

**Министерство Народного Образования Республики  
Узбекистан**

**Нукусский государственный педагогический институт им. Ажинияза**

**Рзаева Р.К.**

**Reading plays in English**

( учебное пособие по чтению художественной литературы (пьес) на английском языке для студентов филологических факультетов вузов ( на материале перевода пьесы казахского драматурга С.Б. Балгабаева *Грустная история прекрасной женщины* (*A sad story of a beautiful woman*) на английский язык .

**Nukus 2010**

### Учебное пособие

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### Аннотация

Учебное пособие предназначено для студентов старших курсов бакалавриата филологических факультетов вузов и магистрантов по специальности «казахский язык и литература». Пособие составлено на основе перевода пьесы известного казахского писателя-драматурга и общественного деятеля Султанали Балгабаева *Грустная история прекрасной женщины* и ставит целью помочь студентам старших курсов и магистрантам овладеть навыками чтения такого жанра художественной литературы как пьеса на английском языке. С.Балгабаев является лауреатом международной литературной премии «Алаш». На сцене Каракалпакского театра музыки поставлено три пьесы писателя-драматурга. Перевод пьесы *Грустная история прекрасной женщины* с русского на английский язык был выполнен автором пособия для постановки на сценах театров в зарубежных странах. Впервые перевод пьесы на английском языке был представлен зрителям на XXI Всемирном фестивале театров в Египте участниками фестиваля – актёрами Каракалпакского театра музыки в 2009 году.

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Утверждено на Учебно-методическом Совете НГПИ им. Ажинияза « » \_\_\_\_\_2010  
года, протокол №

## INTRODUCTION

### About the author S.B.Balgabayev.

Balgabayev Sultanaly Bazarbayevich is one of the famous Kazakh writers- dramatists and social people. He was born on May 21 in 1946 in the village Mustafa Shokai in Kizilhordian region. In 1953-1964 S.Balgabayev studied in school. After finishing school he had been working as a shepherd for two years. He started writing poems in school years.

In 1966 he became the winner of the Republic Festival of young poets and that year he entered the faculty of journalistic of the Kazakh National University. After graduation from the university he worked in the magazines *Znanie and sila (Parasat)*, in the edition *Jalin* and in the Union of writers in Kazakhstan. Then he worked the head of the literary department at the State Academic Theatre of young spectators named after G. Musirepov.

S.Balgabayev made valuable contribution in arranging the connections between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Kazakhs living abroad. He has been working a vice-chairman of the permanent commission of the World Kazakh National Centre since 1992. He took an active part at three conferences (kuraltais) of the world Kazakhs held in Alma-Ata, Turkistan and Astana. He was chosen as a member of the World Kazakh Association at the conference in Astana. S.Balgabayev is the main editor of the magazine *Altin besik* (Golden cradle) published specially for Kazakhs living abroad. He has been a member of the Union of writers of Kazakhstan since 1980. He was chosen as the vice-chairman of the Union of writers and the chairman of the Council of Drama there. He has been working with the young dramatists of the Academy of Arts named after T.Jurgenov.

S.Balgabayev is also famous for his poems. His first poems were published in the collection of young poets *Koktem tinisi*. His first collection of poems *First-born* was printed in 1977.

S.Balgabayev became famous for his prose works in the middle of the 1970-s. He is the author of such books in prose as: *Let your star burn, Golden* , *Sand and Kizgaldak, Thirst, Steppe and River, Krasnaya Garmon* (in Russian). In 2009 a two-volume collection of his chosen works was published: *Secret and Sarisu, Wonderful spring* of “Sirdarya Library” sery.

S.Balgabayev is the author of a great number of publicistic articles devoted to the actual problems of spiritual education, native language, development of literature and art of the Kazakh people. He started working in the drama genre in 1980. He wrote the plays *When a girl is 20, A sad story of a beautiful woman, Kazakhs came back from the wedding, The Century without Love, Struggle in Kazakh, We also were in love, Melancholy and Ghost, A man who is not a liar,*

*Women's world* and others. These plays were staged at the Academic Theatre named after M.Auezov, Theatre of young spectators named after G.Musirepov, Republic Uigur Theatre named after K.Kojamyarov in Kazakhstan and at other theatres in Uzbek, Kirgiz, Tadjik and Karakalpak. His play *A sad story of a beautiful woman* was translated into English and staged at the theatres of Egypt in 2009 by the main producer of the Karakalpak Theatre of drama and music N.Ansatbayev.

