

THE CORRESPONDENCE

Psychological Thriller

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1. INT. CIRCUS ENTRANCE - DAY

KAROLINA (19) scans tickets. An ADMINISTRATOR (24) arrives and stands nearby, leaning against the wall.

KAROLINA  
(to the audience)  
Hello! Do you have e-tickets?

ADMINISTRATOR  
(from behind)  
Smile.

Karolina forces a smile, which immediately turns into disgust. She looks down at her feet, then back at the audience.

The Administrator leaves.

2. INT. BREAK ROOM - DAY

Karolina sits with her arms crossed. She looks at her phone. Types into the search bar: "Trainer job for beginners." Scrolls through the feed. Her face is twisted with anger and despair, her mouth contorted, her eyes squinting.

3. INT. CIRCUS HALL - EVENING

Karolina walks toward the exit. She runs into the Administrator.

ADMINISTRATOR  
(slapping her on the  
shoulder)  
So, did you practice that smile?

Karolina forces a smile, then goes blank.

KAROLINA  
Yes. Goodbye.

Karolina leaves.

4. INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Karolina eats buckwheat. She looks at the clock, at the empty room. Tears begin to roll down her cheeks. She wipes them with her hand, continuing to eat.

Her phone vibrates.

**FAKE:** "Hey. Let's play a role-playing game."

Karolina checks the account — there's a photo of Batman. She replies: "Hey, which one?" She stops crying, looking at the screen with interest.

**FAKE:** "I'm Bruce Wayne, you're Selina Kyle. Check out the comics."

Karolina types into the search bar: "Bruce Wayne and Selina Kyle." She looks at pictures of Batman and Catwoman.

**FAKE:** "Or do you want it in real life?"

Karolina sits up straight and types: "Yes, I looked."

**FAKE:** "You need to be uninhibited for that. Let's do it here. Ready?"

Karolina looks at the wall, then replies: "Yes."

**FAKE:** "I want you. Do you want me?"

Karolina frowns, flushes, looks at the photo again, and blocks the sender.

## 5. INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Karolina brews coffee. She picks up her phone and opens the chat. Reads the last messages. Holds her finger over the "Unblock" button. Takes a sip of coffee and presses it. Turns off notifications. Puts the phone face down.

She picks up the phone again and opens the chat.

**FAKE:** "You look so sad. And a little angry. Don't be sad, you have me."

Karolina stares at the message without blinking, puts her mug in the sink, and leaves the kitchen, eyes fixed on the screen.

## 6. INT. BREAK ROOM - DAY

Karolina enters the small room. She sits at the table and takes out a salad from her backpack. Starts eating with a plastic fork. She opens the social network.

**FAKE:** "Where are you? Oh, you're on a break."

She turns off the screen, finishes her salad, and throws away the container. Opens the chat.

**Message:** "Come to the exit."

Karolina clenches her jaw, looks at the fake's profile picture, stands up, and leaves.

## 7. INT. CIRCUS HALL - DAY

Karolina walks past the entrance, looking around. Scans the passersby. She meets SASHA (23). He stops.

KAROLINA

Are you the one waiting for me at the entrance?

SASHA

(stepping back)

What are you talking about?

KAROLINA

About the correspondence.

SASHA

Are you even on VK?

KAROLINA

(aggressively)

Yes, so what?

Karolina looks at him and walks on.

## 8. INT. CIRCUS AUDITORIUM - DAY

Karolina stands near the seating area. Sasha walks past her. He approaches Nastya (23) and whispers in her ear.

Karolina watches them. Nastya turns to Karolina and spins her finger at her temple.

Karolina's eyes widen. She looks anxiously at the audience, shifting from foot to foot. The show begins. Karolina scans the audience with her eyes, distracted by the performers.

## 9. INT. BREAK ROOM - EVENING

Karolina gathers her things. A notification arrives.

**FAKE:** "Don't look at guys, I'm jealous."

Karolina quickly blocks the fake, exhales, and leaves.

## 10. INT. STORE - MORNING

Karolina stocks shelves. She looks at the snack bars, then at her phone screen. Takes a chocolate bar and heads to the checkout.

The DIRECTOR drags a customer by the scruff of his neck. Karolina watches them in surprise.

