

DREAM TRIP

by

Artem Chukanov

email: asc150@aubg.edu
facebook: [/chukanovartem](https://www.facebook.com/chukanovartem)
phone: +359890315333

1 EXT. THE VILLAGE - DAY

A small Russian village surrounded by wheat fields. Most of the houses look small but cozy. The condition of the roads, or what's left of them is extremely poor. At the end of a road, there is a small brick house with wooden frames and a small garage next to it.

2 INT. ALEX'S ROOM - DAY

One of the walls is covered with many certificates for participation and winning in different contests for young painters. The room is a bit messy but in an artistic way. The papers and paints are all on the floor and furniture.

ALEX is a 17-year-old boy. He wears a white t-shirt and black shorts. He looks mature for his age. He is sitting on the couch sketching one of his drawings while watching an American TV show on his laptop.

The phone RINGS. Alex rushes to the phone and accidentally flips the red paint. It dramatically spreads on the floor. Alex takes a small pause before answering the phone as he sees an unknown number calling. He takes a deep breath, closes his eyes, and answers the phone.

ALEX

Hello?

ELENA

Good morning! May I talk to Alex?

ALEX

Uh, yes, that's me.

ELENA

Alex, my name is Elena, and I'm calling on behalf of the exchange program organizers where you applied six months ago. We have very exciting news for you!

ALEX

Um... yes?

ELENA

We are happy to announce that you are one of the winners, and you're going to the States for the whole academic year!

ALEX

(silent)

ELENA

We need to confirm your participation. What would you say, are you up for a new adventure?

ALEX

OH MY! Haha, yes! OF COURSE!

ELENA

Great! We are also excited to tell you that your host-family has already been found!

ALEX

Really? Please tell me it's not a dream.

(joyfully laughing)

FADE OUT

3 INT. ALEX'S ROOM - DAY - MONTAGE

-Alex carefully folds his clothes and packs the luggage.

-Alex checks the documents and looks around his room.

-Alex kisses his siblings and waves goodbye to his grandparents.

END OF MONTAGE

4 INT. THE CAR - DAY

Alex and his parents are on the way to the airport. MARIA, the mother, is a fit 40-year-old woman looking younger than her actual age. She wears a cheap t-shirt and black skinny pants. VIKTOR, the father, is about 45 years old. He has an average type of the body and short hair. He wears the summer sportswear.

MARIA

Hey, just keep messaging me.

ALEX

Okay.

MARIA

Message me before you get on the plane, and right after you land, please. Don't make me worry about you, okay?

ALEX

Yes, mom. I'll be messaging you.

(CONTINUED)

MARIA

And let's have Skype every other week, or something.

ALEX

Didn't you hear on that information meeting that I shouldn't Skype you guys for some time so I don't get homesick? When I am in the States I won't even be messaging you very often.

MARIA

But...

ALEX

Mom, I really want to enjoy this experience. And I don't want to be homesick. It would be impossible with all this chatting and talking.

MARIA

(silent)

5 INT. MOSCOW AIRPORT - DAY

Alex registers for his flight and walks to the security checking. He hugs and kisses his parents.

ALEX

Okay, guys. I have to go now!
Love you tons! Take care!

MARIA

Bye, dear. Please, be safe! We love you!

VIKTOR

Bye, son!

Alex walks away. His mother starts crying, and his father calms her down.

6 MONTAGE - VARIOUS

A) EXT. MOSCOW AIRPORT - DAY - The plane takes off.

B) INT. THE PLANE - DAY - Alex listens to music in the headphones looking at the window. He sketches some drawings on the piece of paper.

C) EXT. DALLAS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - MORNING - The plane lands.

7

INT. DALLAS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - MORNING

Alex walks into the airport smiling and looking around. He enters the waiting area, and he gets surprised by how many people are waiting for their relatives and friends. He looks a little bit lost, but soon he notices a couple in their late forties, and two teenagers holding a big poster that says "ALEX, WELCOME TO AMERICA". Alex walks fast to his host family.

ALEX

(shy)

Hello!

