

Danielis Rutkauskas: No Title

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******Scene 1: Danielis arrives at the VU*

Props: Clouds quoting what he says,

“sth hairy or leather-like”

“automated setup” box

Signs

Boxed for messy labroom

Narrator = Luuk

Danielis = Maxime

Rienk

Jante

Manolis

People from the group (Sofia, Raoul, Bas)

Someone to control the signs!!!

Narrator: This is the story of a certain Danieloukos Rutkauskakulas, a young Lithuanian brute who traveled from the wild woods of Vilnius to search spirituality in the West, to be precise in the bio-zen monastery of His Holyness Rienk van Grondelle.

At the VU. Danielis walks into Rienk’s room. (he wears something hairy or leather-like)

Danielis mumbles something that no-one understands.

Sign goes up: “Hello, I am Danielis Rutkauskas, the new exchange student”

Rienk: Durnielis who? Huh, hello (I guess). Look here, are you the Russian I ordered?

Danielis (shouts): I am not (mumbles, sign goes up): “*Russian, I am Lithuanian*”

Rienk (still doesn’t understand but waves at him anyway): yeahyeahyeah. (**checks his papers and thinks outloud**): Hmmmm, Jante complained that with her RSI she can’t perform any experiments that require the use of her hands. After trying to perform the experiments with her feet, which caused substantial damage to several setups, I decided that I would get her a slave, like the other incompetents. Raoul has already had a few. So, I ordered her a cheap one, from Russia, but instead I got this Lithuanian. He must be even cheaper. A real bargain!!!! I understand he is good with optics; who cares that he doesn’t speak, as long as he can see. The last thing I want is that the blind are leading the blind in my optical lab. Since he is a mute, he also won’t waste my time asking stupid questions.

Takes Danielis and introduces him to Jante and Jante to everyone else in the group.

Everybody: *oh, are you Jante’s new Russian slave???*

Danielis (shouts) (noone understands) I’m Lithuanian!

Sofia says hello and slaps him friendly on his stomach. Her hand hurts and she walks away in pain.

Narrator: He is not a soft one....

Manolis: Hello my friend!

Danielis: I don't know you, how can we be friends??? *I only have vague acquaintances anyway. Who are you?*

Manolis: Sorry, friend, what did you say?

Danielis (shouting angrily): I said WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU WAANT?

Manolis: Easy, don't shout! I am Manolis, I'm also new here. A new PhD student. We could be friends.

Danielis: I'm not *your friend* Exebeche.

Manolis: Sorry, friend? I really cannot understand you...

Danielis: He Who Talks Loud, Saying Nothing ...

Danielis (walks away mumbling in desperation): *Stupid people! They don't understand me!*

Narrator: Feeling misunderstood, he heads into the lab determined to find spirituality, and starts meditating which keeps him busy for a long time...

Sign goes up: *"Six months later..."*

Jante is in a coffee room doing her exercises. Danielis enters and presents her with a small box:

Danielis: Jante look, here is (**mumbles, rest in the sign**)- *special automatized low-temp-fluorescence excitation detector component. It prepares sample, cools it down, it collects data, changes polarization, calls you at end of measurement and makes coffee with the choice of plain espresso, ristretto, cappuccino, and macchiato.*

Jante: Owow, that's really nice! Now I can finally write my thesis, since this requires drinking lots and lots of coffee! Raoul was right that this the only way to go!!! **Turns to**

Danielis: Good job! As a reward, tonight I will allow you to go and party at this Paradiso-place, or wherever...

Danielis: (thinks to himself, mumbling – sign goes up): Paradiso? *Coooool, and afterwards I can have a nice late-night-jog from the Paradiso to the hospitium. Gooood! Then I'll be in perfect shape to pick up my luggage and catch the bus to Lithouania.*

Jante, extremely impressed goes to Rienk:

Jante: Hey Rienk, this Russian slave was a really good investment after all. He built a fully self-functional fluorescence-excitation set-up. And it makes coffee too, so I can start writing my thesis now!