DIRECTOR  
Going to steal again, huh?  
(pause)  
Come on, let's talk...

The Director drags the customer deeper into the store. A door slams. The Director's muffled yelling is heard.

Karolina stares in the direction the Director went.

CASHIER  
Miss, are you going to pay?

Karolina startles, frantically searches for her card, and pays. She takes the chocolate and walks toward where the Director was.

EIGHT HOURS LATER

11. INT. SERV ENTRANCE - EVENING

Karolina makes her way through pallets of goods toward the exit.

DIRECTOR  
Get your money?

KAROLINA  
Not yet, I think.

DIRECTOR  
They'll come in the evening.  
(smiling)  
Thanks for your work.

12. EXT. STREET - EVENING

Karolina walks down the street. She takes out her phone, opens the chat, looks at the screen with tired eyes. Unblocks it.

Almost immediately, a message arrives.

**FAKE:** "Happy March 8th, wonder woman. Or are you catwoman? I'm confused."

Karolina looks around angrily, then types: "Idiot."

**FAKE:** "Or are you just a woman."

Karolina blocks the screen. Puts the phone in her backpack. Exhales. A faint smile appears on her face.

## 13. ONE MONTH LATER

## 14. EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Karolina walks down the street with her hands in her pockets. She holds her head high.

A group of people approaches with SLAVA (19). Slava walks hand in hand with a girl.

When they draw level, Karolina lowers her head. Slava looks at her until the last moment – Karolina doesn't notice.

She turns her head toward him, but he lowers his gaze, tilting his head to the side.

Karolina smiles, straightens her back. She glances back at Slava. Checks her phone. Nothing.

## 15. INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Karolina lies in bed with the lights off. Stares at the ceiling. Rubs her face. Then looks at her phone. Turns it over in her hands. Quickly opens the chat.

**FAKE:** "I fell in love, the way I did the first time I saw you..."

Karolina lingers on the message, rereads it several times. Blocks the fake and slams the phone down on the nightstand. Hides under the covers.

## 16. INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

Karolina looks out the window.

**FLASHBACK**

## 17. INT. HOSTEL - DAY

Karolina dresses in the locker room. At the entrance, a CHECHEN MAN appears and blocks her way. He looks at her resolutely.

KAROLINA  
(angrily)  
Move.

CHECHEN MAN  
Let's go to the stairwell. We need  
to talk.

Karolina tries to push him, but the Chechen man doesn't move.

KAROLINA

Don't you understand me?

Karolina ducks under his arm, which he has braced against the wall. The Chechen man watches her go.

CHECHEN MAN

I missed my flight because of you.

The Chechen man swings his arm in frustration. Punches the wall.

**END FLASHBACK**

18. INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Karolina calls her FATHER. Long beeps. She paces back and forth, throwing her head back. Looks out the window at the courtyard.

KAROLINA

Hey...

(pause)

I need to get my brain checked...

(pause)

I think I'm being followed.

FATHER

(on the phone)

You just have ordinary neur-as-the-nia.

KAROLINA

I need to see a doctor.

FATHER

I'll make you an appointment with a GP.

19. INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Karolina tosses and turns in bed. Gets up, goes to the mirror. Looks at her stomach. Starts sobbing. Rubs her side. Picks up her phone and dials "112."

KAROLINA

(on the phone)

There's a chip inside me...

(pause)

I'm being watched...

Karolina looks at herself in the mirror. Calms down.

KAROLINA

Come. Before it's too late.

## 20. INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Karolina picks up a knife, brings it to her stomach. Starts crying. Brings the blade to her skin.

A knock at the door.

**SMASH CUT TO BLACK**

**BACK TO SCENE**

## 21. INT. HOSPITAL WARD - MORNING

Karolina wakes up and looks at her hospital gown. Sits up.

A NURSE (42) enters.

NURSE

Your parents are here for you. Come on.

Karolina stands up, swaying, and follows the Nurse.

## 22. INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - MORNING

MOTHER (44) and FATHER (46) stand looking at Karolina with fear. Karolina looks back at them with relaxed eyes. Her lips tremble from the cold.

FATHER

Cold?