Host mother, CHRISTINE, is somewhere between 40 and 50 good-looking a bit overweighted woman. She is dressed nicely, but too formal. A black blouse and a black skirt down to her ankles with black sandals. Her hair is short and dark. Host father, JAMES, is a chubby 50-year-old man with mostly gray hair and beard. He wears a formal black shirt and slacks. They both smile.

CHRISTINE

Hey, honey! I am so happy to meet you in person!

JAMES

Hey, bud. How was your flight?

ALEX

It was the very first flight I have ever taken in my life! I really enjoyed it!

The twin teenagers, JACOB and EMMA, are 15 years old. Jacob is a tall boy with somewhat a teen mustache and red cheeks. Emma is a brunette girl with long hair and a beautiful smile.

JACOB

Nice!

EMMA

Are you tired?

ALEX

Well, yeah. A little bit.

CHRISTINE

Okay, kids. Let's get in the car. I can't wait to show Alex our house and his room!

Everyone smiles. They walk slowly towards their old Jeep talking indistinctly and nodding.

8 INT. THE CAR - DAY

James is behind the wheel. He turns on the country radio station. The song is playing.

CHRISTINE

Oh, I love this song!

Everyone in the car starts singing except for Alex because he doesn't know the lyrics. He looks at the hosts, smiling.

9 EXT. THE STREET - DAY

The host family and Alex arrive at the house. It is quite big: a single-floor house painted white with big windows and a wooden door at the entrance. Alex opens his mouth as he is very surprised.

JAMES

Do you like it?

ALEX

Oh, yeah!

JAMES

Come on in! Now you live here.

The family notices a small white fluffy kitten walking and meowing outside.

CHRISTINE

Awww... look at this cuteness!
Hey, Alex, it is almost as cute
as you are!
(all laughing)

EMMA

Can we take it in? Pretty
pleeease!

CHRISTINE

(taking the kitten)
Of course, we can, dear!

10 INT. THE HOUSE - DAY

MONTAGE

-Christine shows the house to Alex. They talk.

-Alex unpacks his luggage and arranges some things in his new room.

-Alex and his host family exchange some gifts.

-At the end of the day, they have their first dinner together.

END OF MONTAGE

11 INT. THE SCHOOL - TWO WEEKS LATER

Alex is sitting in the classroom. There are about twenty students. The teacher is explaining the material. Alex is looking out of the window.

THE TEACHER (V.O.)
 ...in religion it is simple. If
 there was God then we simply can
 not deny the existence of the
 Devil...

12 INT. THE SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Alex is talking to his new friend, REBECCA. She is a 16-year-old beautiful blonde girl, the daughter of Sheriff Jones.

REBECCA
 How's it going? Is it hard to
 adjust to this place?

ALEX
 It is so small. I thought I'd be
 living in LA, or New York. Haha.
 But you know, I really like it
 here!

REBECCA
 Hey, would you like to have a cup
 of coffee, and have a
 conversation in a cozier place?

ALEX
 Sure, I do!

13 INT. COFFEEHOUSE - DAY

The coffeehouse is full of people sitting at the tables and talking to each other. Alex and Rebecca are laughing and talking.

REBECCA
 ...hahaha. You're so funny and
 smart, Alex. I always wanted to
 have a friend like you.

ALEX
 Don't you have friends?

REBECCA
 Well, of course, I do, but...
 (stops smiling)

(CONTINUED)

ALEX

What?

REBECCA

Uh. Alex, I need to tell you something.

ALEX

(smiling)

Go ahead! I'm listening to you.

REBECCA

You seem to be a really nice guy, and I think you should know something. Um, I don't really know how to tell you about it, but this place is not what it seems to be.

ALEX

What do you mean?

REBECCA

You shouldn't stay here any longer.

ALEX

Um, can you be more specific?

Rebecca's phone RINGS. Rebecca answers it. She nods from time to time.

REBECCA

(on the phone)

Yes. Okay.

Rebecca ends the call.

REBECCA

Alex, I am sorry. I really have to go.

ALEX

What do you mean you have to go? I want you to tell me what's going on.

REBECCA

I can explain it later. I must go. Bye.

Rebecca leaves coffeehouse. Alex is staring at the entrance door.