S.Balgabayev wrote a drama *A Wedding Day will come* about Mustafa Shokai. His plays for children *Miko*, *Jimbala and a Wolf*, *My grandmother is Enchantress* were staged at many theatres.

S.Balgabayev is the international literary prize-winner “Alash”, he was awarded to an Order “Sign of Honour” and medals “The 10-th anniversary of the Republic of Kazakhstan”, “The 10-th anniversary of Astana”.

### **Annotation of the play *A sad story of a beautiful woman* by S.Balgabayev.**

The play *A very beautiful woman* by the famous Kazakh dramatist S.Balgabaeu is one of his best psychological dramas on modern theme. The main character is Gulparshin, she graduated from one of the institutes in Alma-Ata ten years ago. The play starts with her arrival in Alma-Ata to meet with her fellow-students and celebrate the 10-th anniversary of their graduation. Gulparshin enters the men's room by mistake in the hotel where she stayed. This is the room where a musician and singer Abdulla stayed, he came to record his works on television. Gulparshin is a beautiful, clever, intelligent woman with clear heart. She was in love with her fellow-student Altay, when she studied at the institute. But Altay didn't return her feelings, he followed to his own aim in life and married the daughter of one of the respectable man.

Ten years passed and now they met again. Altay comes to the hotel to see Gulparshin. Gulparshin introduces Abdulla as her husband. The denouement of all events in the play starts with this moment. Another character in the play is Jienbay. He is the former husband of Gulparshin., he is a drunkard and a very jealous man. They divorced three years ago. Jienbay served his time in prison for three years and now he came out. They meet in Alma-Ata again. Jienbay begs Gulparshin to come back to him, kneeling before her. He says, “Let's come back to our native town, I'll give up drinking and being jealous, we'll live by the other way of life. We may have children and we'll live happily”.

Abdulla falls in love with Gulparshin. He says to her: “ Jienbay is a drunkard, he can't appreciate you. If you marry me, we'll live happily”. In spite of all the hardships she suffered, Gulparshin replies: “Man proposes, God disposes”, “Not flying from fate”. Following to the traditions and customs of her off-springs according to which “ The family for a woman is a hole thing”, “It's necessary to keep the family hearth”, Gulparshin comes to the only decision- not to

ruin her family hearth and keep it. The play shows the subtlety of a woman's heart. In the centre of the play is a young, clever, beautiful woman with clear soul and hard fate.

### TASKS TO INTRODUCTION and ANNOTATION

#### ACTIVE VOCABULARY

academy <i>n</i>	drama <i>n</i>	prize <i>n</i>
arts <i>n</i>	dramatist <i>n</i>	prose <i>n</i>
arrange <i>v</i>	editor <i>n</i>	publicistic <i>adj</i>
association <i>n</i>	famous <i>adj</i>	publish <i>v</i>
be decorated with <i>v</i>	genre <i>n</i>	shepherd <i>n</i>
be staged <i>v</i>	journalistic <i>n</i>	theatre <i>n</i>
chairman <i>n</i>	literature <i>n</i>	union <i>n</i>
collection <i>n</i>	magazine <i>n</i>	vice-chairman <i>n</i>
connection <i>n</i>	native <i>adj</i>	winner <i>n</i>
contribute <i>v</i>	poem <i>n</i>	writer <i>n</i>

#### Word combinations

1. Academy of Arts – Академия искусства
2. to be awarded to/ be decorated with – быть награждённым
3. to be born – родиться
4. to be/ become famous for – быть известным
5. to be chosen as a member – быть избранным членом
6. to be published – быть опубликованным
7. to be staged- быть поставленным на сцене
8. a collection of poems – сборник стихов
9. to fall in love with smb. – влюбиться в кого-либо
10. to finish/ leave school – окончить школу
11. to graduate from the university / institute – окончить университет (институт)
12. to live abroad – жить за границей
13. to make a contribution – сделать (вносить) вклад
14. a prize-winner- лауреат премии
15. publicistic articles – публицистические статьи
16. to take an active part – принимать активное участие
17. a vice-chairman – заместитель председателя
18. Union of writers – Союз писателей
19. World Kazakh Association – Всемирная Казахская Ассоциация
20. World Kazakh National Centre – Всемирный Казахский Национальный Центр

#### Exercise 1. Answer the following questions:

1. When and where was Sultanalay Balgabayev born?
2. When did he study at school?
3. Where did he work after finishing school?
4. What festival did he become the winner of?
5. When did he start writing poems?
6. What university and faculty did he study at?
7. Where did S. Balgabayev work after graduation from the university?

