

# Olga Sytina: Agent Olga at the VU

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Rienk: Regine, have you seen our new PhD candidate? It's already hard to get good people coming to our group to join for our highly advanced research so if they have to disappear... Or maybe it's an annihilation phenomena going on? A bad person told her about the big challenge we offer here and scared the poor girl!  
Oh, here! Is it you Olga Sytina?

Olga (with a Russian hat on): Yes, mister.

Rienk: Good! Well Jos is going to show you the lab and then later we can talk.

Jos is showing all the setups to Olga:

Olga: Oh, really interesting all these lenses and lasers! To take pictures of proteins! That's exactly the kind of complicated thing I'd like to do! I love photography so it could just be great to do it at such a fast and small scale. Well, and if it involves data analysis with a lot of computer work then I really hope that I'll be selected for the job.

Marloes: Hello Olga. I have a lot of questions to ask you. Just postpone your meeting with Rienk. I want to be first to test your knowledge and scientific aptitudes.

## **Problems with Dutch Immigration Services:**

Olga: It is the 15068 time that I call this Dutch Immigration Service! They need to know all I've done since I'm here. Strange that they don't believe my proofs and evidences that I was always here. Anyway it's almost 5 years that I'm in Holland so it just should work fine. I have done my best to be as discreet as possible so it's a matter of waiting a bit more...

IND on the phone: Hier is de Immigratie Naturalisatie Dienst. Wat mee kan ik u helpen ?

Olga: I'm very sorry, miss! Would you be kind to speak in English? My Dutch is not so good and this affair is really important for me. I need to be able to stay here to finish my work. My boss needs me for a important matter. I guess you do not know about research but I'm about to publish in a Nature journal! The best of the world! My boss is counting on me!

IND: I understand but you see it seems from all of your files that you've been away for one week out of the country so as in the article 7 paragraph 2.b you can not get a permanent stay.

Olga: Cool I'm out of this cold country to join for a summer school!

### **School in Venice:**

Narrator: In Venice during a Summerschool.

S. O.: Have you seen Olga? I do not know her but I should share my room with her and I still did not see her after 2 nights. Is she not coming to the lectures?

Maxime: I've seen her! No woman can escape to my eyes! She was yesterday with some Russian participants.

Narrator: in the evening. After a long day of talks and a big dinner all the real scientists go on with a drink.

Alisa: Hey Olga you are here too! Nasdrovia!

Narrator: People are with beers and for the Russian the Italian vodka, Grappa...

People are drinking and talking about Science and love stories in Science...

Narrator: 3 hours later...

Some people are getting drunk.

Narrator: 6 hours later...

Everyone is on the ground but Olga is still ok.

Olga: Nasdrovia! To the Dutch mills!

### **Visit to Rotterdam-Kinderdijk:**

Toh: Olga, I know that you always refuse to join for group activities but do you want to join me for a photo-session?

Olga: I'm very sorry Toh but you know that indeed I prefer to avoid the crowd but if it's about photos I'll make an exception. I did not know that you like photography, I like photography too. Let's go to Kinderdijk!

toh: That's a great idea! Where is it?

Olga: It's near Rotterdam.

Toh: is that not far with this cold winter. This week-end the forecast is wind with temperature under -5 deg Celsius?

Olga: No worry, I have lots of experiences with temperature under -30 deg Celsius at my home town in Russia.

Toh: I have not been there before, let's go then.

Toh and Olga leave.  
They meet for the photo session.

Toh: Good morning, Olga. It is quite cold today, are you sure that you have enough protection with that long leather boots?

Olga: Good morning, Toh. Don't worry, the Russians know very well how to protect themselves from cold.

Narrator: After taking the bike, then the train, then the tram and then the bus they finally arrive at Rotterdam-Kinderdijk. In reaching the Kinderdijk, the cold attacked both Olga and Toh immediately they come out of the bus.

Toh: Wow, is even colder here!

Olga: I did not expect to feel the cold in the Netherlands. After all, the coldness cannot compare to the level in Russia.

Toh: it's worth a visit don't you think?

Olga: Yes, it's beautiful here! Let's get the cameras out!

Toh: A bit too early for the evening light but in an hour it should be fine!

Narrator: After walking for about 15 minutes, and covering distance of around 500 m.

Olga: Well Toh if you do not mind, let's get it done quickly! I'm completely frozen!

Toh: Are you sure? With my shorts I do not feel cold!

Olga: How possible? Really I'm ice cold!

Toh: Are you not from Siberia? You know it's a matter of mind strength! Just think it's warm!

Olga: Well, me, even with all my Russian clothes on my hands and teeth are shaking! A bit hard to take a picture then! And the worth it's that I can not go further: my feet are pieces of ice!

For a guy from a hot country you surprise me!

I'm very sorry but I have to go...

Olga is running back home.

### **Lab:**

Marloes: Do not pay attention to me. I'm just looking to see how it goes!

You know these measurements are really important! You should also measure at other wavelengths just to check.

Narrator: After many hours spent in the darkness of the lab, looking to her data on the computer screen, Olga has collected enough data to write 2 thesis. She has finally a Nature paper but only one paper is published! Anyway the main goal is achieved. She knows now everything about the Dutch and can report to the Russian KGB.