

SUBURBAN STANDOFF AUDITIONS

SIDE: **SONYA / PETER**

[Sonya and Peter enter a clearing in a forest to find a little wooden Russian Orthodox cross.]

Peter: You're sure there are no dead bodies left?

Sonya: Yes. Unless they added new ones. But we are in the woods, so you can be sick wherever you like.

Peter: Thanks. How much further?

Sonya: We are here.

Peter: Where?

Sonya: "X" marks the spot.

Peter: I thought there'd be more to it than that. This is a major historical site. And all they've got to show for it are a couple of crossed sticks?

Sonya: And some flowers.

Peter: Yeah, but that mineshaft gets seven churches. I mean, that's a bit stupid.

Sonya: This is true. It is stupid. But I like this place better as it is. Here, there is no admission fee. The faith of the Russian peasant is not exploited. If I did not bring those scarves we would have been forced to buy overpriced new ones.

Peter: Really?

Sonya: And the gift shop, Bozhe moy, everything is for sale; iconoclastic T-shirts, purses and mugs with the Virgin Mary on them.

Peter: Bea will like that.

Sonya: God created a forest, and men cut down the forest to create churches in the name of God. But here the forest remains, as God's

intended cathedral. You see how the sun shines through the branches like a natural stained glass window?

Peter: Oh yeah.

Sonya: You need not pay admission to find spirituality; you may simply walk into a forest and feel a warmth that has traveled across a solar system to touch your face.

Peter: Wow.

Sonya: Eight minutes and twenty seconds.

Peter: What's that?

Sonya: That's how long it takes for sunlight to reach us.

Peter: That long?

Sonya: Considering it's a distance of fifteen hundred million kilometres, I think eight minutes and twenty seconds is pretty fast.

Peter: Too bad the others didn't come. I think my mom would've appreciated this more than the churches.

Sonya: We should head back soon. The next train will not wait for us.

Peter: Thanks for bringing me here. This was kind of cool.

Sonya: I was happy to share it with you.

Peter: Think we'll have time for that gift shop?

Sonya: If we hurry.

Peter: I'm just curious to see it.

Sonya: I think you will appreciate the wide selection of Jesus fridge magnets.

Peter: If only I had a fridge.

END OF SIDE