8. What can you tell about his contribution to the connection with the Kazakhs, living abroad?
9. What conferences did S. Balgabayev take an active part in?
10. What association is he a member of?
11. S. Balgabayev is the editor of the magazine "Altin besik", isn't he?
12. What kind of magazine is "Altin besik"?
13. What can you tell about his poetic works?
14. When did S. Balgabayev become famous for his prose works?
15. Call some of his prose works.
16. When did S. Balgabayev start working in drama genre?
17. Call some of his plays.
18. What theatres were his plays staged on?
19. What languages were his plays staged on the theatres?
20. What prize-winner is S. Balgabayev?
21. What order and medals was he decorated with?
22. Have S. Balgabayev's plays been staged at the theatres in Karakalpakstan?
23. What plays by S. Balgabayev were staged at the Karakalpak theatre of drama and music?
24. Have his plays been staged abroad?
25. What kind of play is *A sad story of a beautiful woman* by S. Balgabayev?
26. What is the content of the play *A sad story of a beautiful woman*?

**Exercise 2.** Give the English equivalents to the following words and word combinations:

известный писатель-драматург, общественный деятель, пастух, писать стихи, победитель, фестиваль молодых поэтов, журналистика, окончить университет, внести вклад, Союз писателей, жить за границей, академический театр юных зрителей, принимать участие, Всемирный Казахский Национальный Центр, ассоциация, главный редактор, председатель, публиковать, быть известным чем-либо, прозаические произведения, быть поставленным на сцене театра, драматические произведения, пьеса, лауреат премии, быть избранным членом, публицистические статьи, спектакль, духовность, развитие литературы.

**Exercise 3.** Translate the following sentences from Russian into English:

1. С.Балгабаев родился в ауле Мустафа Шокай Кызылординской области. 2. После окончания школы он два года работал пастухом. 3. Он начал писать стихи ещё в школьные годы. 4. В 1966 году С.Балгабаев стал победителем Республиканского фестиваля молодых поэтов. 5. С.Балгабаев окончил факультет журналистики Казахского национального университета. 6. Он работал в Государственном академическом театре им. Г.Мусирепова. 7. С.Балгабаев внёс большой вклад в установление связей с казахами, живущими за границей. 8. Он принимал активное участие в трёх куралтаях Всемирной Казахской Ассоциации, состоявшихся в Алма-Ате, Туркестане и Астане. 9. С.Балгабаев является главным редактором журнала «Алтын бесик». 10. Он является также заместителем председателя Союза писателей Казахстана. 11. С.Балгабаев стал известен своими прозаическими произведениями в середине 1970-х годов. 12. Он начал работать в жанре драмы с 1980 года. 13. Пьесы С.Балгабаева были поставлены во многих театрах на узбекском, киргизском, таджикском и каракалпакском языках. 14. Он является также автором многочисленных публицистических статей, посвящённых актуальным вопросам духовного воспитания, родного языка, развития литературы и искусства казахского народа. 15. С.Балгабаев стал лауреатом международной литературной премии «Алаш». 16. Пьеса «Грустная история прекрасной женщины» С.Балгабаева поставлена на сцене Каракалпакского государственного театра драмы и музыки. 17. Драматические произведения С.Балгабаева поставлены не только на сценах театров у нас в стране, но и за рубежом.

**Sultanaly Balgabayev**  
**A sad story of a beautiful woman**  
**( a play in 2 parts )**

**Characters in the play:**

*Gulparshin*

*Abdulla*

*Altay*

*Jienbay*

*Madina*

*Zukhra*

**PART I**

A hostel of the hotel type. A two-room section. A long corridor. There are two beds in the room. There is a guitar on one of the beds. There is a mirror , a radio, a cupboard, a table, a telephone, an armchair, a balcony. Gulparshin enters with a small travelling bag. She seems to come from the airport.

***Gulparshin:*** My God! There are such hotels...It may be a hostel... There are only doors around... This one is closed... This is a bathroom. This is my room, perhaps... The door is open, there is nobody here... Here is my bed...Who is sleeping here? Here is a guitar, she may be an actress? It will be OK if she is an actress, not an importunate person... It makes no difference for me. Three days. I'll stop here only for three days.*(She is looking at the window)*. My dear Alma-Ata! I have come here only for three days...It's so little time! It's very little. I haven't been here for ten years. Ten years! How terrible! It's so long! And this time ran so quickly! *(She is looking at the mirror)*. And I ... it seems to me, I haven't changed perfectly. I am now, as I was many years ago... *(She starts to ring up the telephone)*.

