

# **salto mortale kombat**

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a play for teenagers

translated from Slovak by Ivan Lacko

The story takes place at a funfair between April and October.

## **CHARACTERS**

**VALTER, 14**

**ANNA, 12** his sister

**OSKAR, 14**

**BEAR, 21**



## 1 .the sigh of the green pony

VALTER, OSKAR

*Mid-April.*

*It is afternoon. The boys sit in front of a house painting animals from the children's arena.*

VALTER (*talking excitedly*)... and I smeared the teacher's chair with glue! And when she got up, she ripped off the skirt on her ass. It got stuck to the chair, almost the whole thing! Did you know she wears a thong?

OSKAR No kidding? Old matrons like that wear thongs?

VALTER How old is she, Oskar?

OSKAR Thirty?

VALTER Euugh!

OSKAR That's really gross.

VALTER You think our moms wear...?

OSKAR (*convinced*) No way! Are you crazy?!

VALTER Shame you weren't in school, Oskar.

OSKAR (*striking a hip-hop pose*) No regret!

VALTER (*amused*) The last day before leaving, that's when we have most fun. You can fool around, whoop it up all you want and they can do nothing.

OSKAR Damn! I was supposed to help mom clean the guns.

VALTER Guns, guns... these days everyone just plays *Mortal Kombat* at home.

OSKAR I know.

VALTER My folks bought a new centrifuge.

OSKAR What kind?

VALTER It's so cool. It's called the *Salto Mortale*. We gotta try it out tomorrow.

OSKAR Wow.

VALTER It's the coolest centrifuge you've ever seen.

OSKAR Sounds great.

VALTER *(takes no notice and continues with his story)* And the teacher wanted to send me to the principal's office and I told her to get stuffed because I wasn't gonna see her for six months anyway. Heh-heh.

OSKAR *(worried)* Valter, you'll get a poor grade in manners.

VALTER So what? And that's not all. I also beat up the little hobo gypsy.

OSKAR *You're* a hobo.

VALTER I'm not. I don't give a shit. One more year and I'll be fifteen, I'll get an ID and I'll leave you all. You can come with me.

OSKAR Oh I don't know.

VALTER You're chickenshit!

OSKAR I'm not. It's just...

VALTER Just what?

OSKAR I can't leave mom alone... and then, who knows what it's like to live an ordinary life all the time?

VALTER Same as here. You'll never leave. You're really chickenshit.

OSKAR I'm not...

VALTER Prove it!

OSKAR *(hesitates)* You want me to leave?

VALTER No. Paint that pony green.

OSKAR *(without self-confidence)* No problem.

*Oskar starts painting the arena pony green. Anna enters eating cotton candy.*

ANNA Hey, boys! Look what I got from my folks! The first cotton candy of the season.

Granny started the machine and is trying all sorts of flavors.

VALTER It's for babies like you!

OSKAR You're a baby!

ANNA *You* are babies!

VALTER She's two years younger, let's leave her alone. She can't dig us, she's a totally different generation.

ANNA I guess you have no idea that girls grow up sooner than boys. I'm almost a woman. Haven't you noticed?

VALTER That big-titted chick dad painted on the Ferris wheel, that's a woman! Not you! Tell her something about it, Oskar!

OSKAR (*encouraged by Valter, giggling*) M&Ms under a blanket!

ANNA (*indignant*) You're such morons! I never put my M&Ms under the blanket, I'm not nine anymore.

VALTER Go home, or I'll hit you with a rock.

ANNA You're just jealous, Valter! You'd get cotton candy too if you got some praise from the teacher in your gradebook.

VALTER Praise? For class activity? I actively try to avoid any praise. It's for kindergarteners.

ANNA (*angry*) Mom and dad already know what you did to your teacher today. And you can bet you'll get a scolding for it! When you finish painting the arena, you should go help dad load the carousels. So make it snappy! (*Anna notices that Oskar is painting the pony green.*) You're in trouble you two! Big time! Mom!

VALTER Shut up! (*tries to silence her*) It was Oskar!

OSKAR Me?

*Valter leaves.*

OSKAR Don't you dare give me away!

ANNA What'll be my reward?

OSKAR I don't know.

ANNA You'll be a servant to my dolls!

OSKAR You still play with dolls?

ANNA So what? No, I don't!

## **2 .a vampire from Sofia**

*The next day. Afternoon.*

*Another town they just arrived in with the funfair.*

ANNA, OSKAR

*In the background, BEAR and VALTER are assembling the new attraction – it is a centrifuge, the Salto Mortale.*

*OSKAR is dutifully playing with ANNA'S dolls.*

ANNA (*with a doll*) Sofia, what have you been up to today?

OSKAR (*with a doll, ironically*) I got totally drunk and then I slept with Ken, dear Gertrude.

ANNA You're so dumb! She's been shopping and her name is not Gertrude!

OSKAR What's her name?

ANNA Paris.

OSKAR You give them names from a map?

