

# Rupert and the Seven Russian Email Brides

This play is free to download and perform. The only condition is that you must email Alex at [abroun@bigpond.net.au](mailto:abroun@bigpond.net.au) and let him know **where and when you produced his script**, listing the **director, cast and theatre**. If you have any production photos send them along as well and they may just end up on this website.

a ten minute play

by

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**Cast**

RUPERT

PETRA

VERA

NATALIA

TATYANA

SABRYN B.

ALENA

DARYA

OLGA

**Time**

The present

**Settings**

Various locations around Sydney.

Or any other city.

**Rupert and the Seven Russian Email Brides**

ON STAGE IS A DESK, PILED HIGH WITH FOLDERS AND PAPERS.

RUPERT: (TO AUDIENCE) Recently I have become engaged to no less than seven Russian women.

VERA: My name is Vera. I am 27 years old. I'm from Russia,.

RUPERT: They all have very exotic names.

ALENA: My name is Alena. I am a nice young girl from Russia, without harmful habits.

RUPERT: Most of them ending in A.

NATALIA: Hello. My name is Natalia. how are you?

RUPERT: (INDICATING THE GIRLS) Tatyana, Vera, Darya

DARYA: Hello my friend !!!! You probably do not know who I and what for I have written to you the letter.

RUPERT: Sabryn B. Is there a Sabryn A ?

TATYANA Hello man ! Write to you the woman from Russia. My name Tatyana to me of 26 years!

RUPERT: Natalia. Alena.

OLGA: Olga.

RUPERT: Okay – well not all of their names are exotic. And they are all mysteriously between the ages of 26 and 30.

OLGA: To me of 26 years!

RUPERT: 26 is a very popular age in Russia.

SABRYN B. Hello, my gentleman I know that you are a very attractive man, and I hope for our future relationships,

RUPERT: They contact me via email.

NATALIA: I want to find the more friend

RUPERT: Of course.

TATYANA: and my love.

- RUPERT: Through the swirl of free Viagra and offers to enlarge my manhood, they offer me a world of unparalleled opportunity.
- SABRYN B: I believe in faith in my life and I will meet my real second half when the time comes.
- RUPERT: Which for me, sitting in this dingy office, pounding through these spreadsheets
- DARYA: I dream to have strong and happy family.
- RUPERT: Is not unattractive. They are all gainfully employed:
- ALENA: Nurse in city hospital.
- NATALIA: Manager in the Insurance Company.
- VERA: Adviser on sale home appliances.
- RUPERT: They live in delightful rural towns and important cities.
- TATYANA: Yoshkar-Ola. It is 1000 km from capital Russia Moscow.
- DARYA: Kazan.
- OLGA: Cheboksary
- RUPERT: They give me their vital statistics: Height -
- ALL BRIDES: 172 centimetres
- RUPERT: Weight –
- ALL BRIDES: 51 kilograms.
- RUPERT: Even their date of birth.
- ALL BRIDES: 15<sup>th</sup> of October.
- RUPERT: They send me photographs. Fully clothed.

#### THE GIRLS FORM POSES.

- RUPERT: Bright, smiling, snapshots. A picnic in the countryside, dancing at a nightclub, shopping in the city.  
They tell me about their lives.
- DARYA: I work as the manager of the small company. I like my work and it is a good money if I work hard.

- RUPERT: Their families.
- TATYANA: I have my mother and father here but I don't live with them. I rent an apartment not far from my work and my family's home.
- RUPERT: Their hobbies.
- NATALIA: Sport, a photo, drawing.
- RUPERT: Even their pets.
- VERA: I had a cat, but in one day it has left on street and has not returned.
- RUPERT: It seems that life in Russia is hard.
- OLGA: In Russia it is not possible to live easy.
- RUPERT: And they have all had various problems with the opposite sex.
- SABRYN B.: It is a lot of men in Russia to drink alcohol much to not like I.
- ALENA: I said this good news to him, but he told that he does not want our meeting.
- RUPERT: But they haven't given up hope.
- DARYA: I thought it would be great to meet someone who is open to anything
- RUPERT: Just yet.
- VERA: As I am !
- RUPERT: They are open to new opportunities.
- OLGA: I would be happy to be friends, lovers or create a serious relationship!
- TATYANA: We will see what happens!
- RUPERT: On long mornings – and even longer afternoons - I imagine we go for a picnic in the woods.

THE GIRLS UNFURL A PICNIC BLANKET AND OPEN A PICNIC BASKET. THE LIGHTS CHANGE TO SUGGEST A WOOD.