Jante leaves; Rienk thinks aloud:

Rienk: What can I say... a good investment indeed; He is second hand now and moreover they give them away at Vilnius nowadays, "twee halen-een betalen" as we say in Holland... I can combine him with that other one that Leonas sent me last time... They will build more automatized measuring set-ups and finally my other students will measure something! And we will have decent coffee without the need to hire one of these

expensive and very irritating Italians. Amazing! I will ask him to start with a microscope so we can finally have to prove that the LH2 complexes are not square...

Sign goes up: Six months later

Narrator: Six months later Danielis returns to the VU ready to start his PhD.

Danielis wears long sleeve shirt but no animal-like fur-coat.

Rienk: Oh welcome back, welcome back. Nice to have you here. By the way where is your student report from last year?

Danielis: Well, there was a small bug in my program (*starts to mumble- the rest in a sign*) *It spilled coffee all over the report. For several days in a row. But I can give an oral presentation if you want.*

Rienk: yeah yeah sure... What do I care? I totally believe you; don't worry. Now, follow me, I'll show you where you will work.

Narrator: Rienk takes him to the little room, which is completely messed up.

They walk in, kicking boxes from here and there...

Rienk (*opens the door*): So, here it is, the future microscope room, it is small, but then: it is a MICROSCOPE room, hahaha, nudge, nudge, know what I mean, eh, wink, wink!!! Anyway, it shouldn't be too difficult. In fact, when I did my Phd I would have constructed a setup like that in a single afternoon. But then, we are not all made out of super-professor material, so I give you, say, 3 months to build it. Once you finish that I will order you to start with something reaaally interesting. I have faith in you. Start working, and don't let me down!

Narrator: Danielis starts building the microscope. He feels at home in this little dark cell in Rienks monastery. It reminds him of his the spiritual moments he experienced in the dark Lithuanian woods under the guidance of his then-master Swami Leonaissi Valkuni. In the reclusion of his cell, he slowly builds up a shrine there, of all state-of the art equipment, and accessories: from pipettes to lasers, from lenses to dust-blowers, from computer programs to all gadgets. (*Show Danielis working*). The problem is, it's a tough task!!!

{We can have him trying to catch single complexes and measure their fluorescence.}

******Scene 2: Coffee room*

Props: *bread slices, salmon*

Narrator

Danielis

Manolis
Sofia

Narrator: A few months later, the need to find proper housing arises.

***Manolis and Sofia are having coffee and chatting in greek about their laundry
Danielis walks in with some raw salmon and some bread mumbling:***

Manolis: Hello Danieli

Danielis (mumbles, sign goes up: *hello*)

***Danielis takes the bread, makes a ball with it, then takes the salmon, mashes it
inbetween the bread and starts eating***

Sofia: My god, you eat like a brute, that looks disgusting

Danielis (in a clear stochastic voice): thinking of where it's going, who cares how it looks!

Manolis and Sofia keep talking in greek

Danielis (interrupts): Hey, I'm looking for a house, I'll be kicked out of *the hospitium soon*, any ideas of *where to look?*

Manolis and Sofia look at each other then at Danielis...

Manolis: In fact me and Sofia live in an old attic and we have one extra room...

Sofia: ... which we now use for storage and laundry...

Manolis: ...but if you don't mind the hanging clothes, you can sleep there.

Danielis: You'll let me *stay there! That'd be great!*

Narrator: So Danielis moves in with them in the attic.

In the attic. Sofia, Manolis and Danielis are in their rooms

1. Danielis knocks on Sofia's door, holding a frying pan and dancing salsa:

Sofia: Hello locitouko

Danielis: hello neighbour. Can I maybe borrow your hammer?

Sofia: Sure, here you go (gives him a hammer)...

Danielis goes back in his apartment and starts building cupboard

2. Danielis knocks on Manolis door, holding a frying pan and dancing salsa:

Manolis: Hello Danieli

Danielis: hello neighbour. Can I borrow some CDs?