ANNA (*with a doll*) And what did you buy, Sofia?

OSKAR (*with a doll*) A bra... My size is 36C, what's yours?

ANNA (*angry*) You're a dork! Leave her alone!

OSKAR *You* wanted me to play with you.

ANNA But not like this. I'll tell dad about the pony. (*they play with the dolls again*) Sofi, did

you see him?

OSKAR See who? Leopold from Leopoldov?

ANNA (*taking no notice*) Well, the new temp mom and dad hired.

OSKAR What about him?

ANNA He's beautiful.

OSKAR What's so beautiful about him?

ANNA He's like someone from *Twilight*. You think he's a vampire?

OSKAR Course not... vampires don't exist.

ANNA Last night I kissed one in my dream.

OSKAR How was it?

ANNA What if I'm a vampire now? What if it wasn't just a dream?

*Oskar puts the doll down and stops playing.*

OSKAR Bite me and we'll see.

ANNA That'd be too risky.

OSKAR You can try to do it just lightly, as if you wanted to kiss me.

ANNA I'm never gonna kiss you! I have to meet him!

OSKAR Who?

ANNA The vampire. (*She points at BEAR*) You're coming?

OSKAR I got other stuff to do than deal with your vampires and dolls. I'm gonna help mom now. She's all alone.

ANNA And your dad? Why is he not with you?

OSKAR 'Cause he's a sailor. Lives on his own island.

ANNA You're making this up!

OSKAR Don't ask me then! And go back to your vampire.

*OSKAR leaves. ANNA goes to BEAR and VALTER. She observes them first.*

### 3 .beer peace

*Like in the previous scene.*

*VALTER and BEAR are assembling the centrifuge. BEAR is drinking beer.*

*ANNA in the background.*

VALTER (*with experience*) So and in every town we gotta get a permit and pay the rent for the parking lot and so on. It's just that the people in the offices don't understand that when it rains we make no money at all.

BEAR And this is how you've lived all your life?

VALTER (*proudly*) Our family's been in the funfair business for eighty years. (*points at a spare part*) You know what this is?

BEAR A centrifuge.

VALTER That's not an ordinary centrifuge! It's the *Salto Mortale*.

*BEAR does a full somersault.*

VALTER You're great, no doubt. But this is much better. The *Salto Mortale* is the attraction of the season. It's super cool. The closest place where they have another one is somewhere in Germany. You know how much it costs?

BEAR No idea.

VALTER Dad spent all his savings on it.

BEAR And you don't go to school at all?

VALTER I do. I go to the same school, like where we live, and then from April it's always a different one. Depends where we go. Dad says a good funfair man needs no school, but mom still wants me to study. Would you believe it?

BEAR Don't you miss your friends?



VALTER No. I don't have any friends at school. The kids there are weird.

BEAR What do you mean weird?

VALTER They don't like us.

BEAR All kids like funfairs.

VALTER Funfairs maybe, but not us. Call us names, like jerks and gypsy hobos.

BEAR I thought people were cool about that today.

VALTER Dad says it's the parents who bullshit their kids about it. Do you know how many Nazis we have at school?

BEAR Do they start fights?

VALTER Oh, but I'm a better fighter!

BEAR Why do you fight?

VALTER Why not? If someone else wants to have a black eye, OK, but why should I?

BEAR Can't you tell your teacher?

VALTER I don't talk to teachers.

BEAR If you fight like them, you're not gonna change anything.

VALTER I don't *want* to change anything. Won't see them for half a year anyway.

BEAR What about at other schools?

VALTER I'm the best fighter, man. Can show you a few tricks if you want.

BEAR Thanks. I'm a pacifist. *(Bear sips from his beer, offers some to Valter.)* Want some?

VALTER Can I?

BEAR Sorry, I forgot you're underage. *(Doesn't give him the beer.)*

*Anna enters. She is ashamed.*

ANNA Hey!

VALTER You got nothing to do or what?! What do you want?

ANNA You should go to have lunch.

BEAR And what's your name, miss?

ANNA I'm Anna.

*BEAR gallantly kisses Anna's hand.*

BEAR They call me Bear.

ANNA (*inquisitively*) Bear? Is that a vampire's name?

BEAR No, they call me that because I'm... (*doesn't say what he wanted*) big.

*Bear imitates a bear for her. Anna laughs.*

VALTER Stop bugging us! This is men's business. (*with contempt*) Women!

BEAR She's not bugging us. Valter, don't be so nasty to your sister.

ANNA How do you know he's my brother?

BEAR You look alike.

VALTER We don't!

ANNA Never!

#### **4 .one for the sailors**

*A few days later in another town. At the funfair.*

*Valter, Oskar*

*Oskar's nose is bleeding, he is a little beaten up. Valter is dressing the wounds.*

VALTER We showed them.

OSKAR They showed *me*, more like. Why'd they throw me in a garbage can?