- RUPERT: I recline on the blanket with my head resting in Alena's lap, under the -
- ALENA: Dahurian Larch

RUPERT: tree, while Natalia feeds me -

NATALIA: Wild mushrooms and berries.

RUPERT: Tatyana sits nearby reading from a book of short stories by Alexander Pushkin

TATYANA: In Russian.

RUPERT: Accompanied by Vera on the

VERA: Balalaika

RUPERT: Which is a traditional Russian folk instrument, while Sabryn B and Darya –

OLGA: Hey ! What about me ?

RUPERT: And Olga dance the *Pryvit* for me, which is a

SABRYN B: Traditional –

DARYA: Ukranian

OLGA: Welcome Dance.

SABRYN B, OLGA AND DARYA: (TO RUPERT) You are welcome to me.

RUPERT: I could stay here forever. If not for –

THE GIRLS DANCE NEAR THE TABLE AND ONE OF THEM  
KNOCKS SOME FOLDERS ON TO THE FLOOR.

RUPERT: The unwanted intrusions of reality.

**RUPERT GOES OVER AND PICKS UP THE FOLDERS.**

RUPERT: I print out all their pictures on the office printer and stick them up around my desk. Which is what – strangely enough – one day leads me to meet Petra.

PETRA: (ENTERING) Are these all your girlfriends ?

RUPERT: My harem.

PETRA: Having six wives is illegal isn't it ?

RUPERT: Seven. (POINTING TO THE PICTURES) Darya, Tatyana, Vera, Alena, Sabryn B, Natalia *and* Olga.

PETRA: Who are they ?

RUPERT: Russian email brides.

PETRA: Say no more. I'm Petra. Accounts payable.

RUPERT: Rupert. Accounts overdue.  
(TO AUDIENCE) Could my Russian ladies have brought a local one to my door ?  
(TO PETRA) Another A.

PETRA: Another what ?

RUPERT: Your name. It ends in A.

PETRA: Well spotted.

RUPERT: Like my harem. All their names end in A too. Except Sabryn, which ends in B.

PETRA: Would you like me to join ?

RUPERT: (TO AUDIENCE) She's funny. And smart. And cute. And even better - real. Before I know it I've made my move.  
(TO PETRA) You should join us for a picnic sometime.

PETRA: Is there room for me on the blanket ?

RUPERT: I'm sure we can squeeze you in.

BEAT.

PETRA: I'd like that.

RUPERT: (TO AUDIENCE) Was that a yes ?

THE LIGHTS CHANGE

RUPERT: It turns out it was, as the following Sunday we're off for a picnic

PETRA: In Centennial Park.

RUPERT: (LAYING OUT BLANKET) Under the

PETRA: Gum

RUPERT: tree. There was no wild mushrooms or berries. Just

PETRA: Cheddar cheese and crackers.

RUPERT: But I didn't mind – one bit.

PETRA: (TO RUPERT) My sister thought I was crazy to go out with you.

RUPERT: Did she ?

PETRA: I said he works in accounts overdue. He can't be an axe murderer.

RUPERT: Don't you know ? That's where they keep all the axe murderers.  
You don't pay, you get – (HE MIMES CHOPPING AN AXE)

PETRA: If that's the quality of all your gags. You can stop now.

**PETRA SMILES.**

RUPERT: (TO AUDIENCE) I like the way she smiles.

WE HEAR THE BALALAIKA.

RUPERT: Things were going well but then Vera turned up.

**VERA ENTERS PLAYING THE BALALAIKA. SHE SITS BETWEEN RUPERT AND PETRA.**

**TATYANA ENTERS RECITING PUSHKIN LOUDLY IN RUSSIAN.**

RUPERT: And Tatyana.

PETRA: (TO **RUPERT**) So how long have you been at Boring and Grind?

RUPERT: (TRYING TO SEE AROUND **VERA**) Sorry. What was that ?

**ALENA AND NATALIA ENTER. ALENA PULLS RUPERT DOWN SO HE IS RESTING ON HER LAP. NATALIA BEGINS TO STUFF MUSHROOMS AND BERRIES IN HIS MOUTH.**

PETRA: I said how long have you been at Boring and Grind ? That's what we call it. Down on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor.

RUPERT: (LOUDLY) I'm sorry. I can't hear you.

**DARYA, OLGA AND SABRYN B ENTER AND START DANCING.**

PETRA: Why are you shouting ?

RUPERT: (VERY LOUD) What ?

PETRA: I said why are you shouting ?

RUPERT: (TO AUDIENCE) Very soon after that I developed a raging headache and had to go home.