Hallo! Hallo! Khanshayim? Is it you? I am Gulparshin! Yes-yes! I've settled. What? Yes, not very! It looks like a hostel. There are many doors around. But the most important thing, there is a telephone here. What is the number? Let's look, 24-35-40. The number of the room? The sixth floor, it's the last one, Room 38. No, No, don't come. We'll meet in the evening. Who? Zukhra? What? Suyunchi from me, you tell? OK! OK! I missed him very much. And I missed them... and you, as well. By the way, do you remember that fellow...? What was his name, Altay? Yes, yes, Altay. Do you know his telephone number? Ha- ha! No, no. His home phone

number, you say? Tell me, please... OK, I understood. Thank you. I'd like to have a rest... I'm so tired. Yes, yes, OK, it's all right.

*(She puts the telephone receiver, after a few minutes she dials a number again). Hallo! Hello!. Is it Altay's flat? Sorry, is he at home? (A pause). Is it you, Altay? How are you? Have you known me? Ha-ha! Why not? Who has just asked me on the phone? Is it your wife? Why are you so frightened, you can hardly speak with me<sup>1</sup>, is your wife standing near you? Ha-ha... I'm playing a joke<sup>2</sup>, it's only a joke. You didn't recognize me, did you? Ha-ha! No, no, guess yourself. The number of the telephone? Why not to tell, I can tell – 24-35-40. Call me please only in case of recognizing me. Otherwise, don't call me. I tell you seriously, don't call me. (She put the receiver). He didn't recognize me...An idiot, he didn't know me, really. (She stands from her seat). How he can recognize! Ten years, ten years have passed since we saw each other. It seems to me as if it was only yesterday... Only yesterday. How quickly the time runs! Oh, bother! Nobody will know me. (She is looking at the mirror). Oh, I don't look well. Good Heavens!<sup>3</sup> How do I look like? Damn it, I should take a shower until somebody comes. (She takes a dressing-gown out of the bag and goes to the bathroom. Abdulla enters, he has a guitar in his hands).*

**Abdulla:** Somebody has been settled to me, again. What kind of people are they, they can't even put their things in their place... And this is a drunkard, perhaps. I haven't had a decent neighbour for this time. All are drunkards.

*Jienbay enters.*

**Jienbay:** Where is she? Where?

**Abdulla:** Who?

**Jienbay:** A woman. My sister.

**Abdulla:** Look for your sister in the next room... This is the men's room.

**Jienbay:** Oh, nobody is there. The door is closed.

**Abdulla:** If there isn't, perhaps she has left... She sang all the night, she may be sleeping now.

**Jienbay:** No, she has just come... Let me wait for her... What about waiting? *(He takes a bottle out of his pocket)*. Don't you mind having one hundred grammes?<sup>4</sup>

**Abdulla:** I don't drink...

**Jienbay:** Do you? It's quite awkwardly to drink myself...

**Abdulla:** You always can find somebody to share a bottle with... Go out, there are many people who want to drink.

**Jienbay:** Yes, you're right, I can find somebody... All right. *(He goes out)*.

*Soon Gulparshin goes out of the bathroom. She is in the nice décolleté dressing-gown. She doesn't notice Abdulla, she comes up to the looking-glass and combs her hair.*

**Gulparshin:** Ah! You? Who are you?

**Abdulla:** I am Abdulla.

**Gulparshin:** Abdulla? What Abdulla?

**Abdulla:** What Abdulla? An ordinary musician, Abdulla!

**Gulparshin:** I guess that you are a musician... Do you sing?

**Abdulla:** If you want I can sing a song...

**Gulparshin:** That's all right, but mister musician, what are you doing here?

**Abdulla:** I've come to record on television.

**Gulparshin:** Didn't you study with us?

**Abdulla:** What?

**Gulparshin:** I ask you if you studied with us.

**Abdulla:** No, we didn't. I don't know you.

**Gulparshin:** You don't know me, you didn't study with me, but why are you lying in this bed?

**Abdulla:** Do you think that only those who know you and who studied with you can lie in this bed?

**Gulparshin:** What a poisonous tongue<sup>5</sup>... You are unlikely a musician, you are a bandit, surely<sup>6</sup>. I'll call a police now...

