out otherwise.
3 NELDA: You think that the CIB didn't tell her what she
4 could and could not talk to us about?
5 SOPHIA: What?
6 NELDA: Sure! You notice she didn't say anything about
7 why they've got all those nuclear bombs
8 pointed at our houses or why they wouldn't let our athletes
9 go to the Olympics in '84? Why didn't she tell us about that?
10 NINOTCHKA: Those things didn't come up at all!
11 NELDA: Of course not! That's my point. They probably
12 told her to keep it light and superficial and
13 steer away from the important issues!
14 SOPHIA: That's silly.
15 NELDA: Our world is in real trouble, Sophia. Not
16 everybody sees it, because it doesn't affect us
17 daily. But think about it; think about it! Why do these
18 Americans want the whole world for themselves? They have
19 everything they want; they're rich and powerful; yet they
20 want more. It's like they give us two options: domination, or
21 destruction.
22 *(NATASHA enters, hearing the last bit NELDA has*
23 *said.)*
24
25 NATASHA: You don't like Samantha?
26 NELDA: Not particularly.
27 NATASHA: Why? She has done nothing to hurt you.
28 NELDA: She is upsetting our routine. For the next week,
29 the world revolves around Samantha Jones.
30 NATASHA: You should be kind to her. She's our guest.
31 NELDA: Guests are invited. We didn't invite her.
32 STAVLANA: The prime minister invited her, Nelda.
33 NELDA: Then let her stay at his house!
34 NINOTCHKA: Nelda!
35 NELDA: Count me out of anything she's involved in. She

1 can have my place on the swim team, if she
2 likes.
3 STAVLANA: You don't mean that!
4 NELDA: Yes, I do.
5 SOPHIA: But you're our best swimmer! Our only real
6 chance to beat the other teams.
7 NELDA: Samantha will be there. No doubt she swims
8 twice as well as me. (*NELDA exits, with TANYA*
9 *in tow. They pass SAMANTHA coming in, but do not acknowledge*
10 *her. SAMANTHA is now wearing her uniform, but without the red*
11 *scarf.*)
12 SOPHIA: Oh, Samantha, the uniform looks nice on you.
13 SAMANTHA: Yes, I like it.
14 NINOTCHKA: But you forgot the scarf.
15 SAMANTHA: I didn't forget, Ninotchka. I can't wear it.
16 STAVLANA: It's just part of the uniform.
17 SAMANTHA: Well, no, it's not. My mother explained to me
18 that your red scarf is significant of your
19 political beliefs . . .
20 SOPHIA: It is??
21 SAMANTHA: Yes. And I have my own values, which are
22 different. So, I'll leave it off.
23 NINOTCHKA: If you want to . . . I guess they won't give you
24 demerits for it! (*The girls laugh.*)
25 SOPHIA: Tell us about America.
26 STAVLANA: It's so far away! The other side of the world!
27 NINOTCHKA: Do you know John Travolta?
28 SAMANTHA: (*With a laugh*) No!
29 NATASHA: But you've been to Hollywood.
30 SAMANTHA: (*Shaking her head*) No.
31 STAVLANA: Disneyland?
32 SAMANTHA: I've been there; we drove once to Florida.
33 SOPHIA: Where's Florida? Near Hollywood?
34 SAMANTHA: They are thousands of miles apart.
35 STAVLANA: "A mile is 1.62 kilometers."

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1 NATASHA: Very good, Stavlane! Your teachers would be
2 proud of your memory.
3 NINOTCHKA: Aren't you afraid of thieves and assassins in
4 America?
5 SAMANTHA: Assassins?
6 STAVLANA: We read that you must protect yourselves with
7 shotguns.
8 SAMANTHA: *(Smiling)* No. That's not true. Most Americans
9 are law-abiding citizens. But, there are a lot of
10 crazy stories floating around about Russia, too.
11 STAVLANA: *(Nicely correcting)* We're the Union of Soviet
12 Socialist Republics, if you don't mind.
13 SAMANTHA: Ah, yes. I forget.
14 SOPHIA: So do I! Honestly, I have no brain for geography.
15 NINOTCHKA: Half right. You have no brain, period! *(All the*
16 *girls laugh genially.)*
17 SOPHIA: What kind of stories, Samantha?
18 SAMANTHA: I used to think that soldiers invaded your
19 homes daily and beat you up if you didn't follow
20 orders.
21 STAVLANA: No, just every other day! *(They laugh harder.)*
22 SAMANTHA: I have something for all of you.
23 NATASHA: You do?
24 SOPHIA: Food?
25 SAMANTHA: No, just some pins.
26 NINOTCHKA: Pins?
27 SAMANTHA: *(Getting pins out of pockets)* You wear them on
28 your lapel — see, they have things on them that
29 remind me of home. I want to give you each a part of my
30 home.
31 NINOTCHKA: That's very nice.
32 SAMANTHA: *(To NINOTCHKA)* Here's a lobster for you.
33 NINOTCHKA: Thank you!
34 SAMANTHA: *(To NATASHA)* This one's a moose.
35 NATASHA: I saw one of these in the zoo at Sevastopol.