VALTER Tomorrow we'll beat them up good. We'll get ready for them. I've got a telescopic

baton and you can grab a gun from the shooting stalls.

OSKAR I guess I'm not going to school.

VALTER Then you're really gonna cop it. But you'll be a king with a rifle.

OSKAR But we're going to another school the day after tomorrow anyway.

VALTER So what? We're not gonna fight there?

OSKAR I don't like fighting... it's you who always provokes them and then...

VALTER You can't be afraid like that. They can sense it.

OSKAR No!

VALTER I'll give you some training. *(hits him)*

OSKAR I don't like fighting.

VALTER You're chicken. You're just like my sis. Our folks let her play on the ferry one hour longer than they let me. She's such a brat.

OSKAR Why do you keep jumping down her throat? Leave her alone, will you?

VALTER And why do you keep sticking up for her?

OSKAR I don't.

*Valter imitates big black gangstas.*

VALTER Are we best friends? Fourteen years now?

OSKAR Yeah.

VALTER Are we blood brothers?

OSKAR Yeah.

VALTER Did I ever let you down?

OSKAR No.

VALTER Prove that our friendship will never die.

OSKAR How?

VALTER You'll pull Miss Clodhopper's pants down for everyone to see.

OSKAR Why should I do that?

VALTER 'Cause she's our common enemy. And me, your friend, am gonna fight for you in school. You gonna do it?

*(long silence)*

VALTER You don't have the guts.

OSKAR *(timidly)* I do.

VALTER Prove it. You gonna do it?

OSKAR I am.

*Bear enters.*

BEAR Hey guys!

VALTER and OSKAR Hey!

BEAR *(appalled)* Have you been fighting again?

VALTER Why do you care?

BEAR I don't. Beer peace. *(takes a sip from his beer)*

VALTER Can't *you* fight?

BEAR It's just that when I was your age I was into girls and skateboarding.

OSKAR *(with admiration)* You're a skater?

BEAR Yeah...

VALTER *(doesn't let Bear answer)* We're not interested in chicks.

BEAR How can you not be?

VALTER They're dumb. Tell him, Oskar!

*Valter forces Oskar to tell Bear.*

VALTER They're annoying, right? Tell him!

OSKAR We have nothing to chat about.

BEAR I guess you know totally different girls than I do.

VALTER You like talking to girls? Are you gay or something?

BEAR I guess *you're* gay if you don't speak with them.

VALTER Euuugh.

OSKAR *(to Valter, jokingly)* So that's why you wanted me to follow you to the toilet.

VALTER That was different! That's enough! You're both faggots... and you can't even fight!

*Valter leaves, offended. He knocks into Oskar. Oskar falls. Bear helps him get up. Oskar doesn't like Bear touching him.*

BEAR Your pal is... temperamental.

*Oskar and Bear are quiet for a while. Oskar hesitates.*

OSKAR You're... not gay... are you?

BEAR *(convincingly)* No! Of course not! I've had so many women... I can prove it. I got hundreds of chicks' numbers in my cell phone.

OSKAR No worries. I've got nothing against gays. Everyone should live the way they want to.

BEAR My point exactly. Let everyone live however they want, as long as they don't restrict the freedom of somebody else.

OSKAR What's that?

BEAR That's anarchy... Punk rock. You know punk?

OSKAR *(ironically about funfair music)* Have you heard what music they play here?

BEAR Yeah, I have to take three painkillers every morning. I prefer listening to my own MP3 player. But the rest is great.

OSKAR Bear, why did you come here, to the funfair?

BEAR Excitement, traveling, new people... and you?

OSKAR I was born here?

BEAR Oh yeah. I forgot.

OSKAR Forgot? Why?

BEAR ... *(does not know what to say)* It's a secret.

OSKAR A disease?

BEAR Something like that.

OSKAR And out there? What's ordinary life like?

BEAR Depends. Sometimes it's sad, sometimes it's jolly. But you can't be sad around here. If you're feeling blue, you just take a ride on a roller-coaster.

OSKAR Where did you get that tattoo?

BEAR This one I got in Spain. It's an Indonesian symbol of a free spirit. And this one's from England, it's a bird, like I never let anyone put me in a cage.

OSKAR I wanna travel too.

BEAR You *are* traveling.

OSKAR I want to travel alone.

BEAR It's not good to be alone for too long.

OSKAR Aren't you something of a sailor?

BEAR I am. *(laughs)* There's a girlfriend in every harbor.

OSKAR My dad's a sailor too. Do you know him?

BEAR Guess not.

OSKAR You've got kids?

BEAR God forbid! I'm twenty-one!

OSKAR Pity.

BEAR Oskar, who's the chick at the shooting stalls?

OSKAR That's my mom.

BEAR *(disappointed)* Oh. And where's your dad?

OSKAR Mom says he lives on some kind of island.

BEAR Which one?

OSKAR I don't know. But when I find out, I'll go there. *(quietly)* I've got to go help mom now.

