

**Scene Two**  
**The Private Theatre of an Abandoned Palace**

*(It is dilapidated and run down. The Revolution has not been kind to it: there are broken chairs, a frayed theatre curtain, an out-of-tune piano. There is a remnant of a Romanov crest on the wall.)*

*(This is where **DMITRY** and **VLAD** have taken up quarters. They are not good housekeepers. The general squalor does not seem to bother them. Instead, they fit right in.)*

*(They are "auditioning" a woman for their "Anastasia." There are three candidates: **DUNYA**, **MARFA**, and **PAULINA**. **DMITRY** is running the audition. It's been a long, unsatisfying day. **DMITRY**'s impatience and disappointment are palpable.)*

**MARFA.** I am the Grand Duchess Anastasia Romanov.

**DMITRY.** Try it this time without the gum in your mouth.

**MARFA.** It's not gum, it's tobacco.

It's me, Grandmamma, your precious Anastasia. They shot me but I lived and I've come all the way to Paris to tell you I'm alive. I'm not really an actress.

**VLAD.** No!

**DMITRY.** Thank you, ladies, we'll let you know.

**PAULINA.** What you're doing is against the law.

**DUNYA.** For this we lost our best hours on the street.

**MARFA.** If you weren't so handsome, Dmitry, I'd report you.

**DMITRY.** Out! Out!

*(The **THREE WOMEN** leave.)*

**VLAD.** Well, you tried, my friend. Anastasias don't grow on trees.

**DMITRY.** I'm not giving up. I'll go to Siberia to find an Anastasia.