

Two is too many, the third is too much by Lioha Chicanas leha4icanos@gmail.com

TWO IS TOO MANY, THE THIRD IS TOO MUCH.

by

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In memory of Elena

CHARACTERS:

Lena - age 35

Alexei - age 34

Somewoman - age 40

Grandmother - age 86

Moderator - a man of middle age

Prologue.

Moderator. So, here you are, to start a feed: two naked bodies caught in a G-string band or... The poison is a gift from a gay... Huh, if only it was a brain disease...

Scene 1.

Room. Lena, Alexei.

Alexei. Something is...

Lena. What?

Alexei. Hm...

Lena. Do you see a halo above the holy site?..

Alexei. You are all too tense down there... Or maybe I'm too weak...

Lena. Lexie, don't worry. Don't you worry, that's the thing.

Alexei. Sorry...

Lena. You're okay. I told you it wasn't necessary... you won't like it... Give me my bag, please.

Alexei. What is it? Valocordin drops?

Lena. No. But it's a good medicine for broken hearts. They are called Poppers.

Alexei. Some drug?

Lena. Not really. I've just told you, it's a medicine.

Alexei. How do you take it? You gotta drink it?

Lena. No. Just open the jar and inhale through the nose.

Alexei. How does it work? Like weed?

Lena. No, it's different. You relax more and everything becomes funny.

Alexei. For how long?

Lena. For 15 - 20 minutes. You want some? Alright, let me start first and you watch. I need it. Huh...

Alexei. Did you burn your nose?

Lena. Yeah. A little.

Alexei. Taking this shit now you remind me my father.

Lena. Mmm? Your dad used to take poppers?

Alexei. No. Concentrated vinegar essence.

Lena. Why? It smells awful. Awful!

Alexei. He didn't smell it, he drank it.

Lena. O, Lord! Your father is hardcore? An acid drinker?

Alexei. Yeah, a drinker, that's right. One time he almost dissolved himself in acid. I was sleeping peacefully and all of the sudden a scream comes from the hall, and then rattle and snort. I jump up and see him with a bottle in which mother kept the essence. Actually, it was a vodka bottle, but mother filled it with the essence and put it in the household cleaning drawer. He found it, decided the vodka was being hidden from him and took a good gulp.

Lena. That's so essential! A-ha-ha!..

Alexei. You find it funny.

Lena. Sorry, it's not me, it's the poppers laughing.

Alexei. Anyway, I'm in a panic. I think he is going to die for sure! He's rattling, puffing, gasping. I rush to the phone to call an ambulance, but he comes up to the phone and pulls the switch hooks off. Shows me "Don't!" Well, I give up, it's a lost cause, if he wants to go he's welcome!

Lena. To die with such a sour taste in your mouth... Terrible! So how did he turn out?

Alexei. Well, he couldn't speak for two weeks, vocal cords were burned. Howled and walked around. And then it all passed, his voice came back.

Lena. And where had your mother been? What about your mother?

Alexei. They were already divorced by then. Mother was at granny and grandpa's place. Anyways, she didn't see this booze drinking show.

Lena. Lonely Lexie and lonely sour daddy.

Alexei. Well, gimme your essence, I'd like to try too. Oh...

Lena. Well? How do you like this perfume? Ha-ha-ha...

Alexei. Argh, blood rushes up.

Lena. You see, Alexei, now you're also sick in the head. Ha-ha-ha...

Alexei. Where did you get it?

Lena. Vava Disaster brought it from Holland. They sell it in clubs there to relax their ... hm...hm...guts... ha-ha-ha...

Alexei. I thought it was from your fairies.

Lena. They are charming.

Alexei. Where do you find them?

Lena. They're from the time when I worked for "Different - Equal". Friends of mine. We-e-ell, should you? Alexei, why can't you stay without it?

Alexei. Because I'm sick in the head, ha-ha-ha.

Lena. Ha-ha-ha... Well, okay, but don't make it long, I get tied quickly, okay?..

