

General Acknowledgements:

Thanks to Francine du Plessix Gray whose article about Mayakovsky and her mother in *The New Yorker* magazine in 2002 inspired this project.

All OnewOrd[®] translations performed using AltaVista's Babelfish program. I wrote the dialogue in English then translated it into French and then back to English. Even this had to be modified to make sense. I initially tried using Russian instead of French but the results were surreal.

References in the Text:

Please visit my Google library for more information on these and other books:

http://books.google.com/books?as_list=B DV2sbC0Q3diy66KuvpUBGhSSJJ6g5y1nXhbp-iFG680-tJSDUw&hl=en

Chapter 1:

"This story isn't true."

Socrates quoting Steisichorus, Plato's *Phaedrus*, 243a from Martha Nussbaum's book *The Fragility of Goodness: Luck and Ethics in Greek Tragedy and Philosophy*, Cambridge University Press, 2001

"There he is that great, browed quiet scientist..."

from the poem "About That" translated by Herbert Marshall in *Vladimir Mayakovsky and His Poetry*, Pilot Press, 1942

Chapter 2

"They heard poetry: 'early spring' and 'blood chits,' 'blue bark' and the 'beaten zone.'

For more on the meaning of these terms see

<http://www.militaryterms.info/>

"In our hearts, we are innocent."

A line from William Carlos Williams's poem, "The Orchestra"

To hear the author reading his complete poem, go to

<http://writing.upenn.edu/pennsound/x/Williams-WC.html>

Chapter 4:

"I'm an alligator...freak out in a Moonage daydream, oh yeah."

Lyrics to "Moonage Daydream" from David Bowie's 1972 album *The Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust and The Spiders From Mars*.

<http://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/davidbowie/moonagedaydream.html>

Chapter 5:

"You can translate this ...tongue to the cross of their own suspenders." Mayakovsky, quoted in *The Life of Mayakovsky* by Wiktor Woroszyński, translated by Boleslaw Taborski, Orion Press, 1971.

Chapter 6:

"IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD AND THE WORD WAS GOOD" see John 1:1 <http://bible.cc/john/1-1.htm>

"To All: Do not charge anyone with the responsibility for my death and, please, do not gossip...The State Publishing House."

From Mayakovsky's suicide letter, quoted in Woroszyński, *The Life of Vladimir Mayakovsky*, Orion Press, 1971.

Chapter 7

"I love you. I love you, despite everything and because of everything...love this situation is completely ruled out., "

from *Love is the Heart of Everything: Correspondence between Vladimir Mayakovsky and Lili Brik*, edited by Bengt Jangfeldt translated by Julian Graffy, Grove Press, 1987.

Chapter 8:

"Upon our arrival at Madmoiselle D.'s apartment—later transformed into a veritable museum... would reject all group discipline was already coming through."

Benedict Lyvshits quoted in Woroszyński, *The Life of Vladimir Mayakovsky*, Orion Press, 1971.

Chapter 9:

"Don't be alarmed if a mountain of women... heart of a madman." Mayakovsky's poem "The Cloud in Trousers," from *The Bedbug and Selected Poetry*, translated by Max Hayward and George Reavey, Indiana University Press, 1975.

"And the Lord said, 'Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language; and this is only the beginning...face of the earth.'" Genesis 11: 1-9.
<http://www.omniglot.com/babel/index.htm>

Chapter 11:

"Moscow was starving... advanced menacingly on the anarchists."

Lev Nikulin, quoted in Woroszylski's, *The Life of Vladimir Mayakovsky*, Orion Press, 1971.

"Mayakovsky was a dandy... his insolence that I replied, 'not much.'"

Lili Brik quoted in Woroszylski, *The Life of Vladimir Mayakovsky*, Orion Press, 1971.

"It was all painted true to life...instead of feet."

Elsa Triolet quoted in Woroszylski, *The Life of Vladimir Mayakovsky*.

"And how simple it all was...unexplained misunderstanding."

Boris Pasternak quoted in Woroszylski, *The Life of Vladimir Mayakovsky*.

Chapter 12:

"The Briks lived in Polyuektovyi...but not so hard."

Viktor Shklovsky quoted in Woroszylski, *The Life of Vladimir Mayakovsky*.