**PETRA AND ALL THE GIRLS SUDDENLY EXIT TAKING THE PICNIC ITEMS WITH THEM.**

**RUPERT IS ALONE.**

RUPERT: And that I thought was that. But a week later I ran into Petra at the photocopying machine and after profuse apologies, she let me take her to dinner. And this time there were no unexpected visitations. The night went well. We ended up back at my place.

**RUPERT SHOWS PETRA IN TO HIS APARTMENT.**

RUPERT: Here we are. Can I get you a tea, coffee, double-malt scotch ?

PETRA: The latter please.

RUPERT: A lady after my own heart.

**RUPERT LOOKS FOR THE DRINKS.**

PETRA: That was a lovely dinner.

RUPERT: One of my favourite spots.

PETRA: And I'm so glad you turned out to be normal.

RUPERT: I had you worried ?

PETRA: A little. That day in the park. I thought you were seeing things.

RUPERT: Really ?

PETRA: It was like you were surrounded by your Russian Harem.

RUPERT: Really ?

PETRA: Must've been feeding you magic mushrooms.

RUPERT: Well, now it's just us. (HOLDING UP BOTTLE) All I seem to have is vodka.

PETRA: Close enough.

**RUPERT COMES OVER WITH THE VODKA. HE SITS AND POURS THE DRINKS. THEY ARE VERY CLOSE. FOR A MOMENT IT SEEMS THEY MIGHT KISS THEN PETRA SEES A BOOK ON THE TABLE.**

PETRA: (PICKING IT UP) I think you're obsessed.

RUPERT: What ?

PETRA: Vodka and ... (READING TITLE) "The stories of Alexander Pushkin". You've got Russia on the brain ?

RUPERT: How did that get there ?

PETRA: Here you go. Acting weird again.

**TATYANA** ENTERS. SHE GRABS THE BOOK FROM **PETRA'S** HANDS AND STARTS READING LOUDLY AGAIN IN RUSSIAN.

RUPERT: (TO **TATYANA**) Not now.

PETRA: Who are you talking to ?

**VERA** ENTERS, STRUMMING THE BALALAIKA.

RUPERT: (TO **VERA**) And you too. Get out of here.

PETRA: (STARTING TO LEAVE) If you want me to.

RUPERT: (TO **PETRA**) Not you. Them.

PETRA: Rupert - who are you talking to ?

**NATALIA** AND **ALENA** ENTER AND TRY TO START FEEDING MUSHROOMS AND BERRIES TO **RUPERT**.

RUPERT: (TO **ALENA** AND **NATALIA**) I don't want to.

PETRA: (LEAVING AGAIN) Who said I did ?

RUPERT: (RACING TO **PETRA**) No, please wait.

**OLGA, DARYA** AND **SABRYN B** ENTER. THEY DANCE AROUND **RUPERT** IN A CIRCLE, PREVENTING HIM FROM REACHING **PETRA**.

RUPERT: (TO **OLGA, DARYA** AND **SABRYN B.**) Leave me alone !

PETRA: Fine.

AND **PETRA** EXITS.

RUPERT: Petra, wait.

BUT SHE IS GONE. **RUPERT** SITS, FURIOUS. BEAT.

NATALIA: Would you like a berry my love ?

**RUPERT** CLOSSES HIS MOUTH.

VERA: May I play for you my sweet ?

**RUPERT** BLOCKS HIS EARS.

SABRYN B.: Shall we dance ?

**RUPERT** CLOSSES HIS EYES. BEAT.

THE GIRLS ARE MOMENTARILY CONFUSED.

THEN **OLGA** STEPS FORWARD. SHE KISSES **RUPERT** ON THE LIPS. SHE STEPS BACK.

BEAT. **RUPERT** SMILES.

**RUPERT** OPENS HIS EYES AND LOOKS AT THE GIRLS. HE OPENS HIS ARMS WIDE.

ALL THE GIRLS RUN TO HIM AND SMOTHER HIM WITH HUGS AND KISSES. **RUPERT** DISAPPEARS UNDERNEATH THEM.

THE LIGHTS CHANGE.

**RUPERT** NOW SITS AT HIS DESK, WORKING. THE GIRLS SURROUND HIM – **ALENA** AND **NATALIA** FEEDING HIM BERRIES AND MUSHROOMS, **VERA** GENTLY STRUMMING THE BALALAIKA, THE OTHER GIRLS STROKING HIS HAIR AND FACE.

**PETRA** ENTERS. SHE STOPS WHEN SHE SEES **RUPERT**. HE LOOKS UP AND THEIR EYES MEET. BEAT. **RUPERT** LOWERS HIS EYES AND RETURNS TO WORK.

BEAT. **PETRA** LEAVES.

RUPERT: (TO AUDIENCE) You know what they say – seven brides are better than one.

THE LIGHTS FADE.