



# Ukrainian Drama TRANSLATIONS

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## THE CHARACTERS

**LIZZY** *Pedigree Sphinx pussycat (female)*

**CUPCAKE** *Street cat (female)*

**BAIKAL** *German Shepherd dog (male)*

**POOF** *Dachshund (male)*

**LIA** *The old turtle (female)*

*The animals are human characters rather than real animals, so need to look and behave like real animals*

## SCENE 1

*Evening. The ruins of a dilapidated house. Somewhere far away you can hear the roar of explosions. LIZZY is huddled in a corner. She covers her head with her paws and tries to hide in the corner as much as she can.*

LIZZY No!!! ... No!!! ... A dream! ... This is a dream !! I will wake up now! ... I will definitely wake up! This is a dream! I will wake up! And mistress... mistress... well, or master... although better mistress... She... she... Will give me a lot... a lot of my favourite food... I just... just need to wake up... Now... A little more sleep then wake up....

*CUPCAKE appears, pulling a piece of sausage in his teeth. He sits down wearily.*

CUPCAKE Huh! Woohoo! Sausage! (*listens*) Holy crap – that stinks... That whets the appetite. Although no... the opposite... (*LIZZY notices.*) Woa! Who's this? What do we have here? Guests! For the second time in my life! Sorry to be so surprised, but it's just not every day guests like you just drop in off the street... Cupcake's the name. A fine, tasty name for the undisputed queen of the street... Who are you?

LIZZY A dream... a dream... Now I'll wake up and... Here comes your favourite food... Just wake up... A dream... It's a dream! ...

CUPCAKE I didn't get any of that. I said Cupcake's the name. And yours, madam?

LIZZY Me?

CUPCAKE Who else? Yes, you.

LIZZY You are my dream. And if you are my dream, why do you need to know my name?

CUPCAKE Am I a dream? That's a first. Mangey bastard, I've been called. And dumb mogygy. And fleabag... But this is the first time someone's called me a dream... How am I your dream?

LIZZY Because I'm asleep, of course. I'll wake up soon and you will disappear...

CUPCAKE Why should I disappear?

LIZZY Because I dreamed you up. Along with this ruined house. And this ceaseless roar... I'll wake up soon and all the bad things will vanish... And it will be warm and cozy...

CUPCAKE Aha! I get it! So when did you come up with this fairy tale? I guess we all need a little fun...

LIZZY I'm not having fun - I'm sleeping. And there's no need to try and convince me otherwise. Just wait – I'll wake up soon...

CUPCAKE Well, well... I'd like to see that... (*listens*). They've started firing harder... Don't you think? Yes. Exactly. Harder... Maybe I need a snack to prepare myself... (*starts eating the sausage, then stops and looks at LIZZY*). Like some sausage? Can I treat you?

LIZZY Well... well yes I am hungry... but... only in my dream... I'll wake up and then I'll eat... Oh but actually I'm hungry now... This is like a game... Food in a dream... @hat have you got?

CUPCAKE Sausage... I know, I know, it's only a smidgin, and smell's like a rat's arse... But these are tough times, you know... At least I hunted it down...

LIZZY (*sniffs the sausage*). Oh! What an abomination! Call that a sausage? Can you honestly describe this putrid lump of pork as a sausage? I'm not going to eat it even in a dream!

CUPCAKE Oh, miss snooty tooty! Well, stay hungry! Don't like sausage, eh! I'll just eat it myself then!

LIZZY Hold on, can I have another sniff?

CUPCAKE Oh yes? Should smell it first for you, my ladyship? Well. Go on!

LIZZY (*sniffs the sausage*). You have to understand... We sphinxes are delicate creatures...

CUPCAKE Too delicate to actually eat anything.

LIZZY Oh no. We like to eat! We are just sensitive. Even in our dreams...

CUPCAKE Holymaloly! What dreams? If you don't want to eat the sausage, don't eat it. Why are you sleeping here?

LIZZY Ok... I'll try to eat... Because... somehow my stomach is not very...

CUPCAKE Everything seems bad when your belly is shouting. And anything can be survived if your stomach is full...