KAROLINA

Y-yes.

Mother hugs Karolina.

MOTHER

We brought your things.

The Nurse takes Karolina by the hand.

NURSE

You're not allowed to see her. Say goodbye.

Karolina leaves with the Nurse. She looks back at her parents over her shoulder. Lowers her head.

## 23. INT. HOSPITAL WARD - DAY

ROOMMATE (26) sits drawing faces with markers.

ROOMMATE

How did you end up here?

The Roommate puts down the drawings and looks at Karolina, smiling.

KAROLINA  
I have paranoid psychosis.

The Roommate looks at Karolina, who sits with her legs tucked under her.

KAROLINA  
And you?

ROOMMATE  
Schizophrenia.

Karolina straightens her legs.

KAROLINA  
How does it show?

ROOMMATE  
Voices, visions. Here...

The Roommate hands Karolina some drawings. Karolina looks at dozens of identical faces drawn on paper. She stares intently at one drawing. Puts it aside.

KAROLINA  
How do they treat you here?

ROOMMATE  
Pills, pills, pills...

Karolina sighs. Looks out the window. Then at the Roommate.

#### 24. INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - EVENING

Karolina sits in front of a PSYCHIATRIST (55). The Psychiatrist takes notes, smiling. He looks at her, adjusting his glasses.

PSYCHIATRIST  
What do you think your diagnosis is?

KAROLINA  
(quietly)  
Paranoia.

PSYCHIATRIST  
You have delusions.

The Psychiatrist looks at the Nurse. Winks at her.

PSYCHIATRIST  
So, who was following you?

KAROLINA  
I don't know...

PSYCHIATRIST  
And now — do you still see  
Chechens?

Karolina looks at her hospital gown. Shakes her head.

**SMASH CUT TO BLACK**

**BACK TO SCENE**

Karolina looks out the window, phone to her ear.

KAROLINA  
No one writes to me anymore...

FATHER  
I think you made up that whole  
correspondence.

KAROLINA  
(sighing)  
Maybe.

Karolina smiles. Hangs up and flops onto the bed with her laptop. Opens it.

On the screen — the Batman logo.

Karolina presses the play button. The title "BATMAN" fills the entire screen.

Karolina lies there, resting her face on her hands.

FLASHBACK

25. TITLE: FOUR YEARS AGO

26. INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

KAROLINA sits in the same row as VANYA(16) and VENYA(16).

VANYA  
Karolin, do you know Bruce?

KAROLINA  
Williams?

VANYA  
Wayne.

KAROLINA  
Who's that?

VANYA  
 Batman. It's Slava's favorite  
 movie.

Vanya takes notes.

VANYA  
 (to Venya)  
 Then why does she act like that?

Karolina listens, head lowered.

VENYA  
 I think it's a strategy. Guess she  
 can't attract attention any other  
 way.  
 (THEN)

VENYA (CONT'D)  
 I'm more into physics right now.

VANYA  
 Yeah, right...

Karolina stares at her desk.

## 27. INT. SCHOOL CORRIDOR - DAY

Classmates(16) sit on a bench with KAROLINA. Karolina listens  
 to the conversation.

CLASSMATE  
 I love superheroes. You?

FRIEND  
 Oh yes! My favorite character is  
 Harley Quinn. What's yours?

CLASSMATE  
 Superman.  
 (pause)  
 What about yours?

The CLASSMATE(16) looks at KAROLINA.

CLASSMATE  
 (whispering)  
 Catwoman.

KAROLINA  
 I don't like comics...

CLASSMATE  
 Did you ever have any comics?

KAROLINA  
Mom gave me one for New Year's.  
About Superman.

CLASSMATE  
Are you on Facebook?

KAROLINA  
(warily)  
Yes...

CLASSMATE  
For how long?

KAROLINA  
The last time I logged in was four  
years ago.

TITLE: FOUR MORE YEARS AGO

28. INT. BEDROOM - DAY

KAROLINA sits on the bed. She opens a search bar and types:  
woman.

The search results show a woman in a cat mask. Karolina  
stares intently and saves the image. She sets it as her  
Facebook profile picture.

END FLASHBACK

29. FADE TO BLACK

THE END