"Peasants, if you can't draw the conclusion yourself - here it is: at icons don't gawk and gasp..."

a ROSTA poster by Mayakovsky translated by Herbert Marshall in *Vladimir Mayakovsky and His Poetry*, Pilot Press, 1942

"Decree No. 1 on the Democratization of Art"

quoted in Woroszylski, *The Life of Vladimir Mayakovsky*.

Chapter 13:

"And therefore when any one of these pantomimic gentlemen... education of our soldiers." from Plato's *Republic*, translated by Benjamin Jowett

<http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/republic.6.v.html>

"We must be careful and kind while there is still time."

from Phillip Larkin's poem "The Mower" www.poemhunter.com/poem/the-mower

Chapter 14:

"Or, perhaps she should say that writing their stories, she feels as if she were standing on her tiptoes on a ladder, trying to reach the sweetest apple on the top-most branch."

Imagery from Anne Carson's, *Eros the Bittersweet*, Dalkey Archive Press, 1998.

Chapter 15:

"I am fated...precious face."

from Mayakovsky's poem "The Backbone Flute," in *The Bedbug and Selected Poetry*, translated by Max Hayward and George Reavey

Chapter 16:

"To the sounds of the stripping...to their liking,"

from "The Large Glass, A Guided Tour," by Jean Suquet, translated by Julia Koteliansky with Sarah S. Kilborne. <http://www.toutfait.com/>

Chapter 17:

"Collect all the tapes, all the writing, all the history. The story of this movement, this action must be examined over and over...victory."

the last words of Richard Tropp, *Jonestown, Guyana*, 1977. See primary documents section at <http://jonestown.sdsu.edu/>

Chapter 18:

"Comrades! The double conflagration of war and revolution has emptied our souls and our cities. Like burned-out skeleton...your souls."

Mayakovsky quoted in Woroszylski, *The Life of Vladimir Mayakovsky*.

"Not like this, comrade!", he reads, "the Winter Palace and museums are no less hateful to me than to you...construction and destruction."

Alexander Blok quoted in Woroszylski, *The Life of Vladimir Mayakovsky*.

Chapter 19:
Giordano Bruno Memorial Award
Rules and Regulations <http://www.setileague.org>

"Here I see an image of a flying phoenix toward which a little boy is turned who burns in the midst of flames..."
from Giordano Bruno's *The Heroic Frenzies*
<http://www.esotericarchives.com/bruno/>

Chapter 20:
"Looking for Mayakovsky, I went to the Briks..."
Viktor Shklovsky, quoted in Woroszylski, *The Life of Vladimir Mayakovsky*.

"Every morning the inhabitants carefully studied the new decrees, still wet and crumpled, pasted on the walls: they wanted to know what was permitted and what was forbidden..."

Ilya Ehrenberg quoted in Woroszylski, *The Life of Vladimir Mayakovsky*.

Chapter 21:
"EARS – The effective, affordable reusable speech to text program that allowed computers to detect, extract, summarize..." unaltered hardcopy downloaded in 2002 from the website <http://www.darpa.mil/>

"Is it true that in 1910-1912 you smashed Pushkin's bust and went around Moscow in yellow swimming trunks?"

Questions from a public reading given by Vladimir Mayakovsky, quoted in Woroszylski, *The Life of Vladimir Mayakovsky*.

"This is the use of memory:
For liberation – not less of love but expanding
Of love beyond desire, and so liberation..."

T.S. Eliot, "Quartet"
<http://www.tristan.icom43.net/quartets/>

Chapter 25:
"Shut up and listen: 'To love means this: to run into the depths of a yard and, till the rook-black night..'"
from Mayakovsky's poem "Letter From Paris to Comrade Kostrov on the Nature of Love," in *The Bedbug and Selected Poetry*, translated by Max Hayward and George Reavey, 1975, Indiana University Press.

Chapter 27:
All Biblical quotes from <http://www.biblegateway.com/>

Chapter 29:

"She must be a lion-tamer."

from Mayakovsky's poem "I Love," in *The Bedbug and Selected Poetry*, translated by Max Hayward and George Reavey, edited by Patricia Blake, Indiana University Press, 1975.

Chapter 33:

Much of the dialogue is inspired or, in some cases, lifted wholesale from actual conversations recalled in Woroszyński, *The Life of Vladimir Mayakovsky*.

3.