Scene 2.

Cafe. Lena, Alexei. Moderator and Somewoman sitting at the near by table. Moderator is reading a newspaper.

Lena. So? Appeased your hunger at last? You got so consumed with devouring the food that I feel lonely... Alexei, do these violet stockings look good on me?.. I don't hear any compliments...

Alexei. Yeah, the color is epic! "L'hématome Total"! Also from Vava? His gift? Or should I say hers?

Lena. Alexei, you are so gross!

Alexei. I'm just rather disappointingly bitter.

Lena. You're joking while Vava is gravely depressed at the moment, by the way. He and his boyfriend decided to break-up.

Alexei. What's up? Poppers stopped working?

Lena. Ew-w!.. Vava wants to adopt a child. To go abroad, get married officially and adopt a child.

Alexei. So what's the problem?

Lena. His friend is against it. He says he doesn't want to go abroad, but it seems to me, that he just doesn't want a child.

Alexei. And Vava wants one?

Lena. Sometimes you understand the importance of some things only when they are no longer available to you. The love of long gone relatives is one of them, for example.

Alexei. Yep. Or the absence of your little toe. How would you feel yourself in a high society without your little toe?

Lena. I would manage to grow a new one. I regenerate well.

Alexei. Like a lizard?

Lena. Like a hydra.

Moderator. "On the outskirts of the town people settled down in the Zoo".

Somewoman. Why do you think the whole world is against you? Why don't you trust anybody?

Moderator. "Three unknown men attacked an unidentified person".

Somewoman. You even don't trust me...Where did you get such fear? You're afraid to contact people, to do something together... You are afraid to live, aren't you? To live with people?..

Moderator. "Rats cured a woman from a fear of heights".

Alexei. Lena, you inexplicably manage to cheer me up. I still can't understand the trick. The way things are going, I should start loving life, shouldn't I?!..

Lena. I don't love it anymore. It can be so dark, not everybody can keep the light. I can't.

Alexei. Now, now, you're exaggerating. Has anything happened to you?

Lena. His wife made a nasty comment in my feed, it hurts!

Alexei. A-h-a, that's all about that stud in a cock-style hat?

Lena. I congratulated them on the birth of their baby and liked the photo. And she wrote such crap...

Alexei. You shouldn't check her page at all. Forget it.

Lena. He was so funny before. I got him to wear suits. And ties. Dragged him to theatres. And then this trashy chick popped up...

Alexei. I tell you, let it go.

Lena. Well, let them be happy. 'Till death do them part, Amen!

Alexei. Amen.

Moderator. "The stork holds baby for ransom!"

Somewoman. I am fearfull with you. It feels like we are isolated from the outside world. We won't have a family. Me and you are different people. Having a family is impossible. With you.

Moderator. "Overweight leads to obesity".

Somewoman. Alexei, stop it! I can't stand it anymore!..

Moderator. "Scientists discovered the end of the world".

Alexei. Lena, why did you break up?

Lena. He wanted to start baby-making, as most men do. But I am not cut out for that. I'm just not.

Alexei. Don't you like children? Or is it because of your health?

Lena. Stars lined up the wrong way. I wasn't ready. Alexei, what's with these questions? I don't like to speak about it, let's order again. Some noodles, or stuffed acai palm stems. Waitress!..

Scene 3.

Telephone, Lena, Alexei.

Lena. Hello.

Alexei. Oh, finally! How are you? You haven't answered my calls for so long...

Lena. I couldn't. And how are you, the triple nine friend of mine?

Alexei. I'm great. I look forward to the day when I see "Helen the perfect", although you can't be more perfect than you are, can you?..

Lena. I can. Not broken, attentive, kind, positive.

Alexei. You are allowed to be broken and inattentive and not positive.

Lena. That's all because of the hormones.

Alexei. What hormones?

Lena. They started to give me hormone injections.

Alexei. Lena, what's really wrong with your health?

Lena. Well, Alexei, you know - I am sick in the head, ha-ha-ha... The treatment always goes through an aggravation, then everything will be fine. Everything will be all right.