1 SAMANTHA: (To STAVLANA) Here's a fishing boat.
 2 STAVLANA: Thank you, Samantha.
 3 SAMANTHA: (To SOPHIA) And a potato for you! (Girls giggle
 4 as they put on their pins.)
 5 SOPHIA: I'll wear it every day, to remember your visit.
 6 STAVLANA: Maybe we can visit you there someday.
 7 NINOTCHKA: Dream on! We can't get exit visas.
 8 STAVLANA: Maybe!
 9 NATASHA: Yes, maybe; if you can get your father into the
 10 Party and raise him to a high rank.
 11 NINOTCHKA: We have to enjoy Samantha while she's here.
 12 SOPHIA: Is this like your camps in America?
 13 SAMANTHA: Something like. But, by this time of day, we'd
 14 be singing songs around a campfire.
 15 NINOTCHKA: Like what?
 16 SAMANTHA: I'll teach you one.

17
 18 *Near the Old Campfire*
 19

20 SAMANTHA: (Singing) Sittin' on a hollow log,
 21 Near the old campfire;
 22 Singin' and pettin' the dog
 23 Really makes you perspire.
 24 Throw in a little twig;
 25 Watch the flames go higher.
 26 Troubles are never big
 27 Near the old campfire.
 28
 29 Songs are sung with harmony
 30 Near the old campfire;
 31 The world's a wonderful place to be
 32 With a universal choir.
 33 All voices, raised with pride;
 34 What more can one require,
 35 Than good friends by your side,

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Near the old campfire?

(Spoken) **Come on, join me.**

ALL GIRLS: *(Singing)* **Sittin' on a hollow log,
Near the old campfire;
Singin' and pettin' the dog
Really makes you perspire.
Throw in a little twig;
Watch the flames go higher.
Troubles are never big
Near the old campfire.**

**Songs are sung with harmony
Near the old campfire;
The world's a wonderful place to be
With a universal choir.
All voices, raised with pride;
What more can one require,
Than good friends by your side,
Near the old campfire?**

NINOTCHKA: **Why did you come to visit us, Samantha?**

SAMANTHA: *(Sheepishly)* **I have a secret plan.**

NINOTCHKA: **A secret plan?**

STAVLANA: **What do you mean?** *(NELDA and TANYA are seen approaching the Stage Right side cautiously. Despite herself, NELDA wants to see what's going on.)*

SAMANTHA: **Well, an idea anyway. But it's crazy.**

NINOTCHKA: **Crazy?**

SAMANTHA: **Absurd.**

NELDA: *(Causing silence)* **Let's hear it.**

SAMANTHA: *(Pause, then quietly)* **I have this crazy idea about spreading peace and harmony all over the world.**

1 STAVLANA: What's so crazy about that?

2 SAMANTHA: Our two nations have mistrusted each other for
3 so long . . . I just thought I could do something
4 about it.

5 NINOTCHKA: What?

6 SAMANTHA: You see, somehow, I've been put in a unique
7 position. I don't know why your prime minister
8 chose *my* letter to respond to . . . I don't know why I am
9 privileged to be here. But I am. I am an emissary. An
10 emissary for love and peace.

11 NELDA: That's a pretty tall order for a little girl.

12 SAMANTHA: We're all little girls. But we'll soon be big girls.
13 The world will be in our keeping in just a little
14 time. And may we keep it well.

15 STAVLANA: What do you propose we do?

16 SAMANTHA: We could start with slogans for peace!

17 SOPHIA: What?

18 SAMANTHA: We write down slogans for peace, stuff them
19 into bottles, and send them off into the Black
20 Sea!

21 NELDA: Sounds pointless.

22 SAMANTHA: It's a start. You never know where those bottles
23 might go.

24 STAVLANA: I'm willing to try it.

25 SOPHIA: Me, too.

26 TANYA: I've got one slogan already.

27 NELDA: *You* do??

28 TANYA: (*To SAMANTHA, through NELDA*) "We should
29 all respect one another."

30 SAMANTHA: Very good.

31 NATASHA: I've got some paper, here.

32 SOPHIA: I can get pens! (*She runs Offstage.*)

33 NINOTCHKA: And I know where to get the bottles!

34 STAVLANA: Oh, where?

35 NINOTCHKA: In the rubbish heap just outside Counselor



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