**Abdulla:** Why? What is the reason?

**Gulparshin:** Why? You came into the room of a strange woman without permission...

**Abdulla:** Yes, yes, you can add that I entered the room of a young woman at the time when she was naked and was taking a bath.

**Gulparshin:** What is he saying? He's really a bandit, really a bandit. (*The telephone rings*). They call me. (*She takes a receiver*) Hallo! Yes, yes, I... Have you known? Today, I've just come. Where are you calling from? OK, OK, your voice is merry... You seem brave when your wife is not near you. I... I'm in the hotel,... in Jambul Street. It looks more like a hostel... Do you know? OK. Floor 6, Room 38. Yes, yes! OK! (*She puts the receiver*). I'm sorry, they are going to visit me.

**Abdulla:** Is he your lover?

**Gulparshin:** Look at him...Came to another room of a strange woman without permission....and...

**Abdulla:** To another room? Ha-ha! Excuse me Miss, but this is the men's room.

**Gulparshin:** Why?... The duty told me... Floor 5, Room 38.

**Abdulla:** There are two Rooms 38 – A and B. Room A is for women and Room B – for men... Your room is there... The door is near the bathroom, in which you've just taken a bath... From the bathroom steadily into your room...

**Gulparshin:** All men are such... They always play dirty tricks<sup>7</sup>.

**Abdulla:** But I am not guilty that you came into the men's room.

**Gulparshin:** Why did you leave the door opened?

**Abdulla:** How could I know that you would come?

**Gulparshin:** How could you know? ... You...you deliberately didn't close the door. Yes, yes, deliberately. You wanted a strange woman to come to your room by mistake... didn't you?

**Abdulla:** Of course, I did.

**Gulparshin:** But this time you're mistaken... Listen to me! Now somebody will come to me.

**Abdulla:** Let him come... I see many people want to see you.

**Gulparshin:** What?

**Abdulla:** No, no, nothing. So far somebody was looking for a woman here.

**Gulparshin:** Do you think that there are no any women besides me? Good bye!

**Abdulla:** Are you leaving?

**Gulparshin:** Yes, of course. Or you dream that I'll go to sleep with you, don't you?

**Abdulla:** No, I don't think so... But your room is closed, you see.

*Gulparshin goes out, then she comes back.*

**Gulparshin:** Yes, it's really closed. What shall I do?

**Abdulla:** I see you are in awkward situation... Now your lover will come... He has been waiting for you for a long time, he has been missing you... And you ... in the room of a strange man. By the way, I can leave...

**Gulparshin:** What?

**Abdulla:** I want to leave... I want to leave you with your lover... Till the night. I hope, is it enough?

**Gulparshin:** You... you are a scoundrel! For shame!<sup>8</sup>

**Abdulla:** I'm not guilty, you invited him yourself...

**Gulparshin:** I haven't seen him for ten years... Imagine, for ten years...

**Abdulla:** Sorry... It's only a joke. Why not to play a joke?

**Gulparshin:** No, you didn't play a joke... And you.. and he... everybody thinks so... Oh, Good Lord!<sup>3</sup>

**Abdulla:** Stop worrying! Now he will come... It will be impolite to...

**Gulparshin:** It is all the same to me. I don't care. Let him see... Let him see my tears...  
Let...

**Abdulla:** If you don't mind, I'll go and look for the women... who share the room with you... They are in the café, I think. Now, I'll come. (*Abdulla leaves*).

*Gulparshin is standing near the looking-glass. Suddenly Altay enters with a bunch of flowers. Gulparshin doesn't see him.*

**Altay:** Gul... Gulparshin...

**Gulparshin:** Altay! (*They are both embarrassed, they don't know what to do. A pause*)

**Altay:** Yes, yes, I am here... Did you know me?

**Gulparshin:** Yes, why didn't I have to know you?

**Altay:** Who knows? Ten years! Ten years have passed since we didn't see each other.

**Gulparshin:** You haven't changed.

**Altay:** Really? Neither have you... On the contrary, you became more beautiful and grew prettier. And here you are.. (*He gives the flowers*)

**Gulparshin:** Thank you! (*She puts the flowers into the vase*). Sit down, please. (*They sit down*).

**Altay:** When did you come?

**Gulparshin:** Today... Are you angry that I rang you up?

**Altay:** No, no. You did right.

**Gulparshin:** It's indecent of me... You are a married man ...

**Altay:** What is the difference? Did you come alone?

**Gulparshin:** Why is it so interesting for you to know?

**Altay:** Yes, it is..(*A pause*) To tell you the truth<sup>9</sup>, I didn't think you to come.

**Gulparshin:** Why?

**Altay:** You haven't been in Alma-Ata for ten years. And you didn't try to connect with somebody.

**Gulparshin:** Why do you think so? I wrote, wrote much... If my memory doesn't fail me<sup>10</sup>, I wrote to you, as well.