Alexei. Well, you could have sent me a message at least, where you were, so I didn't worry.

Lena. The hormones spoil the mood badly. I don't want to see or hear anybody.

Alexei. Are your hormones contagious, my sweet? I've got some kind of hormone explosion... I try to sublimate it with the Internet...

Lena. Alexei, you are a whore.

Alexei. What?..

Lena. You talk like a whore. Flirt with me like a whore. And behave like a whore. Back in the club you invited those girls, made them sit beside me and started making passes at them. It was upsetting for me, don't you get it?

Alexei. I'm sorry. I didn't think it would hurt you. I'm sorry.

Lena. Apology accepted.

Alexei. Do you feel better now?

Lena. Yes. Only my arms are blue after the dropper.

Alexei. The color of your arms will match the color of your violet stockings perfectly.

Lena. Gross! You better tell me about your life. How is your band? Have you recorded any new tracks?

Alexei. Ouch, none. Didn't even get a good run-through before recording. That's all because of these boozers. Yesterday our bass-player and guitarist got wasted, so we managed to play only half an hour, while their fingers could still hit the strings.

Lena. Your musicians bodies are unruly. They want to play, but their bodies don't obey and drink. It is difficult to operate the body sometimes. How long have you been making this album?

Alexei. It's our second year.

Lena. I don't understand this music business thing, is that normal or long?.. Nah, it's not important, don't stop anyway, create!

Alexei. Anyway I should... Inspire me, my angel! When can I see you again?

Lena. Soon. I hope, soon.

Scene 4.

Lena, Alexei, Moderator, Somewoman, grandmother.

Lena. So, you see the perfect Helen now. With a walking stick. How do you like me?

Alexei. This walking stick only adds to your charm.

Lena. This is the charm of a handicapped female.

Alexei. I know one man, he makes nice canes, I shall get one for you.

Lena. Really? He can make a cane? I need strong wood, reliable support.

Alexei. Sure, he can do that. The strongest one.

Lena. That's nice. You see, sometimes my motion motor gets jammed a little.

Alexei. Well, there's not any sign of that. You're looking hot!

Lena. Yes, my body shakes like have a fever.

Alexei. Hah!.. Do you work again? How's your Centre? Kids?

Lena. Kids... Alexei, let's play one dark game. It's called "Creepy truth". We shall take turns in telling some creepy truth about ourselves bit by bit ... So, are you up for such a game?

Alexei. Well, why not? I'm in. But why?

Lena. Don't ask, Alexei. Just tell me, are you in?

Alexei. Let's give it a try.

Lena. Good. Let me start. Here is the top creepy truth: the children don't need a psychologist at the Centre. No need of me. Not me, as I am. I quit the job.

Alexei. Well, maybe it's for the best. You may find another job, like working from home, or try to..

Lena. I have told my truth, now it's your turn.

Alexei. Okay. I could have committed suicide before my birth.

Lena. Jeez! How is that?

Alexei. My mother wanted to commit suicide when she was pregnant.

Lena. Tell me.

Alexei. Mother studied at the National economy college. She met my father. They were both nonresidents. A kind of college romance. Got pregnant. Father said nix-nix. Mother called home, and granny told her not to come home preggers. And a lot more hurtful stuff. A child without a father was a howling shame back then, especially in the country side. Mother came out on the balcony and wanted to jump off.

Lena. Was it in summer or in winter?

Alexei. I didn't ask. In winter, I guess. I was born in summer.

Lena. That means she was wearing an overcoat with a rabbit fur collar. I've seen that on my folks' photos, they used to wear such rabbit fur collars then.

Alexei. Don't know exactly about her clothes, but she didn't jump. Said she heard me and didn't jump.

Lena. And your father also wore a rabbit fur hat. He hung around in his rabbit fur hat, hung around for a while and then changed his mind and married her, didn't he?