BEAR *(wanting to raise Oskar's spirits)* Don't you wanna take a ride in the bumping cars?

OSKAR They're not ours. It'd look strange.

BEAR Why?

OSKAR Hard to explain... Ours are only the shooting stalls and the children's arena.

## **5 .bears and teddies**

*ANNA and OSKAR.*

*OSKAR is helping out at the shooting stalls. ANNA enters, dressed top to bottom in clothes with bears on them. Including her socks.*

OSKAR What's that you're wearing?

ANNA You like it?

OSKAR How old are you?

ANNA Stop it!

OSKAR I'll call the fashion police to get you.

ANNA Is he gonna like it?

OSKAR Who?

ANNA Can't you see? I'm wearing it so that he gets it. That I like him.

OSKAR You're wearing teddies. Teddies eat honey. Do you wanna say you're sweet?

ANNA When you wear a Justin Bieber T-shirt, you like Justin. When you wear a Nirvana T-shirt, you like Nirvana. When you wear a bear, you like...

OSKAR Are you nuts?

*Anna takes off her undershirt. Another T-shirt with a bear is hidden underneath.*

ANNA Look at this!

*Oskar stares at her breasts.*

ANNA Isn't he sweet?

OSKAR *(recovers)* He's old.

ANNA So what? There's seven years difference between my mom and dad too.

OSKAR Yeah, but they didn't meet when they were twelve.

ANNA They did. Traveling with the funfair since they were kids.

OSKAR Oh.

ANNA You don't believe in love at first sight. Do you think Bear does?

OSKAR At *his* age? I doubt it.

ANNA You think he'll understand?

OSKAR And then you'll be a couple?

ANNA You're pretty smart for a fourteen-year-old, Oskar. *(boldly)* I'll ask him tonight. Look, there he is! *(ashamed)* Hide me!

## **6 .walterpedia**

*VALTER and OSKAR.*

*Evening. The funfair is closed. The boys are stuck talking on one of the attractions.*

VALTER Look what I've got.

OSKAR What's that?

VALTER Beer.

OSKAR Cool!

VALTER Isn't Bear cool?



OSKAR He's all right.

*They open the beer.*

VALTER He's totally cool.

OSKAR He gave you this?

VALTER Yeah. Want some?

OSKAR Dunno.

VALTER Don't be a chicken.

OSKAR Oh, all right.

*Valter hands the beer to Oskar.*

VALTER Today I worked at the *Salto Mortale*. There was a killer of a line. Some fifty people waiting for a ride. And there was this hot chick. I gave her a ride three times for free.

OSKAR What was her name?

VALTER Zuzka or something. I don't remember. I'm like Bear, get it?

OSKAR And then?

VALTER Then she told me that I'm cute and that she'll add me as a friend on Facebook and that we can meet tomorrow.

OSKAR That's cool.

VALTER It would be cool. But then the little rugrat shows up, takes her aside and then the hottie is gone.

OSKAR What did she tell her?

VALTER Don't know.

OSKAR You're still lucky though. Only guys or couples go to the shooting stalls. Today I had only like twenty people. There's no one to hit on even. And we make no money.

VALTER (*not listening*) I hate her. Always spoils the fun. And I could have kissed that chick. If I only had the chance to give her one more ride. This works with every one of them. But then dad closed the *Salto* down.

OSKAR Valter, how is it?

VALTER You have to take a ride and you'll see.

OSKAR Not the *Salto*, kissing a girl.

VALTER Read about it on Wikipedia.

OSKAR You can't even copy an essay from Wikipedia.

VALTER Oh, so try doing it with an orange. I can't tell you. You just open your mouth and do it. The other day I caught our Miss Clodhopper giving it a try.

OSKAR Really? Did you notice she looks different now?

VALTER Yeah. She dresses like the pink panther.

OSKAR They're growing. Her...

VALTER Teddies. Ha-ha. She's a silly baby. Knows nothing about life.

OSKAR She's starting to change.

VALTER Her face is changing, that's all, it's all pocky. Mom had a quiet word with her the other day and gave her a sanitary pad. She has menses now. You know what that is?

OSKAR No.

VALTER 'Men' like man, and 'ses' is sex in Japanese. She's got mansex. Can get pregnant.

OSKAR You keep insulting her.

VALTER That's not an insult. She's a woman. And it's the role of a woman... to give birth... Dad says that menses is a secret female thing which you shouldn't think about too much because then it'll bear down on your brain for the rest of your life for no reason.

OSKAR Mom never talks to me about things like this.

VALTER You think my folks talk to me? You can find everything on the web.

OSKAR On the web, well... I don't even know how much of it is true.

VALTER Quiet! She's coming!

OSKAR Let's hide!

VALTER You're gonna do it now! You got it?

## **7 .at your age**

*Like in the previous scene.*

ANNA and BEAR.

*ANNA is still wearing the clothes with bears. VALTER and OSKAR are spying on ANNA and BEAR.*

*During the conversation, BEAR is looking for his beer, not taking in ANNA'S signals. He's talking to her like to a child.*

ANNA Hi Bear!