"But even if by conceiving a man entirely excluded from external influence, and exercising only a momentary act in the present..."

War and Peace, by Leo Tolstoy, translated by Constance Garnett, 1904.

4.

"I also loved, and the restless breaths
Of sleeplessness, fluttering through darkness..."

from Boris Pasternak's "From a Poem" 1916.

Translated by Andrew Bromfield <http://www.poets.org/>

6.

Mayakovsky's "The Cloud in Trousers" i
from *The Bedbug and Selected Poetry*, translated by Max Hayward and George Reavey, 1975, Indiana University Press.

7.

"Soldier leaps to combat, warlike, skilled. Unskulled
by Death, his S falls off. Killed..."

Velimir Khlebnikov, from an untitled poem in *The Collected Works of Velimir Khlebnikov*, Volume III, translated by Paul Schmidt, edited by Ronald Vroon, Harvard University Press, 1985.

8.

"I am fated to be a tsar..."

from Mayakovsky's poem "The Backbone Flute," in *The Bedbug and Selected Poetry*, translated by Max Hayward and George Reavey, edited by Patricia Blake, Indiana University Press, 1975.

9.

"She must be a lion tamer"

from Mayakovsky's poem "I Love," in *The Bedbug and Selected Poetry*, translated by Max Hayward and George

Reavey, edited by Patricia Blake, Indiana University Press, 1975.

10.

" sticky green leaves "
after Dostoyevsky in *The Brothers Karamazov*, after Pushkin.

"Lilichka"

Mayakovsky's poem translated by Herbert Marshall in *Vladimir Mayakovsky and His Poetry*, Pilot Press, 1942

"Lily, if is one thing I cannot endure—it is
"must." You can't establish love through any sorts of
"musts" or "must nots" —only through free competition
with the entire world."

Mayakovsky's letter to Lily Brik in *Love is the Heart of Everything: Correspondence between Vladimir Mayakovsky and Lili Brik*, edited by Bengt Jangfeldt translated by Julian Graffy, Grove Press, 1987.

"I don't believe you. In any case, it won't work. I
will still love you endlessly though I 'should not, must
not, ought not' see you. Banish me from your presence; I
will still be there, hanging around outside your window,
waiting for even a glimpse of your hair as you drive
by."

from Mayakovsky's letter to Lily Brik in *Love is the Heart of Everything: Correspondence between Vladimir Mayakovsky and Lili Brik*.

12.

"Mayakovsky writes that he does not know if she loves him.
He thinks that she feels love towards everything. He is a
marker of place, a big place, perhaps, but, still
replaceable..."

from Mayakovsky's letter to Lily Brik in *Love is the Heart of Everything: Correspondence between Vladimir Mayakovsky and Lili Brik*, edited by Bengt Jangfeldt translated by Julian Graffy, Grove Press, 1987.

16-22

Much of the dialogue in these scenes is taken from real
life conversations quoted in Woroszylski, *The Life of
Vladimir Mayakovsky*.

23.

"Comrade! Comrade professor! Don't do this experiment,
I beg you! Comrade professor, that awful business will start
all over again..." Mayakovsky's play *The Bedbug* in *The Bedbug*

and Selected Poetry, translated by Max Hayward and George Reavey, edited by Patricia Blake, Indiana University Press, 1975.

24.

"Twenty years—it is very easy to celebrate a jubilee, collect one's books, tell five or ten people about one's merits. But, that is not the point, comrades. My main occupation has been to chastise what I consider wrong."

Mayakovsky quoted in Woroszylski, *The Life of Vladimir Mayakovsky*.

25.

Much of this dialogue is taken from Kataev's personal account in his book

The Grass of Oblivion, translated by R. Daglish, MacMillan, 1969.

27.

"We are all to blame for this. Everyone who loved him, we ought to have hugged and kissed him. We were afraid to be sentimental. We treated him like he was already made of granite." Isaac Babel quoted in Valentin Kataev's *The Grass of Oblivion*, translated by R. Daglish, MacMillan, 1969

"So, Vladimir Vladimirovich. Is this it? Did you get your wish in the end? Did you destroy the world with the sound of your voice?"...No. The universe still sleeps." I have made Pasternak quote from Mayakovsky's "The Cloud in Trousers." Pasternak's perception of Mayakovsky changed dramatically over his own lifetime as evidenced by contradictory reflections in his two autobiographies. I have used poetic license.