14 INT. THE HOUSE - EVENING

Alex is walking around the house looking for something.
Christine is doing the dishes.

ALEX
Christine, have you seen the
kitten?

CHRISTINE
Oh, Alex, can you already stop
it?

ALEX
What?

CHRISTINE
Just call me mom, okay?

ALEX
Oh, sorry. It's just unusual,
Christine... I mean... mom.
(both smiling)
So, back to the kitten. Have you
seen it?

CHRISTINE
I fed it in the morning. Maybe
the kids took it somewhere.

The phone RINGS. Christine picks it up.

LAURA (V.O.)
Hi Christine, it's Laura. May I
talk to Alex?

CHRISTINE
Oh, hi Laura! Of course! He is
right here.
(passes a phone to Alex
whispering)
It's your placement coordinator.

ALEX
Hello?

LAURA (V.O.)
Hi, Alex! It's Laura. I have to
fill in my monthly report about
your experience in the host
family. Do you have a moment?

ALEX
(walking back to his room)
Of course, no problem.

15 INT. ALEX'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Alex is sitting on his bed and talking on the phone.

LAURA (V.O.)

How has it been there? Do you like it?

ALEX

Yeah. I enjoy being here. I like my host family, and I really love my school. I met a lot of new people. Thank you, Laura!

LAURA (V.O.)

Any troubles?

ALEX

No, not at all. Everything is fine!

LAURA (V.O.)

Okay then. If you need my help, call this number any time you need to. I am always here to help. Do you remember the rules from pre-departure orientation?

ALEX

Yeah, yeah. yeah. Everything can be resolved by a placement coordinator, and I don't have to call my parents, or contest organizers because you'll get in trouble for not resolving my problems. I remember that.

LAURA (V.O.)

That's right! Okay then. I'll call to check on you next week. Bye for now!

ALEX

Bye!

16 INT. THE KITCHEN - MORNING

Alex is having a breakfast, and his host family gets ready to go somewhere.

CHRISTINE

Honey, we'll be gone until the late afternoon. Please, finish your homework and the chores. Okay?

(CONTINUED)

ALEX

Yes, mom. I will.

CHRISTINE

Thank you!

(to the kids)

Okay, guys. It's time to go!

The family leaves the house. Alex finishes his cereal.

17 INT. CHRISTINE'S ROOM - MORNING

Christine's room is not very big. It is messy but could be cozy if it's cleaned up. Alex is snooping around. He looks at the personal library. They have a lot of different books. He reads the names of the books out loud.

ALEX

"How To Make Dinner in 20 Minutes", "The Key to Successful Family Life", "10 Golden Rules of Raising Your Children", "Crime and Punishment" by Dostoevsky...

Alex takes out some books and sees more behind them.

... "Life Can Be Meaningful",
"Hidden Messages", "Rituals".

He stops reading the titles and puts all the books back on the shelf.

Alex looks at a chest of drawers. He looks inside them one by one. At the very bottom drawer, he finds a jewelry box. He opens it and takes out a bracelet. He looks at it carefully, and then suddenly throws it on the floor. He picks it up again and realizes that the bracelet is made of something that looks like tiny bones and teeth. He then looks again inside the box and finds a tiny furry white paw. He nervously puts the things back in their places and rushes to the phone.

18 INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

LAURA (V.O)

Hello?

ALEX

(panting)

Laura, I...I have to... can we meet?

LAURA (V.O)

Alex? What's wrong?

ALEX

I don't know what I just saw, but they... they are not who you think they are.

(CONTINUED)

LAURA (V.O.)

Hey, calm down. What are you talking about?

ALEX

My host family. They are a part of a cult or something. Maybe worse. Or maybe they're just crazy. I don't know. I...I just can't stay here any longer. You must help me!

LAURA (V.O.)

Okay, you are not making any sense, but fine, I'll be there in half an hour. Stay there and wait for me.

19 EXT. THE FRONT YARD - DAY

Alex is standing outside, in front of the house, with the arms crossed on his chest. He is nervously looking around.

A black old car arrives. Alex rushes to the car. He gets inside and keeps looking around.