BEAR *(talks to her like to a little girl)* Hi my little angel! You're dressed very pretty today.

ANNA You like it?

BEAR It suits you. You're a pretty little girl.

ANNA You know, I wear clothes with bears because...

BEAR Girls like you are into teddies.

ANNA More like into Bears.

BEAR And boys your age like beer. Have you seen my beer?

ANNA No. So you like me?

BEAR Of course I like you sweetheart.

ANNA I like you too.

BEAR You're a real honey.

ANNA So we're gonna...

BEAR Hear that? They're playing my favorite song. It's Nick Cave.

*Nick Cave is heard from the funfair. Bear starts singing.*

BEAR What were you saying? Wanna dance?

ANNA Of course.

BEAR I gave them my CD. They kept playing oontz-oontz-oontz all the time... *(sings)*... *Are you the one that I've been waiting for...*

*Anna and Bear are dancing about two feet apart. Oskar enters with the intention to pull down Anna's pants. He watches them.*

BEAR Once I was listening to this song and I... *(doesn't finish)* started going out with a girl.

ANNA You still together?

BEAR Not anymore. She found someone else.

ANNA Oh. You still like her?

BEAR No. She's a slut. *(realizes)* Sorry. I don't like her.

ANNA Will you fall in love again?

BEAR Oh yeah. I can fall in love really quickly.

ANNA Bear, would you go out...

*Oskar can't do it. Bear notices him. Oskar pulls down his own pants and tries to look inconspicuous.*

BEAR Oskar!? You took my beer?

OSKAR No! *(runs)*

*BEAR runs after Oskar.*

## 8 .plan C

*Like in the previous scene.*

OSKAR and VALTER

OSKAR runs to VALTER to hide.

VALTER You're such a sissy. You'll be the death of me.

OSKAR I just couldn't.

VALTER Why not?

OSKAR 'Cause she's a girl.

VALTER We gotta be nasty to girls.

OSKAR Oh I don't know.

VALTER Don't worry, while you were out there, I thought of something even better. You noticed how she's totally mad about Bear? You'll write her something as Bear and arrange a date. You're a good writer in school.

OSKAR I'm not gonna do it.

VALTER I've read your poems. This could just work.

OSKAR What poems?

VALTER Oh don't pretend you don't know. Those you keep under your pillow.

OSKAR You had no right to do that. *(Wants to hit him.)*

VALTER Are you nuts? You'll write the kind of shit that you're gaga about her and so. She'll come and we'll like tie her to a tree. Have some more beer.

*Oskar drinks the beer.*

VALTER You gonna do it?

OSKAR Don't know.

VALTER Don't know what?! You my pal or what? I fight for you every day 'cause you're a gypsy. Your dad's a gypsy, my folks told me.

OSKAR My dad's not a gypsy!

VALTER Just look in the mirror! Your dad's a gypsy, you're a bastard and you're poor! Why should I be your friend?

## **9 .own goal**

*A few days later. Another town. At the funfair.*

*OSKAR and BEAR*

BEAR Can I help you and your mom today?

OSKAR You shouldn't. We're not paying you.

BEAR I like to help. For free.

OSKAR I'm helping her enough.

BEAR Do you know what your mom likes?

OSKAR Me.

BEAR I'm sure. But do you have any idea what flowers she likes? Or what sweets?

OSKAR She likes thistles and cocoa-mint candy.

BEAR A decadent woman. I like that.

OSKAR Actually, no. I think she likes these... stinky flowers.

BEAR No kidding. And she drinks beer or wine?

OSKAR Water! Just water.

BEAR Very original.

OSKAR You're a thief!

BEAR What?

## 10 .the letter he wrote

*A few days later. At the funfair. Afternoon.*

OSKAR and ANNA

ANNA Hey Oskar!

OSKAR Hey.

ANNA You won't believe what happened. I got a letter from Bear.

OSKAR Oh yeah?

ANNA Yeah. He's mad about me too.

OSKAR Really? What did he write?

ANNA It's incredibly romantic. You're not gonna laugh?

OSKAR No.

ANNA You really want to hear it?

OSKAR I wanna see your face when you tell me.

ANNA You'll laugh at me.

OSKAR I swear I won't.

ANNA Here, read!

*Oskar reads the letter he wrote to Anna.*

OSKAR We're breathing mouth-to-mouth

with the warmest kisses

our lips are trembling, wet and sore

And I'll get lost in your embrace

until you find me again

like you found me before

I'll wait for you tomorrow on the green bench when the fair closes. Bear.

ANNA Isn't it romantic?

OSKAR You like it?

ANNA It's a little like this Cave song he sang to me. I looked it up on the web. Are you the one that I've been waiting for?

OSKAR Listen Anna, what would you say if I got a tattoo?

ANNA What tattoo?

OSKAR A bird. Like I have a free spirit.

