

SCENE 1

The ward. Six beds.

Aldona is reading a magazine, Marija is looking for something in a cupboard, Dalia is napping, Sonata is standing by the window talking loudly on the phone. Rima is trying to focus on reading, but is being distracted by Sonata's expressive talking.

SONATA *(talking on the phone)* Did you eat? What did dad give you? Did he heat up the meatballs? How many did you eat? Why only one? What did you eat it with? With mashed potatoes? Good. Was grandma home? Did she look after you and Migle? Is Karolis home already? Did he do his homework? Did you? Where's dad? *(Rima takes a deep breath calming herself)*. Put dad on the phone. Well. Hello. So why did he eat only one meatball? You should've told him no chocolate. What? Of course, he didn't want it if he had a Kinder Surprise. Don't give him candy before dinner. Ok. How about you? Did you eat? Why didn't you eat? Just warm it up. And do it for the mother. What do you mean there are no meatballs left? *(Rima closes her eyes and unhappily turns to the other side)*. I left twenty for God's sake. Karolis? What's up with him? Why did he start eating so much? No...you gave them to Lopeta, didn't you? Don't lie. Put Karolis on the phone. Call him. Click on pause and he can come to talk. Karolis. Did you give Lopeta a meatball? *(Rima closes the book)*. "No", right? So why is there none left for dad? You ate 5? Don't lie to me. When I come back you'll have to show me how you can eat five meatballs. Very well. I'm glad. Five meatballs. You're a grownup man! What do you mean "I won't be hungry then"? Stop feeding Lopeta, alright? It's fat enough. Take care of your dad. All you can see is bones. Ok. Put mum on the phone. *(Rima is rolling her eyes)*. Mother. Mum, this

is Sonata. Yes. Everything is ok. What? No. I ate. Yes. They feed us. As always. Pea soup and dumplings. So what? Well, they gave us meat during lunch. Stop. Mum. Whatever. I ate it. That's it. Done. No, they don't keep us on a diet. Go watch the news. What? No, we don't have it. That's it. It's not cold. And it's not muggy. Bye. Bye. Bye, that's it. Hang up. I'm hanging up. Oh, mother. Stop it. I'm fine. Ok. It should be tomorrow. Mum, stop. Everything will be fine. Ok. Bye. Bye.

SCENE 2

Sonata comes back to bed. Marija is trying to open a jar, but can't. She gets more and more irritated.

DALIA Family?

SONATA A mess. You just can't leave them alone.

ALDONA Listen, can you feel the draught?

DALIA Yeah, a little bit.

SONATA Of course, I can. All the windows are old and drafty. They live like kings in the "forty-seventh" and we have to lie here in the cold.

MARIJA So buy a bed in the forty-seventh then. They won't put in new windows just because you feel cold.

ALDONA I heard that Ona paid fifty.

SONATA For a ward? Jesus, that's too much. For one time?

DALIA Probably...

ALDONA They even have a bathroom inside.

SONATA That's fantastic!

DALIA Ask your husband for your birthday. You said it should coincide.

SONATA (*spitting over her shoulder*) I hope not. I'll wait for my results