Manolis: Sure, here you go (gives him CDs)...

Danielis goes back in his apartment and starts practicing salsa

3. Danielis knocks on Sofia's door, holding a frying pan and dancing salsa:

Sofia: Hello locitouko

Danielis: hello neighbour. Can I maybe borrow a blanket?

Sofia: Sure, here you go (gives him a blanket)...

Danielis goes back in his apartment stretches the blanket on the floor and starts exercising yoga

Narrator: Time passes and Danielis is socializing more and more, making more and more vague acquaintances in the group. He misinterprets the calls of nature and rushes to join in one of the notorious hiking trips near where the Gods reside, high up in the Ardennes Mountains.

*******Scene 3: Outdoor – Hiking in the Ardennes**

props: sandals, hats, gloves, backpacks , wood, henry Rollins song

Narrator

Danielis

Manolis

Sofia

Kinga

Sandrine

Bas

Frank = Tomas

Mikas = Jason

Everyone's walking in single file. Danielis is at the end of the row. Every now and then hassling with Mikas. Everyone wears hat, gloves and raincoat. Danielis is wearing sandals, no socks. He's singing henry rollins "I am a liar" (we can also play it on CD) The group arrives at the campsite and settles down.

Sandrine (walking around shouting- French accent): where is my sausage???

Bas: I think he went to sleep in your tent

Danielis: We need acampfire.

Manolis: I saw some firewood in a farm on the way. It's not far, but I don't think that we can take it. It belongs to someone...

Danielis: So what? Even better! We will steal it!

They take off, and Sandrine keeps asking

Sandrine: Where is the sausage? Tjeerd, where is our sausage?

More people start complaining, looking for the sausage...

In the meantime Manolis and Danielis come back with some wood. Danielis makes the fire very carefully, forming a pyramid with the wood, then lighting it, blowing until it's ready.

Danielis: It's perfect. You idiot's wouldn't know how to build the PERFECT fire.

Sandrine and the rest of the people (Bas, Sofia, Mikas) are still looking for the sausage.

In the meantime, Danielis starts fighting with Bas.

All together: Where is the sausage?

Bas falls on Frank's tent and breaks it.

Frank: Oh no, what are you doing? You broke my tent! Danieli, why aren't you careful?

Danielis: What do you want??? It's not my fault. Stupid Bas, he fell!!!

Frank picks up the pieces of the tent.

Narrator: In the meantime the rest (except Manolis...) concentrate on the sausage:

Bas: Sandrine, where is that sausage finally??? I need to eat some fat, my body is clearly out of food reserves.

Sandrine: Well, I gave it to Danielis, to carry it in his backpack.

All together: OH NO!

EVERYONE turns to Danielis:

All together: Danieli, where is the SAUSAGE?

Danielis: The sausage? What sausage?

Sandrine: The sausage that I gave you to carry: it was it in your backpack! We want to bake it in the fire now!

Danielis (looking very innocent): That sausage? But, that was for me! I ate it long time ago. Is there another one?

All together: WHAT??? DANIELI!!!!!!

Danielis: (very stoic) When nature calls nature cannot wait.

*******Scene 4: Back at the VU**

Narrator

Danielis

Sofia

Narrator: The years pass, and finally Danielis' bhoeddist prayers to the shrine are overheard, and the microscope starts to collect results . So the time comes for Danielis to write his first paper...

Danielis: Look here: I give my paper to Manolis, for some help, and what does he do? He takes it and puts "the" everywhere... **The** laser, **the** microscope, **the** LH2 complex....
WHAT IS THIS? It sucks!!!

Sofia: Locitouko, you know, in English you have to use articles before the nouns. It is a simple fact of life. You will have to accept it!

Danielis: Why should I use articles in my articles? That will just create an infinite state of recursion, and then my thesis will never finish! It is useless, and I will not accept it!
....And what about introduction? Rienk offered to write it for me. I expected something decent, and look what I got! Look at it! He doesn't explain anything! He takes everything for granted!