ANNA What for?

OSKAR Bear's got one too.

ANNA Yeah? I never noticed 'cause I'm still studying just his face.

OSKAR And what do you see?

ANNA He's perfect. A little bit like Johnny Depp.

OSKAR And what if I got a tattoo? That wouldn't be perfect?

ANNA You're too young.

OSKAR And you're too young to go out with an old boy like that. They only want one thing.

ANNA You're stupid.

OSKAR He only wants to hump you.

ANNA You're a jerk.

OSKAR Sorry.

ANNA I don't like you.

OSKAR Anna... don't go...

ANNA You're not gonna tell me what to do.



## 11 .a hanging man

VALTER and OSKAR

*They are waiting for ANNA next to the bench.*

VALTER She got the letter?

OSKAR Yeah.

VALTER And?

OSKAR She's all gooey.

VALTER She's coming!

*Valter welcomes Anna.*

VALTER Welcome! Sis!

ANNA What are you doing here?! I'll tell mom. Valter, you're supposed to be home doing your homework. Mom's waiting for you.

VALTER I don't do homework. I'm a funfair guy. I don't have to study. And I know everything about funfairs!

ANNA (*ironic*) Ha-ha! You'll flunk your Slovak class.

VALTER And what's that to do with you? Oskar do I speak Slovak?

OSKAR Yeah.

VALTER See Anna, I can speak. How can I flunk the class? I'll tell mom and dad you're loafing around at night.

ANNA I'm not! I just wanted a ride on the *Salto*.

VALTER The *Salto* is switched off now.

ANNA And so what? I can switch it on anytime I want.

VALTER You can't! Even I can't do that.

ANNA Mom and dad said I could.

VALTER Don't lie! Why'd you come?

ANNA Why do you care?

OSKAR You came to see Bear, didn't you?

ANNA You're a jerk, Oskar! Why did you tell him?

VALTER He didn't tell me anything. I just know everything. *(he laughs)*

*Valter recites the lines from Oskar's letter.*

VALTER *(with irony)* We're breathing mouth to mouth... that's like Baywatch.

ANNA Oskar! I thought you were my friend.

VALTER Let's tie her up and hang her up on a tree. Come on!

*Oskar is handing the rope over to Valter to tie Anna up.*

OSKAR I can't.

VALTER You can't?! You always say that! When you'll want to lose your virginity, are you gonna say that you can't?!

ANNA *(struggling)* Mommy! Heeelp!

VALTER Help me!

*Oskar is not helping Valter. He just stands aside.*

VALTER *(realizes)* You have a crush on her!

ANNA You have a crush on me?

OSKAR Me?

VALTER You're such a dumbass. You really meant it in that letter. Why didn't I notice this earlier?

*Valter ties Anna up. Oskar runs away.*

VALTER *(yelling after him)* Oskar! Just that you know... this is the end of our friendship! It's over!

ANNA Help!

VALTER *(to Anna, seriously)* You tell someone I did this and I'm gonna kill you. I don't care we're family.

## 12 .valterissimo

*BEAR and VALTER*

*Morning the next day. VALTER is on his way to school.*

BEAR *(worried)* Did you see Oskar?

VALTER No. I guess I don't want to see him again.

BEAR Something happened?

VALTER Nothing you should stick your nose into.

BEAR They found Anna last night, tied to a tree.

VALTER *(feigns surprise)* Really?

BEAR Yeah.

VALTER And?

BEAR Do you know something about it?

VALTER *(lying)* Last night I had a date with this chick I met at the *Salto Mortale*. I know nothing. Did she say who did it to her?

BEAR No. She won't say a word. And Oskar disappeared. Ran away from home.

VALTER And what if it was him?

BEAR Why would he do it?

VALTER Jealousy.

BEAR Jealousy? Of who?

VALTER I gotta tell you something but it has to be our secret.

BEAR Shoot.

VALTER Oskar found out that Anna likes you. He has a crush on her so he arranged a meeting at the bench and when she rejected him, he did it and then ran away from home.

*(Overwhelmed by his lie.)* I guess that's why I'm not talking to him.

BEAR But Anna's just a little girl.

VALTER I keep telling him that. Anna's a baby, I say, but he won't listen.

BEAR Shit!

VALTER Well... she likes you. That's too bad, huh?

BEAR Little girls sometimes fall in love with older boys. It's normal.

OSKAR Well, but she has menses. She wants men and sex.

BEAR Valter you're such a child.

VALTER What? *(offended)* Me?

BEAR Oskar's mom will flip out if we don't find him. You know where he could've gone?

VALTER No idea.

### **13 .big brother**

*Three days later. In the funfair.*

*ANNA and BEAR*

*BEAR is very nice to ANNA.*

*VALTER watches them. ANNA notices him.*

BEAR It's been three days. Do you know why Oskar ran away?

*Anna shakes her head.*

BEAR You don't? You can tell me everything.