**Altay:** When it was... In the first year after graduating from the institute... Then, you disappeared without a trace<sup>11</sup>.

**Gulparshin:** I didn't have spare time... Job... Everyday troubles... And how are you?

**Altay:** Fine, thanks. Many our fellow-students are here... And you shouldn't have left that time... You should stay in Alma-Ata...

**Gulparshin** (*laughing*): Why didn't you tell me about it that time? Why didn't you learn me sense, to be cleverer?<sup>12</sup>

**Altay:** Yes, you're right... I had to... but...

**Gulparshin:** I'm joking. You know, my circumstances didn't let me to choose the other way. Many children at home... Nobody could look after them besides me. (*A pause*). But what about you? How are you? What about your family? Are you all right?

**Altay:** Yes. We have two sons, the elder son is in the 3-d form.

**Gulparshin:** Where do you work, at the same place?

**Altay:** No, recently I've changed my job, I'm at the Ministry now.

**Gulparshin:** Advancement, I think...

**Altay:** Yes... Now the time changed... There is justice...

**Gulparshin:** What about your wife? Where does she work?

**Altay:** There... at the same institute... She is a teacher. Last year she defended a candidate dissertation.

**Gulparshin:** My congratulations!

**Altay:** You know, in the capital it's not easy to live, we should dodge... Where are you? Are you in the village?

**Gulparshin:** Yes, I am a teacher in the local school.

**Altay:** You shouldn't have left the region.. You shouldn't.

**Gulparshin** (*shuddering*): How do you know about it?

**Altay:** I know... I know everything... I've heard about it.

**Gulparshin:** If you've heard about it, it's so. (*A pause*)

**Altay** (*standing*): Yes, yes, I'm guilty. I'm guilty.

**Gulparshin:** What are you guilty in? In the fact, that I didn't stay in Alma-Ata?

**Altay:** No. I am guilty towards you. I am blamed that you had such fate... that you divorced with your husband...

**Gulparshin:** You are very strange... Am I the only woman who divorced with her husband?

**Altay:** No, you are not. There are many divorced women... But you differ from the others... You... You ... had to be the happiest woman...

**Gulparshin:** Who told you that I am unhappy?

**Altay:** Nobody...nobody... I think so.

**Gulparshin:** You're mistaken... You're mistaken...

*Abdulla enters with two bottles of champagne and a box of chocolates.*

**Abdulla:** Oh, we have guests! Fine. Fine. (*Treating Altay*). Hello! Sorry, I went to the café... There are many people there. (*He puts everything on the table*).

**Gulparshin:** Abdulla, let me introduce you my fellow-student, Altay.

**Altay** (*stretches his hands to Abdulla*): Yes, yes, Altay. We studied with Gulparshin for five years.

**Gulparshin**: Here is Abdulla, my husband.

**Abdulla**: Oh!

**Altay**: What?

**Gulparshin**: My husband, I say. Do you think he is no match for me?

**Altay** (*embarrassing*): No, no. What are you telling? He is deserving... A nice fellow.

**Gulparshin**: Yes, he is a nice fellow, besides, he is a musician.

**Abdulla**: Yes, I'm a musician... I am the leader of folk orchestra in our village.

**Gulparshin**: Yes, he is. There are about 30-40 young girls in his orchestra. If you want, he can get acquainted you with the most beautiful one.

**Abdulla**: Certainly, I can. (*Treating Gulparshin*). But you... you... excuse me...

**Gulparshin**: Abdulla, oh, you didn't leave this custom, to speak and treat me with "You". Listen to me. Here is Altay... We studied together... Don't be shy.

**Altay**: Of course, don't be shy...

**Abdulla**: I... I am not shy... But... The matter is...

**Gulparshin** (*interrupting Abdulla*): Abdulla, listen to me! Altay told me a complement... He tells, that I became the most beautiful woman in the world! What do you think, is it true?