Alexei. Mother wrote a letter to his parents first. No reply. Then she came to the college Committee of the Communist Youth League. So, they called father to the Committee and conducted a hard explanatory talk with him, threatened to kick him out of the Communist Youth League and expel him from college.

Lena. Alexei, you should be grateful to the Communist Youth League for your birth.

Alexei. Yep, and also to my parents' lack of the safe sex practice.

Lena. And how do you know your background history?

Alexei. I've known it practically from the cradle. Mother was telling it to me all the time.

Lena. Why do you think your mother shared it with you?

Alexei. Dunno. Maybe she wanted me to know what an ass-hole my father was, and what an unhappy woman she was. Maybe she had no one else to talk to. Or maybe she wanted me to know how much she loved me.

Lena. Lexie, whom do you love more your mother or your father?

Alexei. The Motherland, Lenin Communist Youth League and millions of perished soviet rabbits. That's all. I'm done. It's your turn.

Lena. I've got Multiple sclerosis. This truth I heard from a doctor when I was 19.

Moderator. You are a young attractive girl. Everybody around you is fascinated with your beauty! And then abruptly - bang! Your hands start shaking for an unknown reason. People around you notice, that you also have a head tremor. Yup...

Date has to be canceled. And soon you stop thinking about guys at all! It gets from bad to worse as it goes on: you are walking down the street, legs stumbling, you fall down. You can't get up without the help of other people. Forget about dances, darling!

Somewoman. What a disgraceful downfall! And she is quite young still...

Grandmother. Oh, she's drunk, since early morning! You'll be rollin' in mud till your death, drunkard!

Moderator. Ladies and gentlemen, hurry up to see - MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS! A chronic disease when insulating covers of nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord are damaged. The disorder usually manifests between the ages of 15 and 30. Brain signals get to organs with a delay. You lose control over your body. Gradually, the brain stops working. And there comes complete paralysis. People with multiple sclerosis die at the age 40-50. The cause of the disorder is unknown. There is no known cure for multiple sclerosis.

Lena. Well? Did I shock you?

Alexei. I deduced something like this. I googled...

Lena. And what did the Internet tell you about me?

Alexei. Well, I didn't know the exact diagnosis...

Lena. Now you know it. You will treat me with care, like something vintage. That's how people take care of a retro car that falls apart.

Alexei. Do you need any meds? I can help you, just...

Lena. I don't need anything, my parents help me. I'm to get a disability pension. I declared my disability. You are looking at a pensioner, Alexei.

Alexei. I wish all pensioners looked like you. You're...

Lena. Alexei, you don't. You shouldn't feel sorry for me. It hurts.

Alexei. Sorry...Listen, while surfing the Net, I saw some info about multiple sclerosis... People say there is a famous professor, he provides consultation at hospital number nine. I will find him. Should I schedule you?

Lena. Is that true? Can I be scheduled for consultation?

Alexei. Sure.

Lena. Good. That's good.

Alexei. Yes, he consults regularly there. Medical science advances constantly, maybe he can recommend you some new medicine. You should definitely go there.

Lena. If he is a good doctor, I will obey him. Follow the routine. I will obey the power of medicine.

Alexei. I will find out everything. Just need to visit my granny for the weekend, I'll get back and I'll find out everything...

Scene 5.

Hospital. Somewoman is dressed as a nurse. Alexei, Grandmother. Grandmother lies on a hospital bed without moving.

Alexei. Tell me, what's her condition?

Somewoman. It's stable. She started talking and recognizing people. Recently she asked me to turn on the radio. She's alone here, the radio is on all day long. Why not? I don't mind, she's not so bored lying here.

Alexei. Thank you. I've brought all that you asked for.

Somewoman. All right. But don't be long.

Walkes out.

Alexei. Hello, granny! It's me, Lexie, your grandson.

Somewoman. Hello, mister.

Alexei. How do you feel today?

Grandmother. I feel awright. It's just that they took my body, I can't git up. I've planted loads of tater and beets dis year, it's time to pick'em soon, but I won't git a lick work done, as I'm a-fixed here. No any help, all them kids git shit-faced. D'you drink much?