## SCENE 2

*BAIKAL appears suddenly. He is a big, formidable German shepherd, very dirty and limping on his front right paw.*

BAIKAL Who... who have we here? (*Examines LIZZY and CUPCAKE*). Aha! Pussies! You eating something?

CUPCAKE Well...

BAIKAL Why aren't you running away? Can't you see what I am?

CUPCAKE No.

BAIKAL Uh?

CUPCAKE There is nothing to eat. Or rather... No, we won't run away... We won't run away, because... You can't run away from us...

BAIKAL Wow you're bold!

CUPCAKE Just smart. Well, maybe a little bold...

BAIKAL And what about me? ... If I chase you...

CUPCAKE You're limping so much you can barely move. How could you run after me?! Besides, I'm on my own territory. I know all the little nooks and crannies. And you are stranger in our country with a bust leg. So you've no other options – odds on I'd win.

BAIKAL I'm not a stranger. I'm... I'm not a stranger...

CUPCAKE How come?

BAIKAL I was born here. True... long ago...

CUPCAKE Hold on – you've should have said at the start. Instead of shouting and threatening. We do not abandon our own. We might even treat you to sausage. If you're... Only there's something I don't get...

BAIKAL My mother lived here.... In the next house... Naida...

CUPCAKE Oh! I remember! She was a beautiful dog. Smart and brave. She guarded the neighbourhood local well... And you're her son?

BAIKAL Yes.

CUPCAKE So where did you come from? And why in this form?

BAIKAL Aren't we all the same?

CUPCAKE Maybe all the same. Or maybe not. We still have to get acquainted. I'm Cupcake, by the way. And this beauty... This beauty is...

LIZZY Lizzy.

CUPCAKE Yeh, she's Lizzy

BAIKAL And I'm Baikal.

CUPCAKE Bit of an odd name round here.

BAIKAL Well, I was a puppy... And they took... Took me away there and... I was taught to work...

CUPCAKE Herding cows?

BAIKAL Cows?! I am a police dog, I'll have you know. Law enforcement, arrests, pursuit of criminals... Not a damned cowchaser!

CUPCAKE Policeman you say?

BAIKAL Yes!

CUPCAKE So who were you chasing here?

BAIKAL Here?

CUPCAKE Yes here. Chasing so hard that you buggered your paw.

BAIKAL I was not chasing here. We were dropped off... From a helicopter... With my master. At night... And then some shots, explosions... I lost my way... I lost consciousness... And when I came to my senses... my owner was gone... Into the forest... God, my paw hurts so much... I wanted to eat... There was shooting all round... So I came here... And so, I came here...

CUPCAKE So what crazy whim made you land from a helicopter?

BAIKAL Well... well, I don't know... I... my master ordered me... Cleaning the territory they called it...

CUPCAKE Cleaning? Oh yes?

BAIKAL It's when they attack whoever they see there. Except their own, of course. And those with white bandages.

CUPCAKE All?

BAIKAL That's the idea!

CUPCAKE I see! Now it's clear! So all this is your master's business?

BAIKAL What?

CUPCAKE These bombs. All this shooting. And (*nods at Lizzy*), her owners are killed. They are lying there - around the corner.

LIZZY Killed?! My owners?! What are you talking about?! ... I'm sleeping. I don't like this dream? Who was killed?! What a stupid joke!

CUPCAKE Stupid dream, girlie! You must come to your senses soon – otherwise you will not survive. Your owners are lying dead around the corner!

LIZZY That's a lie!

CUPCAKE Go and see for yourself.

LIZZY It's a lie!

CUPCAKE Ok, ok. Nobody here is going to mess with you. Especially since some people came here to clean up.

BAIKAL Do you think that I'd chase you too!

CUPCAKE Weren't you ordered to dispose of everyone? So everyone!

BAIKAL So... well... we are animals like... you... you... you cats...

CUPCAKE So here's the tricky thing. You have wiped the world clean of the bad examples like her owners (*nods to LIZZY*). But how does she survive now? I'll survive somehow, but she...

BAIKAL How's that my fault? Like I had a choice? I am a service dog. Wherever they send me, that's where I go. No choice. An order's an order. This is not a cow pasture for me!

CUPCAKE Did you serve a lot?