Sofia: But, Danielouko, you can't start every paper with an introduction into the ideas of Descartes, Kant and Popper. The basic things you have to take for granted!

Danielis: NO! It's crap. And what about this Cogdell guy! He keeps correcting my English! Who does he think he is? Big-shot professors, they think they know everything, but they cannot write a simple paper! Now I have to write it all over again!

Sofia: Danielouko, ok, relax! Send me the paper, I'll take a look at it and see if I can help you. Now, how about tonight? How about some tango? Shall we go practice those new steps we learned yesterday?

Danielis (HAIKU in RAP): Paper confusing
Tango clears mind and soul
Calmness emerges

{takes a strange pose}

Danielis and Sofia get up and go ...

*******Scene 5: At the tango salon**

Props: tango CD playing

Narrator

Danielis

Sofia

Screaming woman = Magda

Man shouting = Jason

Dancing couples: Tomas & Magda

Manolis & Nina

Daniel & Kinga

Cosimo & Eli

Jason & Alissia

Narrator: So they go to a famous tango bar in Amsterdam.

Danielis and Sofia are dancing, struggling in the crowded salon, among many other couples. Danielis steps on the woman from the next couple, but says nothing and keeps dancing as if nothing happened, his eyes wide open, looking innocent. The other woman looks at him very angry but keeps dancing until the song ends. Once the song ends, she charges up to Danielis and Sofia:

Woman (screaming): One of you stepped on me and didn't even apologize!

Danielis: Huh... sorry!?!?!

Woman (screaming in rage, not even listening to Danielis): You know, if you step on someone the least you can do is say "I'm sorry"! It REALLY hurt!

Danielis (looking innocent): But, I didn't even step on you that hard!

Woman (screaming): If you don't know how to dance you should stay at the side and not go towards the middle of the dancing floor.

Danielis (looking innocent mumbles): (sign) *I'm just going where there's space*

Voice shouting (a man from another couple): And did you pay your entrance fees???

All the dancers together (pointing at the door): GET OUT!!!

*******Scene 6. Socializing**

Narrator

Maxim (Danielis)

Daniel

Cosimo

Girls (Mariangela and Alissa)

Barman

hairdresser

Narrator: After this traumatic experience with tango Danielis realizes that in order to survive in Amsterdam he really needs to build strong social skills. So he consults his expert acquaintances Daniel and Cosimo who invite him on a girl-pick-up expedition.

Daniel, Cosimo and Danielis at the bar, drinking and talking.

Maxime: So, you see, picking up girls is a very simple task. All you have to do is buy them a drink and make small talk with a cute German accent.

Cosimo: An Italian accent will work better!

Danielis: But... I'm only Lithuanian!

Daniel: Oh, come on, come on, that's a detail... German, French, Italian, Russian, Lithuanian.... It's all the same! Finally, be a man!

Danielis: I can't! I'm not a man yet...

Cosimo: Look at these chicks sitting there! Take these drinks and go to them.

Danielis walks to the girls

Danielis (mumbling): *hello, drinks?*

He offers the drinks to the girls. Time passes and Danielis keeps getting them more and more drinks. {Barman supplies more and more drinks}

Narrator: Danielis follows the instructions. He trusts his acquaintances and has gained quite some confidence by now. He gives the girls drinks and he waits. And the girls drink... and drink.... And drink....

Danielis stares at them

The girls look more and more drunk and finally fell from their chair

Danielis, really upset goes back to Daniel and Cosimo.

Danielis (really irritated): What the fuck!

Daniel: Hey, what happened, did you get their phone numbers?

Danielis (really irritated): What? Phone numbers? Nooo!

Cosimo: You are taking them home!!!!!!

Danielis (*really irritated*): What? home...? I hardly know them. Nooo! Your stupid plan is all wrong! It doesn't work! Stupid girls got completely wasted! I offered them drinks as you suggested and I waited. But nothing happened. So I gave them more drinks. Still nothing... I've been buying them drinks all night. Then they started throwing up on me!