Alexei. No, I don't drink.

Grandmother. That's good...Sonny, d'you know some good place to rent a sound body from? I've wasted mine, though still need a-work...

Alexei. Granny...

Grandmother. I've git money. Hid'em in da house. I've liked you at once, just as you came in. Help me to rent a new body, I can't git up with dis doctor-lady. I'll show you where the money is.

Alexei. Granny, you will be running soon. Just stay here a-while, get all healthy.

Grandmother. Dunno, where dem kids have disappeared, I'm alone all da time. Who will feed my Starky? And also cats... Will your sons come for taters?

Alexei. No, granny, I don't have children.

Grandmother. Are you alone? Are you allowed to walk down the street alone?

Alexei. Yes, I am. It's not forbidden to walk the streets. If you walk alone, that is.

Grandmother. The family is one of the most important society values and is a social necessity, conditioned by society's need in physical and mental reproduction of population.

Alexei. Granny, whoa?.. What's up with you?..

Grandmother. I need to milk my cow, my Starky. Where is my cow? Where is my cow?!

Alexei. Granny, we are in the hospital, there is no cow here. I'm your grandson, Lexie. Don't you remember me at all? You got a son, Volodia. I am the son of Volodia. Do you remember Volodia?

Grandmother. There was a kid, served in the army, then we'd sent him to school in town. I'd been sending parcels to town all da time. Bacon an' meat. But nobody comes back from town. Maybe he bears a grudge against me for small parcels, may he? Maybe he wants more?

Alexei. Grandmother, did you love your son?..

Grandmother. The boy is good, great help haymaking. He's studying at school now. So, no help, I'm all alone... And now they also took my body...

Alese. Granny, father is dead. Your son is dead. Vodka was the reason. We buried him in spring.

Grandmother. I need to give some milk to cats. And to feed Starky... I don't see anybody: no cats, no cow. Have you seen my Starky? Where are my folks? Nobody around...

Scene 6.

Telephone. Lena, Alexei, Moderator, Somewoman, grandmother.

Alexei. Hello. Hello.

Lena. How are you, my soul mate?

Alexei. Hi. Can't you sleep again? What's the theme of your meditation?

Lena. Alexei, just don't think that I'm insane... I want to have a baby with you.

Alexei. What?..

Lena. Don't worry, nothing is required from you. It will live with us, my parents will help me, we'll raise him up by ourselves. I need to give birth. It is allowed with my disorder. They even say that the birth can help to..

Alexei. Ooh...

Lena. You think I'm crazy, don't you?..

Alexei. No, but it's so strange...Unexpected.

Lena. Is it? I get it... I said something wrong. Alexei, I'm sorry. Let's forget this talk.

Alexei. Lena, wait, I was just confused. Listen, it's hereditary, this disease is hereditary. Your baby can come being sick.

Lena. It's not proved, it's only in theory. Nobody knows for sure.

Alexei. Well, should we take the risk, then?..

Lena. Maybe we shouldn't. Good bye.

Alexei. Lena, wait, wait!.. I haven't had time to go to the hospital yet. But I'll schedule you for consultation of this doctor, this professor, this week. He consults often there. And also I'll get on with the cane.

Lena. I don't need a cane, I need a wheelchair now, ha-ha-ha...

Alesei. No, don't say this.

Lena. What then? What should I say?.. Alexei, excuse me for this call. Hormones acting up again.

Alexei. Lena, please, don't stress, all right? How are your friends? Do they visit you?

Lena. No longer. Vava left for Europe together with his friend now. I'm only receiving e-mails from them.

Alexei. You see, you got a lot of friends, you are loved by everybody, people need you.

Lena. I am tired. My faded world could be filled just with only me. It's terrible...

Moderator. Legs and arms are weak, the right side is much weaker than the left...

Lena. I can't even send text messages...

Moderator. Pain in spinal cord... more in the neck area...