BAIKAL A lot or a little – what does it matter! I always served honestly!

CUPCAKE And what did you do? Are you our specialist sweeper?

BAIKAL Eh? ... A police dog is... it's... a lot of work...

CUPCAKE What work exactly?

BAIKAL Well... well... when there's a demonstration to disperse... or maybe all kinds of searches... I'm at it day and night... don't even stop for weekends... We are not your playthings!

CUPCAKE Not playthings - for sure! And what's the result?

BAIKAL What do you mean?

CUPCAKE All I see is a cold, hungry, lame dog, abandoned by his master and trying to explain to two cats how cool he is. Only he doesn't really believe it!

BAIKAL Why don't I believe it?

CUPCAKE Why? Because now you're not a formidable police dog, but as lost as me. There's only one difference between us.

BAIKAL Yes! You're a cat!

CUPCAKE No not that! The difference is that it wasn't your idea to clean or not clean the place where you were born. What your master ordered, you did. Well, tried to do. And what do you care, right or wrong? He ordered - you did. He ordered - he received an award. Only here is the problem: there will be no reward for you. Do you know what will happen?

BAIKAL What?

CUPCAKE There will probably be another bomb-gift from your master's friends. And this bomb will bury us and you with us. That's your reward. Do you think I'm wrong?

BAIKAL *(after a pause)* I... I don't think anything... I want to eat... and my paw hurts...

CUPCAKE Oh, what a nice chat we've had! Eat? Don't you get how bad it is here. I'm experienced at getting food. I will live. Maybe I'll even help Lizzy. But not you... Sorry, but I don't help people like you...

BAIKAL I always knew cats were vile.

CUPCAKE Vile? Cats? I don't think the dogs here will tell you any different. Unless you've 'cleaned' them too. But, as one of my cat mates said, "No matter how long the sausage is, the end comes too damned quick." And then what? And you know - you're not going to have time for 'cleaning'. Can you hear the explosions?

BAIKAL *(listens)* It's as if... well they are... more frequent... And what do you really want from me? You've said so much! What do you want from me?

CUPCAKE From you? Don't know. Actually, I do know. Let me tell you story. I once found a piece of sausage. I was frigging starving - because of all the horror, you know. So I swallowed it without sniffing. Bad move! It was probably contaminated with some chemical nasties. I couldn't get rid of the disgusting taste for a week.

BAIKAL So what's the point here?

CUPCAKE I get the same disgusting taste from you. I'm trying to get rid of the taste.

BAIKAL You don't understand anything!

CUPCAKE The opposite - I understand too much. But it won't save us from the bombs!

### **SCENE 6**

*BAIKAL appears. He examines everyone. Comes close to LIZZY*

BAIKAL Lizzie... Lizzie... Listen...

LIZZY *(waking up)* What?! Who?!

BAIKAL Its me. Baikal.

LIZZY You? Get away from me!

BAIKAL I just wanted to say something.

LIZZY Go away!

BAIKAL You can shout as much as you want, but I'll say what I want.

LIZZY And I don't care what you say!

BAIKAL Just a few words. Please!

LIZZY Can you convince me that you didn't want anything bad?

BAIKAL No! What is there to convince you of?!

LIZZY Will you apologize?

BAIKAL Will that help?

LIZZY No.

BAIKAL You see! ... I'm talking about something else... Just let it be said, don't interrupt.... Okay?

LIZZY Well, well, say it. How it hurts...

BAIKAL I understand it all now... Somehow it all turned out so stupidly. I didn't want anything bad... They took me away from my family... And then I went away... And it seemed like nothing depended on me... No! I didn't come to apologize... Don't apologize... Just to say goodbye... I heard a conversation here... I overheard... Lia and Cupcake... You'll understand... Soon... So I decided for myself... It's not my fault... They were talking about a mine... And we're without options it turns out... Absolutely without options... So I'm ok.. Soon you will understand...

LIZZY What are you talking about?

BAIKAL Hssh! ... You'll get it soon... All the same I'm sorry...

*BAIKAL is going to go. Suddenly there is a loud explosion nearby.*

LIZZY What is it?

*POOF and CUPCAKE run in.*

POOF Oh my god!

CUPCAKE What was that?

