

READING #9 - MATILDA, SERGEI

MATILDA

- 89 -

START

SERGEI

You are the Wormwood's daughter?

MATILDA

Yes.

SERGEI

Where is your father?

MATILDA

He's... I don't know.

SERGEI

The Wormwood, is a stupid man. And being stupid he assumed I was stupid too. And that is a very, very, stupid – and rude – thing to do.

MATILDA

Yes. But I'm afraid my father is quite rude and very, very stupid.

SERGEI

You know this? At least there is one clever one in the family.

The beefy MEN laugh. SERGEI raises a hand and THEY stop.

(looking at her)

What is your name, little girl?

MATILDA

. Matilda.

SERGEI

I like you Matilda; you seem smart. Sadly, in my line of work I don't often get to meet smart people like you. Most of the people I deal with, their thinking is all backwards.



#21d - Backwards

Beat. EVERYONE turns to the bookshelves. SERGEI nods to his men and they drag The Wormwoods out, throwing Mr Wormwood at Sergei's feet. He glowers at him, then looks back at Matilda.

SERGEI

Ee Dajza Pukravie swayvo mere Tsatsa utsa. Da. Priyatno poznakomitsa s takoy oom-noy de-vachkoy.

(And she even covers for her rat of a father. Yes, it is a pleasure to meet such a child)

MATILDA

Spaseeba. Mne to-zhe priyatna paznakomitsa s-Vani.

(Thank you. And it is a pleasure to meet you, too.)

Suddenly the RUSSIANS stop. THEY turn to Matilda.

SERGEI

Ty... ty gavarish pa-rooski?

(You... you speak Russian?)

MATILDA

Ne-tak harasho kak-be mne hatelas'. E-ta krasivui yazik, pactammu ya budu staratsa izuchiat' yeco I dal'she.

(Not as well as I would like to. It's a beautiful language so I hope to learn as much as I can)

SERGEI

Matilda, who taught you how to speak Russian?

MATILDA

Well I taught myself, I suppose. I was reading Dostoyevsky and I just thought it would be better to read it in the language it was written in.

THEY all gasp. HE goes to Matilda. Embraces her, kissing her on both cheeks (at least three times). The MEN all bow.

SERGEI

I am Sergei.

Priglasenie Puznakomitsa

(SERGEI)

It is truly an honour to meet you Matilda Wormwood.

Beat. HE considers, looks at Mr Wormwood, then Matilda.

Matilda, your father has been stupid and rude to both of us, yes? I can very easily have one of my friends... teach him manners. And one day, when he leaves hospital, he will still be stupid, but not so rude, I think. I give this as a gift to you. What do you say?

Pause. MATILDA thinks. Really thinks.

MATILDA

Mr Sergei, this is a very tempting offer. But he is my father. And I am his daughter. I think I've had enough of revenge.

SERGEI considers. Seems to be finding the idea of letting go of Mr Wormwood very difficult. But HE kneels, takes Matilda's hand,

SERGEI

THIS LITTLE GIRL,

THIS MIRACLE,

MATIL... DA.



SERGEI

Your father is very, very, stupid. But he is also very, very, very, very, lucky to have you as his daughter. Although if I happen to be doing business here again and I see him, he will not be so lucky.

HE claps his hands twice, and the RUSSIANS all leave.

STOP

