

EXT. MERICHEV CASTLE - ELISAVET'S BALCONY - DAY

Yanni stands on his tiptoes to see over the balcony, looking out at the delta. Elisavet stands in the doorway, somber, watching.

YANNI

You have the best view. If I want to watch the swans, I have to sneak into Ilkin's room and look out the big window...and then hope a swan flies by.

He glances back at Elisavet, grinning at his own attempt at a joke. She doesn't laugh. Yanni turns back to the river. Points.

YANNI

See, there!

A swan flies up from the river, turning in the air to follow the same northward route the ones before did. Elisavet and Yanni watch it go by.

YANNI

Alim says they go all the way across the sea, because it's summertime and Odessa isn't cold anymore. What do you think it's like there, in places where it gets too cold for the swans?

Yanni turns away from the railing, towards Elisavet. She shrugs.

YANNI

I wonder why they keep going back, if the weather gets so bad there. They can't like it there.

Elisavet thinks about it for a moment. Then she holds out her hands. Yanni steps towards her and puts his hands in hers. She shapes his hands into a bowl, then balls her hands into fists and places them into his open hands. Then she "cracks" her hands open, and crosses her thumbs, fluttering her fingers like wings. Yanni giggles.

YANNI

I know that's where they go to make babies, Ely. I'm not *that* young.

Elisavet rolls her eyes and gives him a light shove, turning to walk back into her room.

CUT TO:

INT. MERICHEV CASTLE - ELISAVET'S BEDROOM - DAY

Yanni speaks from the balcony.

YANNI

You shouldn't let what Father says get to you.

Elisavet stops. Doesn't turn around, but stops.

YANNI

He just doesn't understand. You're no more broken than any of the rest of us.

Elisavet slowly turns around. She taps her throat, making a "you're kidding me, right?" face. Yanni sighs, stepping into the room.

YANNI

Okay, so, your way of being broken is a bit more obvious than the rest of us, but it's still true. I mean, Alim's terrified of everything. Eser and Ugur can't take anything seriously. Ilkin's a pig head. And me, well, I'm nobody.

Elisavet raises her eyebrows at him.

YANNI

I really am. Sofia says I'll have my growth spurt someday, but I don't think that's going to change anything. If everyone older than me marries well, no one's ever going to care if I do. I'm not important. I don't mind, though. It's just how I'm broken.

Elisavet sits on the bed, draws her legs up to her chest, rests her chin on her knees. Yanni hops up onto the bed next to her.

YANNI

Father's tough on you because he doesn't understand how to hear you. But he will.

Elisavet snorts.

YANNI

He will! Would you like to know why? Because you're not going to give up trying to make him understand. You're not going to give up on showing him what you

can really do. You haven't given up yet, and I don't think you should. You're stronger than that.

Elisavet looks at him. Finally smiles at him. Holds out a finger towards his left hand. He wraps his fingers around her finger. A familiar, affectionate gesture.

YANNI

Do you want to go back and try again?

Elisavet nods.