LAURA is in her late fifties, a nicely dressed and eccentric-looking woman with medium curly grayish hair wearing red lipstick and big earrings.

LAURA

You're as pale as dough when I make it without any eggs. What's wrong?

ALEX

Laura, drive, please. Let's get out. JUST GO SOMEWHERE! I'll tell you what's wrong on the way.

LAURA

Alright, alright. Let's go to my place.

20 INT. THE CAR - DAY

ALEX

My host family does something terrible to the animals.

LAURA

Wha.. What? I mean how do you know that?

ALEX

I found the books about some rituals in their library, and I

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ALEX (cont'd)
saw the things they made out of
animals' bones...

Alex and Laura see the sheriff on the road. The latter one stops their car.

SHERIFF JONES
You seem to be in a rush. The
speed limit here is 60. Is
everything alright?
(looking at Alex and
smiling)
Hey, buddy!

ALEX
Um, yes, there is.. we're...

LAURA
(smiling back at sheriff)
Everything is fine! I didn't
notice a speed limit sign. Sorry.

SHERIFF JONES
Alright, please, be careful on
the road. We don't need
accidents, especially with
foreign students.
(winks at Alex)

Laura continues driving.

ALEX
Why didn't you tell him?

LAURA
Tell him what? I can't even
understand anything myself.
Listen, when we get to my place
you should tell me everything
from the very beginning again,
and then we can decide whether
you need to switch your family,
or if we should involve the
police.

21 EXT. LAURA'S HOUSE - DAY

Laura and Alex get out of the car and go towards the brick house with a big green yard.

22 INT. THE HALLWAY - DAY

Alex comes in first. He walks into the dining room. Laura looks around and locks the door from the inside putting the key in her pocket.

LAURA (V.O.)
(from the living room)
Hey, Alex, come here.

23 INT. THE LIVING ROOM - DAY

Alex comes in. He gets scared. It is visible from his slightly opened mouth and teary eyes. His host family is sitting in the room and staring at him. The parents look angry, and the kids are disappointed.

CHRISTINE
Sit down!

Alex sits down on the chair.

CHRISTINE
So, Alex, I thought we were friends. I thought I could trust you.

JAMES
What should we do with you now?
Huh?

ALEX
I...I promise I won't tell anyone. Can I just go home? I...I swear I'm not gonna tell anyone about it.

Knock on the door. Laura goes to open it. She sees the sheriff and his daughter, Rebecca.

LAURA
We need to do something about this boy.

SHERIFF JONES(V.O.)
Don't worry.

Sheriff and Rebecca enter the living room.

SHERIFF JONES
Take him to your bedroom. We must discuss a couple of things before we take an action.

James ties Alex and brings him to Laura's bedroom. Rebecca stays to look after Alex.

24 INT. LAURA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Laura's bedroom is small. It can barely fit a queen size bed and a couple of nightstands.

REBECCA

Why didn't you listen to me?

ALEX

About what? You never said I'd end up here facing God knows what.

REBECCA

I am sorry I couldn't tell you about it earlier. Remember that time in the coffeehouse? I tried to tell you, but my dad...

(sighs)

...he wanted me to come home right away, and I decided that I would tell you about it next time.

ALEX

Am I going to die?

REBECCA

I, I really don't know.

ALEX

So, what's going on? What are they doing and why?

REBECCA

From what I know, your hosts couldn't conceive children for a long time. They had been to different doctors, and clinics, but all in vain. Then they found this group who sacrifices living for a happier life. After a couple of rituals, Christine and James successfully conceived the twins. Unfortunately, they can't stop now. That's a part of the deal. The same goes for their children and the next generations.

ALEX

What about other people? Laura and your dad?

REBECCA

We all believe it will bring us a happier life. We sacrifice

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

REBECCA (cont'd)
something to receive the goods in
exchange.

They hear some movement and indistinct but loud
conversation coming from the living room.

REBECCA
I'll help you get out of here.
You should use my dad's car. It
is unlocked, but I still have to
get the keys to start it. Wait
here.

ALEX
Will you finally untie me?

REBECCA
I said wait.

25 INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Rebecca walks back and forth, then calls her dad. Sheriff
Jones comes in.