"IkissyouloveyoumissyouwaitingIkissyouloveyoumissyouwaiting." Mayakovsky's telegram to Lili Brik, from *Love is the Heart of Everything: Correspondence between Vladimir Mayakovsky and Lili Brik*, edited by Bengt Jangfeldt translated by Julian Graffy, Grove Press, 1987.

28.

I've taken liberties with the date of Isaac Babel's arrest. He was arrested in 1939, not 1936 as suggested here. He was not sent to Siberia, but was indeed shot in 1940 for "espionage" at Butyrka prison in Moscow, the same prison that Mayakovsky had been incarcerated in as a youth for revolutionary activities.

Vsevolod Meyerhold was arrested and shot in 1940 as well. Apparently, the 65 year old avant-garde theater director was also considered a threat to security.

Osip Mandelstam was arrested in 1933 and again in 1938. The second time he was sentenced to hard labor and according to official records, he died of an unspecified illness later that year.

"Mayakovsky was responsible for his first death, but he isn't responsible for this one."
From Pasternak's famous quote according to Patricia Blake in her introduction to *The Bedbug and Selected Poetry*, translated by Max Hayward and George Reavey, edited by Patricia Blake, Indiana University Press, 1975.

Chapter 34.

"This is the way the world ends." Nadja is quoting from T.S. Eliot's poem "The Hollow Men," 1925:
This is the way the world ends
This is the way the world ends
This is the way the world ends
Not with a bang but a whimper."

See Marlon Brando reading it in Coppola's *Apocalypse Now*. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gKuA3iee4-c&feature=related>

Chapter 35.

"The theme is difficult but no more difficult than the facts to be resolved. Repeat and repeat the theme and all it develops to be until thought is dissolved in tears... It is a design."

from William Carlos Williams poem, "The Orchestra," the line about mankind realizing its dreams is Williams quoting Bertrand Russell.

<http://writing.upenn.edu/pennsound/x/Williams-WC.html>

"Oh, and they were right, they were a thousand times right... Because you're with us, you're with us...!"

from the novel *We* by Yevgeny Zamyatin, translated by Clarence Brown, Penguin Classics, 1993.

Weak mortals, chained to the earth, creatures of clay as frail as the foliage of the woods, you unfortunate race, whose life is but darknes..."

From Aristophanes play, *The Birds*

<http://classics.mit.edu/Aristophanes/birds.html>

Chapter 37

This chapter is a tribute to Dostoyevsky's scene between Ivan K. and the devil disguised as a poor relation in *The Brothers Karamazov*.

Chapter 38.

Gertrude Stein actually did write the line "a rose is a rose is a rose."

Chapter 38 ½

"The human is becoming the weakest link in defense systems... effects of sleep deprivation and other human physiological limitations." Scary stuff from the organization that until a few years ago had a tag line that read "Transforming the fantasy" VERY BAD DREAMS from www.darpa.gov

"Notes Toward a Supreme Fiction It Must Be Abstract Begin, ephebe, by perceiving the idea

Of this invention, this invented world... difficulty of what it is to be."

From Wallace Steven's poem "Notes Toward a Supreme Fiction."

<http://www.poetryfoundation.org/archive/poem.html?id=172212>

Chapter 43:

Luis is heeding Nagarjuna's advice to kings to feed the ants.

From Nagarjuna's *Precious Garland in Buddhist Advice for Living and Liberation*, Jeffrey Hopkins, Snow Lion Publications, 1998.

"I see. You respectfully return your ticket. Thanks God, but no thanks. I can not accept that I am to love the murderers of little children."

A tribute to the scene between Ivan and Alyosha in Dostoyevsky's *The Brothers Karamazov*.

Chapter 44:

"I remember an airplane appeared ..."

an erasure/ reworking of Toshiko Saeki's haunting eyewitness
account of the Hiroshima bombing
<http://www.inicom.com/hibakusha/toshiko.html>

Chapter 46

For information on the myth of Croesus:
<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu>

"It may, may be, some time, some day, along the pathway of
the Gardens of the Zoo—she too—for she loved animals—will
also the Gardens re-enter..." Mayakovsky is reciting his own
poem "About That," translated by Herbert Marshall in
Vladimir Mayakovsky and His Poetry, Pilot Press, 1942

