

**NATE.** My grandfather use to tell me, "Nate, if you ever learn anything about friendship . . .remember this one simple thing: A true friend always has your best interest at heart and loves you so much they're willing to piss you off to help you." That sums up how I feel about Ivan. You see, he's in a bad mood because a year and a half ago, his girlfriend left him for another guy. Big deal! *(He pauses for a second.)* Never liked that user-friendly nut job. Ivana...*(A beat. Then like a vampire)* I wanna go sleep vith other men. *(He collects himself.)* Sorry. I couldn't resist. Anyway, the reason I'm out here wasting all this time is because the beer girl is supposed to meet us. When I was here last week, I met her and she seemed like a great girl for Ivan: red hair, okay shape, friendly. All of the things he likes in a woman. She even had a nice name. Nicole. Just kinda rolls off the tongue, doesn't it? Nicole. *(Ivan seems to be getting more and more agitated.)* What worries me is that he's getting so upset about being here, that he's gonna screw it all up. Part of me thinks I should tell him. . .but now I'm too afraid he'll just get more upset. Poor guy. It's taken him all this time to get over losing one girl and he has no idea that he's about to lose another before he even has her to begin with.