*Anna is silent.*

BEAR He would sometimes get into a fight. Did he?

ANNA *shakes her head.*

BEAR Want a lolly?

*Anna takes the lolly from Bear.*

BEAR Don't be sad. I'm now dating Oskar's mom. She needs someone to support her. But if it doesn't work out, you can write to me, when you're seventeen, or sixteen...

*Anna laughs. She writes "OSKAR DIDN'T DO IT" on her arm and shows it to Bear.*

BEAR *(doesn't understand)* What?

*Anna writes "VALTER" on her arms and shows it to Bear again. The second time, Bear understands.*

BEAR *(acting)* We really can't be a couple.

ANNA Doesn't matter. *(with pathos, but seriously)* You will always stay in my heart.

## **14 .ring a ring o' roses**

*Two days later. Still the same town. At the funfair.*

*ANNA and VALTER*

VALTER Did you babble it out to anyone yet?

ANNA No.

VALTER So why did *you* get the MP3 player from mom and dad, and not me?

ANNA 'Cause I've got good grades and they found me tied to a tree.

VALTER We were supposed to be in a different town by now. This school sucks.

ANNA 'Cause your dumb.

VALTER I'm not! But I don't swot up. I'm not going to school!

ANNA Well don't.

VALTER You bet I'm not.

ANNA None of us will go anywhere until Oskar is found. So think it over and spill the beans.

VALTER It's always about Oskar or you.

ANNA 'Cause you're a jerk.

VALTER Shut up, or I'll do something to you!

ANNA I'm not afraid of you. I'll tell them about what you did.

VALTER You won't, or I'll break your arms!

ANNA You'd never do that.

VALTER You think?

ANNA I don't understand why you're so bad.

VALTER What do you know about being bad? I'll get transferred to a different school, away from you.

ANNA Suits me!

VALTER Don't you dare follow me.

*Angry, Valter leaves for school.*

## **15 .how I am**

*Like in the previous scene.*

*VALTER bumps into OSKAR. OSKAR is dressed just like BEAR. His arms are tattooed all over with chewing gum tattoos.*

*VALTER and OSKAR*

*ANNA can see them.*

VALTER Oh, mom's darling is back!

OSKAR Shut up!

VALTER I hope I was never gonna see you again.

OSKAR I would have to be invisible.

VALTER Say what?

OSKAR I said shut up.

VALTER Or what? You're gonna beat me up?

*Oskar stops, looks at Valter, but doesn't hit him. He passes Valter by and continues walking.*

VALTER You're a gypsy hobo.

OSKAR Oh yeah?

VALTER A hobo can never go out with my sister!

OSKAR It doesn't matter who I am. What matters is what I am like.

VALTER What *are* you like?

OSKAR Here, have a gum. Take it.

*Oskar gives Valter a chewing gum.*

VALTER Go to hell!

*Valter leaves.*

## **16 .owoooo**

*Like in the previous scene.*

ANNA, OSKAR

*ANNA runs up to OSKAR and throws her arms around him.*

OSKAR'S demeanor is completely different now. He acts tough.

ANNA Oskar!

OSKAR Hey! Hey! At ease! *(pulls out from Anna's grip)* Call me by my new name. My name is Woolf now.

*Oskar imitates a wolf.*

ANNA Oskar, you look great! Where have you been?

OSKAR I've been in reality.

ANNA And this here? What's this?

OSKAR Dunno. It's like a video game.

ANNA *(doesn't get it)* Heh.

OSKAR As if I didn't live my life. As if I didn't even control it, but my life controlled me.

ANNA Cool tattoos. Where'd you get them?

OSKAR Chewing gums. I chewed at least a hundred gums to get these.

ANNA Why?

OSKAR 'Cause I couldn't sleep.

ANNA Where did you sleep?

OSKAR In the forest.

ANNA Weren't you afraid?

OSKAR I killed a wolf with my bare hands. That's why my name is Woolf now.

ANNA This is awesome! Where did you want to run away?

OSKAR First I wanted to find my father, but then I realized it's stupid. First because I don't know what island he lives on, and second, because even if he didn't live on an island, but in a village called Island, in the county of Sobrance, it's just stupid trying to find him if he doesn't want to find me.

ANNA I'm glad you're back.



OSKAR Stop it! I came back to take some food and I'll be gone again. I'm like a wolf.

*He imitates a wolf.*

ANNA (*watches him with admiration*) Don't leave me alone here.

OSKAR You have Bear.

ANNA I don't.

OSKAR So?

ANNA And... go show your face at home. So your mom's not scared.

OSKAR I don't care about her...

ANNA You have a dad at home.

## **17 .beer brothers**

*Like in the previous scene. In the funfair. In front of the shooting stalls.*

*OSKAR and BEAR*

BEAR Don't be mad, Oskar. I like your mom.

OSKAR You're gonna be my dad now?

BEAR Dunno, we can be friends.

OSKAR You're gonna tell me how to dress?

BEAR You can wear whatever you want.