Cosimo (*desperate*): (*desperate starts swearing in Italian*) vaffanculo! vai in culo!!!

Daniel: Danieli, you were supposed to buy the one drink and then start talking to them! Your goal was to at least get their telephone numbers!!!

Danielis (*really irritated*): What the fuck! Stupid girls... They don't know shit...

Narrator: Really irritated, Danielis decides that a complete makeover is what he needs. He takes the big decision to visit a hairdresser for the first time...

Danielis charges in at the hairdresser's (sign: "Cut the crap", hairdresser already busy with someone, bell sounds, door opens suddenly, Danielis charges in, John Wayne style, and stands in front of the door)

The hairdresser stares at him bedazzled...

Danielis (*loud and determined*): I want the motherfucker look!

******Scene 7: Second outdoor* ******Scene*

Danielis

Kinga

Manolis

Cosimo

Props: canoe, hairgel, mobile phone

Narrator: Danielis is towards the end of his PhD, and he has finally mastered civilization. You can't tell at first sight....

Danielis carries the canoe over his head, so you can't see his hair style

Kinga: Hey, Danieli, can I help you with that canoe?

Danielis: No-no-no, it's ok, I don't need I don't need. Move away...

Narrator: ...but it's the simple small everyday things that give him away!

Danielis puts the canoe down, and fixes his hair. Everyone enters the canoe and starts rowing. Danielis puts gel in his hair; then checks his mobile phone. He has no signal. He shakes it, checks again. He looks tense.

Danielis: Hey! We need to go back to the shore (goes on mumbling....)

Manolis: come on, we just started, we will be late!!!

Danielis: No no no it iz very important, we have to go to the shore

Danielis starts rowing towards the shore, even though everyone rows the other direction. So of course the boat goes where Danielis goes.

When they arrive at the shore Danielis says:

Danielis: We have to find a phone booth; I need to make a phone call!

Cosimo: A phone call? We're in the middle of the Canadian forest, where the hell do you expect to find a phone booth here?

Manolis: What is all this about anyway?

Danielis: It iz verrry important, I have to fix a date with French girl I met before we left. So, get moving!!!!

*******Scene 8 (Final)**

Danielis

Manolis

Sofia

Rienk

Props: *telephone*

In the little dark microscope room.

Manolis and Sofia enter, while Danielis talks on the phone

Danielis: No, no, I'm too young to commit,

No, no....

I need more experiences...

Yes...

NO!

In the meantime Manolis and Sofia walk around and discover all the things Danielis borrowed from the attic long time ago (CD, hammer, blanket) shouting: Hey! That's mine!

Danielis hangs up, turns to Manolis and Sofia

Danielis: Stupid chicks, they don't get it!

Sofia: Danielouko, you're such a bastard. These things here are *our* stuff.

Danielis: My stuff, your stuff, come on, we're all FRIENDS!

Manolis: Friends my ass! We were acquaintances till now! Gee, you're a real communist when it comes to other people's things!

Danielis (really irritated): What do you want! Go away!

Manolis: Rienk is looking for you! He wants his microscope back!

Sofia: He said something about measuring with the automatic microscope!

Danielis: WHAT?!?!? No way! No-one touches my microscope.

Rienk enters

Rienk: Mrrr. RRRutkauskas....

....

Rienk: How is it going?

Danielis: Good, good, I finished my work here and I am now looking for something new. I had an interview with Philips but, you know, they asked me about my social skills. I told them it's ridiculous! What do I need social skills for? I want a job, I'm not going into politics!

Rienk: This is all irrelevant. What about the microscope? Is it finished finally? It's been four years! I will give you a PhD only if you let other people use it! I need it! I paid good money for it.

Danielis: Well, you can't lick enough of what you haven't eaten, can you???

Narrator: Life is beautiful, It is the best. Full of surprises, And opportunities, Full of magic, It is better than anything that has, ever been made, because it is real.

Curtain.