Lena. Everything is numb... even face and jaws...

Moderator. There is a great spasticity of lower back and legs when bending.

Lena. I need to hold on to the walls while moving. If I let go, I just fall down immediately, everything swings in my eyes. Hands shake permanently...

Alexei. I'm even a little bit jealous of you. You have a family. Parents take care of you, help you. And your brother too.

Lena. Don't be jealous. It seems so only from the outside. Not all things are good. Actually, they are not good at all.

Alexei. Yeah? Well, I don't know. It was real horror with my father.

Lena. Why didn't your mother leave him while she was still young?

Alexei. I asked her. She was thinking it over, but didn't dare.

Grandmother. Where should we have gone with you? No place to live, I made very little. And I pitied him, 'cause I loved him once.

Alexei. And granny too... Kinda family blood, though I haven't seen her more than a couple of times. When I was a kid. She never visited us... Now I ought to feel sorry for her, but in truth... Well, of course, feel sorry for her, but as for a stranger. I can't feel differently. I can't.

Lena. It doesn't matter. You'll have enough time for it. You will learn. You will, I know.

Alexei. Lena decided to come out of the ward and went down to the hospital yard to get some fresh air. She didn't like to show her weakness to anybody and even asked me not to hold her hand. While coming out of the exit doors Lena's foot caught over the threshold and she fell down. "Now-now, let us get up now... How come? How's that?.."

Grandmother. The funeral was yesterday. I've just found out. There are no details for now. Two options are possible. Either it was her disorder, or she did something to herself...

Somewoman. Hello, Alexei. I don't have much information about all this. Generally speaking, everything was a bit strange there lately - at first she was just at the hospital, next, she ran away from there, dwelled in a village house. Then she ran away from the village to Galia. Galia returned her back to the family. After that she was submitted to a mental institution. She ran away from there as well. Was living in a country place together with her mother. On Sunday she ran off again, relatives were looking for her till the dark, then they said she died.

Grandmother. I know for sure that it happened on the 6th of September, at the country place. And actually you shouldn't trouble her parents now. Her mother feels gravely bad, she was taken to the country and they asked not to disturb her for some time.

Somewoman ...There was a call in June... her last words through tears - I want to live... I called her back, she didn't answer... she never answered since, saw, that I was calling and just let me know via friends that she would call me back herself... but... she knew that I could talk her out of it... we have discussed her going for some time, I told her what I would like to do... well, there should be sea, a boat, a lot of whiskey...she thought a lake... what a damned world! Why wasn't he, yes, he, why wasn't he beside her? She just asked him for one thing - she needed a baby. It was a hope for her. And he was scared, was held his precious scum!

Grandmother. You have heard that the disease is hereditary. What is the good of giving life to another person with a handicap? To make them suffer their whole life?

Somewoman. But he didn't really love her, and that's the reason. He didn't even do the easiest things, didn't even go to the doctor. And now he will shed crocodile tears, compose a song about it. A mournful song. Blah!

Alexei. Now-now, let us get up now... How come? How's that?..

Grandmother. After all she didn't love him.

Somewoman. What has this to do with love? Well, what has this to do with love at all? You just need to be there for the person, when it goes hard, that's all.

Grandmother. Maybe she didn't want him to see her in such bad state? She didn't want to be a burden to him, switched her phone off.

Somewoman. So, he should have understood it, should have tried to contact her relatives, to do something to unite, to be together!

Alexei. I really called her then, called her several times! I thought she disappeared again, and then she would pop up. As she usually did before... How can you know, if a person is the one or not? I've had a situation with another woman. You believe that the person is the one, and later: "me and you are different people, I can't stand it anymore...". A baby... What can I give it? I don't know what I'm doing here myself, in this... And here comes another small body...

Moderator. Experts established: "The Holy family" is a fake! Two is too many, the third is too much.

Lena. It doesn't matter. You'll have enough time for it. You will learn. You will, I know.

BLACKOUT.

Septemper 2013 г. - June - November 2014.