OSKAR You're gonna tell me what to do?

BEAR I'm not good at that. Do whatever you want as long as you don't restrict others.

OSKAR Punk?

BEAR Punk.

OSKAR Are you gonna tell me I can't run away from home?

BEAR Don't you dare run away from home!

OSKAR You're a great dad.

BEAR Thanks. Want a beer?

OSKAR Sure.

BEAR Oh, you're not eighteen yet. I always forget.

OSKAR It was horrible.

BEAR What?

OSKAR Out there.

BEAR Told you.

OSKAR I know, dad.

BEAR Don't you wanna call me Bear instead? I can't get used to this. And by the way, the thistle and cocoa-mint candy worked. Thanks pal, I owe you one.

## **18 .run rabbit run**

*In the funfair. Evening.*

*ANNA is dressed in clothes with wolves, top to bottom.*

*She comes to see OSKAR at the shooting stalls.*

OSKAR What's that you're wearing?

ANNA You like it?

OSKAR How old are you?

ANNA Haven't you noticed anything?

OSKAR When you like Justin Bieber, you wear Justin on your T-shirt. When you like Nirvana...

ANNA Wanna take a ride with me? On my favorite centrifuge?

OSKAR Which one is that?

ANNA The *Salto Mortale*.

OSKAR Dunno.

ANNA Have you been on it?

OSKAR No.

ANNA Are you scared?

OSKAR No.

ANNA You got any more of the poems like you wrote for me the other day?

OSKAR Maybe.

ANNA Valter just flunked the Slovak class.

OSKAR I don't give a damn about Valter.

*A slow song is heard in the funfair.*

ANNA Bear is playing that for you. It's Nick Cave.

OSKAR So?

ANNA You dance?

OSKAR I'm a real klutz.

ANNA Pleeease!

*Oskar goes to dance with Anna.*

ANNA Once they played this song and I... (*doesn't finish*) ... didn't start going out with one boy.

OSKAR I noticed.

ANNA So I'm available.

OSKAR Uhm.

ANNA You still like me?

OSKAR Maybe.

*Anna kisses Oskar.*

OSKAR I... I'm taking a break from love. See you.

*Oskar leaves.*

## **19 .like a bird**

*The same evening. funfair.*

*At the Salto Mortale. VALTER and BEAR are operating the centrifuge.*

*ANNA, BEAR, VALTER*

BEAR Don't be sad. When you're sad, take a ride.

ANNA This is probably the only good idea I've heard today.

VALTER You bet, little sis. Oskar is not worth it. He's a jerk.

ANNA You're right. He's a jerk.

VALTER Go take a ride!

ANNA I don't know.

BEAR Come on. It'll make you feel better.

ANNA All right. I'm going.

*Anna climbs into the Salto Mortale. Valter fastens her safety belt.*

ANNA Is this fastened strong enough? I didn't hear the click of the safety lock.

VALTER You didn't 'cause your head is still full of Oskar. Don't worry, the *Salto* will blow him out of there.

ANNA You're too kind, Valter.

VALTER Blood is not water. We're the same blood, right?

ANNA I knew that when you get older we'll be friends.

VALTER The time has come.

*Valter gestures to Bear to start the centrifuge.*

VALTER Ready!

*The centrifuge starts up. It is slowly set in motion. Anna is laughing. When she's on the very top, she realizes she's not fastened. She tries to hold on with her arms. She tries to fasten her safety belt.*

BEAR Something happened! Look up there! She's not fastened!

VALTER Wait, I'll turn it off!

*But instead of turning it off, Valter switches the Salto Mortale to maximum speed. Anna can no longer hold on to her seat. She falls.*

BEAR What have you done? Shit! Help!

*BEAR runs toward Ann. Oskar comes running in.*

OSKAR Anna! Anna!

*Oskar holds Anna in his arms. They're looking at each other. He kisses her.*

## **20 .pain in the ass**

*The next day. The funfair.*

*BEAR and VALTER, later also OSKAR*

*BEAR has packed up and is about to leave the funfair.*

BEAR So you're not gonna own up?

VALTER Wasn't my fault.

BEAR You should've checked the safety lock.

VALTER I think *you* should've checked all locks after every ride. Isn't that so?

BEAR You said you'd do it.

VALTER I checked it.

BEAR You could've killed her.

VALTER Me?

BEAR Valter! You almost killed her! She was lucky to get away with just a concussion and a few fractures.

VALTER But I'm just a child. I couldn't have done anything. Kids are not supposed to operate a centrifuge.

BEAR You don't look like a child to me... You don't have to own up just because of me... I'll leave. Everyone hates me here anyway. I have nothing to do here. But do it for yourself.

VALTER To have my folks punish me? To make my life even more annoying than it is?

BEAR *You've* made it annoying.

*Bear leaves. Oskar enters.*

OSKAR Is the jerk gone now?

VALTER Don't worry, I'll protect you against him. I'll fight for you.