REBECCA
Dad, how are we gonna solve this?
He is an exchange student.
Everybody will start looking for
him as soon as people realize
something went wrong.

SHERIFF JONES
Honey, accidents happen all the
time. This will be just another
accident with another teen who
went for an unfortunate drive in
his friend's car or something.

Rebecca hugs her dad and steals the car key from the clamp
of his belt.

REBECCA
I love you, dad.

SHERIFF JONES
I love you too, dear. Now go to
Alex and make sure he doesn't
make any stupid decisions.

26 INT. LAURA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Rebecca unties Alex, opens a window, and gives him the
keys.

REBECCA
(whispering)
Now it's all up to you.

ALEX
Let's escape together. What are
you going to say to your dad when
I'm gone?

REBECCA
Don't worry. I'll take care of
it.

Alex stares at Rebecca for a while.

ALEX
Thank you!

Loud noises are coming from the living room.

REBECCA
Go! Now!

Alex in a hurry gets out through the window cutting his
leg with a sharp edge of a frame. Rebecca locks the door
from the inside sliding down against it.

The sheriff tries to open it from the other side.

SHERIFF JONES (V.O.)
Rebecca, what's going on? Open
the door! NOW!

27 EXT. THE FRONT YARD - DAY

Alex runs to the car looking back and falls down once. He
gets up and reaches the vehicle door.

28 INT. THE CAR - DAY

Alex gets into the car. The first a couple of tries to
start the car are unsuccessful. He finally manages to
start it and drives away.

29 EXT. THE HIGHWAY - DAY

Alex is driving, but he still looks back from time to
time.

The fuel indicator shows that the car is running low on
gasoline. Alex stops. He punches a wheel multiple times
and puts his head on it.

(CONTINUED)

He gets out and starts hitchhiking. The first couple of cars pass by without stopping. Finally, an old black car stops. The old man, JACK, is behind a wheel, and his kind-looking wife in her sixties, AGNES, with a tiny fluffy cute dog, is sitting in the front. She opens the door.

AGNES

How can we help you, sweetheart?

ALEX

(panting)

I've been followed by people. They want to do something terrible to me. I ran out of gasoline, and I need help.

(starts crying)

AGNES

Oh, honey. Would you like me to call the police?

ALEX

Yes, please! Could you drive me to the closest city?

AGNES

Oh, of course! Get in!

Alex gets in their car. They drive for some time in total silence. Alex is nervously sitting in the back seat. He looks in the front mirror. The old man's eyes make contact with him.

JACK

So, what happened?

ALEX

I... um... I don't know where to start.

AGNES

Sweetheart, don't worry. Help is already here. We're with you.

ALEX

Could you call the police?

AGNES

We don't have phones, dear,
(looking ahead)
but someone here has got one for sure.

30

EXT. BIG FIELD - EVENING

The old couple and Alex drive into the big field with many people. They celebrate something. Agnes gets out of the car and asks Alex to go with her. They slowly walk towards the people indistinctly talking about something. Some people are dancing, and others are sitting around the campfire.

AGNES

Enjoy the celebration, dear. You really need to bring your mood up.

ALEX

But I just need help. Can we ask someone to call the police, or can we go to the city? Could you drive me there? I don't want to stay here. They're going to find me, and then they will kill me. I'm not joking!

AGNES

(sweetly)

Oh, don't worry, honey. Help is here.

Alex notices that people have different pets in cages with them. People are happy; they talk to each other and laugh.

Alex sees two formally dressed middle-aged ladies talking to each other.

ASHLEY

(to Megan, pointing at her cage)

Hey, look what I've brought with me!

MEGAN

Oh, it is so cute! Look at mine!

(pointing at her little puppy)

Isn't it adorable?

(both laugh)

They both notice Agnes.

ASHLEY

Hey, Agnes. What have you brought today?

MEGAN

Yes, Agnie. What is your treat?

Hm?

(pointing at the dog)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MEGAN (cont'd)
Is it this little puppy? So cute!

AGNES
(smiling)
Oh, ha ha ha, no-no. I've got
something way sweeter, honey.
(looking at Alex)

FADE OUT

THE END