



Ukrainian Drama
TRANSLATIONS

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Play	A Topol-M Rocket Fired at a Cat Named Brooch
Original name / translated	Тополь М летить на кішку Брошку
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A play commissioned by a grant from Philip Arnoult's Center for International Theater Development (U.S.)

In the basement, my husband shows me a photo of a Topol-M rocket marked with the letter Z, and says it is coming at us.

Topol-M -

The Topol RT-2PM is a strategic complex with a solid propellant, three-stage ballistic missile.

Charge power - 0.55 megatons

Firing Accuracy - 900/200 meters

Firing Range - 10,500 kilometers

Radius of damage - 10,000 square meters.



Then he fell asleep.

The basement hears the howls of:

1. three cats
2. two dogs
3. four children

The rats here don't howl – they're local.

Mom does not shout, she is nervous: she wants to go up to the apartment to put the soup in the refrigerator.

A rocket lands in the neighboring yard. It did not land there on purpose, it was shot down.

But it's unpleasant all the same.

I fall asleep on the ground, but I wake up at five, because I can physically feel that a Topol-M is aimed directly at me.

I eat earth.

It's disgusting. But it makes me feel better.

To distract myself, I browse my Facebook feed.

It's still targeting me with anti-cellulite cream.

How many calories are there on Earth?

From the page of Aliona, a volunteer at a zoo.

A POST

ALIONA. I understand, but not really. Whatever. Is there anyone left in Hostomel?

A cat has been locked in without food and water since February 24. Its owner left for just a day but could not return. Address in personal info.

COMMENTARY

- Write to the Hostomel groups for volunteers. You can open the apartment.
- What about looters? That's against the law. Martial law.
- Horrors. There is a church in Hostomel.
- Whoever goes in, the cat will be frightened and hide.

ALIONA. I don't think she'll hide – it's been a week without food.

- It's worse without water.
- She knew all this, why is she saying it only now???
- Do a search, organize it yourself!
- Hostomel is a dangerous zone now. You might risk your life for the sake of a cat, but the locals aren't coming out of their basements and risk being shot.
- When they evacuated, people crawled on their bellies, shooting going on around them.

ALIONA. You think I don't know? I would still take the chance. I'm writing to those around me. Why do you write these things? To make me stop asking for help for this unfortunate kitty?

- I'm from Hostomel. Four volunteers carrying food were shot dead there yesterday.

ALIONA. I'd prefer you cuss me out with obscenities.

- I didn't mean to offend you. There are Russians. Kadyrov cadets from Chechnya. They go into houses.
- There are people in the basements!

ALIONA. I'm looking for PEOPLE!

- Alion, don't be angry. It's hell there. Shooting, explosions. There is no food, no water, no light. Freezing temperatures.

ALIONA. I understand. But there must be someone nearby! Just open the door! You can't pass by silently!

- What about the shelter in Borodianka?
- There are battles going on there.
- Yes, it's impossible to move there! Kadyrov's Chechen cadets are flattening everything that moves!
- Hello! I heard what the mayor said about the beginning of the evacuation of Irpen. My cat's there. Brooch. I am alone in Poland. Please take my cat, I can't!
- So, you left your cat to die, but expect people to stick out their necks, right?
- You piece of shit.
- You should have taken it with you.
- You don't know what to do about animals, but you go begging yourself.
- They take them all in. Even the Russian ones.
- Bitches. For every Russian one take in, a Ukrainian is rejected.

- But the mayor said - you can all get out! This is the last trip out!

ALIONA. I blocked a guy from Poland.

- She's dead.

ALIONA. Who?

- Your cat.

ALIONA. I don't understand. Is this new information?

- My mother in Bucha is dead. Why should your cat be alive?
- Girls, friends! Everyone's nerves are frayed! Let's be kinder to each other – there's a war on. We have to find a good solution! Glory to Ukraine!

And they did find a solution. They knocked a hole in the wall, gave the cat food and water. An old, half-blind woman now takes care of the kitten. She refuses to leave town because she just planted seedlings.



I fall asleep again.

My husband wakes me up. He says the Topol-M is fake news. Because why write a Z on it if equipment like that is available only in Russia?

You can go up to the apartment and go to the toilet.

Then come back down to the basement again.

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