BAIKAL I don't know... It doesn't look like a bomb...

CUPCAKE No not quite the same.

POOF Then what?

CUPCAKE It looks like a mine! Wait! And where is Lia?

*Everyone looks around. They search, but do not find LIA.*

LIZZY No.

POOF Nowhere.

CUPCAKE Nowhere...

POOF           And where is she?

CUPCAKE       It seems... no... oh no!

LIZZY           What are you talking about?

CUPCAKE       What did she say about her luck? That it was over for her.

BAIKAL        What are you talking about?

CUPCAKE       Just... wait here... I'm fast... I'm going to look...

                  CAKE runs out.

POOF           Where's he gone?

BAIKALI... I... I meant to...

POOF           I don't understand...

BAIKAL        No! ... This is all wrong... it should not be so.

*CUPCAKE is back.*

CUPCAKE       The bridge... It's the bridge... It's blown up... With Lia... Now the enemies won't come here... She's stupid, stupid! We could have come up with something else!

BAIKAL        Do you think... do you think it was the mine?

CUPCAKE       How do you know about that?

BAIKAL        I overheard you talking. Accidentally! I did not eavesdrop! So this is the bridge?

POOF           What bridge?

CUPCAKE       Now the former bridge. Mined. She blew it up... Alone... So that none of the enemies would get here...

BAIKAL        But... that's what I... I wanted... I had to...

LIZZY           What did you want?

BAIKAL        Now... now it doesn't matter... but I had to help.

LIZZY            You? And this whole conversation of ours was... Was that why you were saying goodbye like that?

BAIKAL        Something like that... But what does it matter now... I just don't understand. At all. Why did she do that? Why her? I do not understand...

LIZZY            Do you think I'll forgive you now?

BAIKAL        What's the difference now? I'm sorry. But why did she do that? Why her?

CUPCAKE      I guess why...

POOF            It's so dreadful.

CUPCAKE      Dreadful, yes! But Lia just... I don't know how to explain it... Everything she had in her life. Everything that was important... What mattered was the taste of the sun on her lips... After fear and blood... She told me that herself.

BAIKAL        The taste of the sun?

CUPCAKE      Sweet taste of the warm sun on the lips. Paid for by someone's death.

POOF            So what?

CUPCAKE      She paid us for this taste... Her debt to fate... Apparently so...

LIZZY            But this... this... this is wrong...

CUPCAKE      I do not know. Who can say in this crazy cycle what is right and what is not? Where does pain begin and where does it end? Who knows what will happen in a moment? Lia... Lia, just gave us a chance...

BAIKAL        But I myself... I... I had to...

CUPCAKE      No. No need! Shut up! Everyone quiet! Just taste the sun on your lips. The taste given by Lia! And thank Lia and thank the sun. This is our only chance!

POOF            A chance at what?

CUPCAKE      For what? A new date with the Sun...

LIZZY            And when it will be?

CUPCAKE      Shut up! Don't ask! Just taste the sun. Here. Now.

POOF            That all?

CUPCAKE This is the most valuable thing we can have now...

**SCENE 7**

*LIA appears.*

LIA You're going to laugh, but I'm still lucky! I laughed like crazy. Well once, well twice... But three times! Wow!

CUPCAKE Lia?! Alive ?!

BAIKAL How?

LIA How? Just like the previous two times. Big explosion... Everything around flies and collapses... And it blows me out somewhere, sucks me in, twists... And everything around is in ruins, but I'm whole. So, my luck is rather bigger than I expected.

LIZZY It's a miracle!

LIA I agree. Just a miracle.

POOF You did this for us? You...

LIA Let's not speak!

CUPCAKE Are words unnecessary?

LIA Of course! We live! We taste the sun! So, everything will be fine! And my luck, you see, may be enough for everyone. The enemy will not pass... And how can they pass? The enemy is the cloud that obscures the sun. Not any more. And no matter how much it rains, the sun returns. We have to believe - let's wait.

LIZZY With your luck – that's right!

LIA With *our*. With our luck!

*Suddenly the sounds of explosions and shots are heard again. Everyone freezes as they listen.*

CUPCAKE I think it's our... I hope our...

*CURTAIN*