**Abdulla**: Yes, it's true. You are really the most beautiful woman in the world.

**Gulparshin**: Abdulla, how many times I warned you not to call me on "You". I am not a member of your ensemble. I'm your best half sent by God<sup>13</sup>. I'm your lawful wife. Tell me "you".

**Abdulla**: Yes, yes, you... you are the most beautiful woman in the world.

**Gulparshin** (*she is very glad and clap her hands*): Thank you, my dear, Let's open the champagne. (*Abdulla is opening the champagne*). Dear friends, I should like to tell. (*He takes a tall wine glass*). Abdulla, do you remember, I always told you about the fine girls and fellows who studied with me... Here is Altay, one of them. Altay Seitkabulov... Let's give him the first toast.

**Altay** (*standing*): I... I am glad. (*Treating Abdulla*). Abeke, here is Gulia. Gulparshin says, that she studied with the fine wonderful girls and fellows. But I should like to emphasize that she was the best and the most beautiful one among them.

**Gulparshin**: You don't say so!<sup>14</sup> I was an ordinary, naïve, unremarkable girl. Nobody paid attention at me.

**Altay**: Why? Nobody paid attention? Abeke, do you know, that she always had a sharp tongue? I can't hide. She was a burning fire... And I am very glad that our lovely Gulparshin

met you, such a talented fellow. I want to drink for you, I wish there would be so many fellows like you, Abeke. And for you, both... I wish you happiness... Let's drink... *(He raises glasses).*

*Zukhra and Madina enter the room.*

**Zukhra** *(loudly)*: Oh, my God! Look at this girl!

**Madina**: Ah, have you known us?

**Zukhra**: How has she known us? She forgot us.

**Madina**: Yes, she forgot.

**Gulparshin**: Oh, Zukhra, Madina! Good Lord, is it in my dream or awake?

**Zukhra- Madina** *(both)*: Yes, yes, here we are. *(Madina kisses Gulparshin)*

**Zukhra**: Oh, wait a minute... let me kiss you... My dear friend, my small friend.

**Madina**: My Sun, my Bonny! You appear to come... God let us see each other.

**Altay**: Oh, friends, my dear friends. Let me... Let me kiss her, too.

**Zukhra**: Oh, no, you are not permitted! Why didn't you do it before?

**Madina**: Yes, yes. Really. Let us kiss her... *(She kisses Gulparshin again)*

**Gulparshin** *(she is laughing and crying)*: Oh, girls, are you really here? You are really here, aren't you?

**Madina**: Yes, here we are... here we are.

**Zukhra**: Oh, you became prettier and flourished!

**Gulparshin**: Is it true?

**Madina**: Yes, it's really true. You became the most beautiful woman. Altay, can you agree with us?

**Altay**: Yes, I can. I've just told her about it. And now.. sit down , please. *(The girls sit down at the table)* . Friends, I propose a toast.

**Sukhra-Madina**: Ah! Oh!

**Altay**: I should like to continue. Girls, you have made here such a noise and you didn't notice, that there is one man here who is also worth paying attention. He is Gulparshin's husband. His name is Abdulla. Abeke, stand up, please. *(Abdulla stands).*

**Zukhra**: Oh, we didn't know about it.

**Madina**: Oh, I'm sorry.

**Zukhra**: I am Zukhra!

**Madina**: I, I... am Madina! I'm very glad. By the way, may I kiss you?

**Altay**: Oh, yes, you may. Gulparshin, do you mind her kissing?

**Gulparshin**: Certainly, certainly. I don't mind.

*(Madina kisses Abdulla)*

**Altay** (*continues his toast*): Girls, listen to me! You don't know what kind of man is Abdulla. I know much about him. Abdulla is a fine fellow, he is a Jack of all trades<sup>15</sup>. He is a singer, guitarist, he is a talented fellow. He is the leader of folk orchestra...He is a conductor.

**Abdulla**: No, no. You are exaggerating. I am an ordinary leader of the ensemble in the village.

**Altay**: And the most remarkable thing is that there are about 30-40 girls in his ensemble.

**Zukhra-Madina**: Ah! Oh! 30-40? Is it really so?

**Abdulla**: Yes, it is. It is an ensemble... There are soloists, vocalists, dancers...

**Altay**: Do you see? But it is not important, the most remarkable thing is ..., that Abdulla thinks, nobody from these 30-40 girls fits to hold a candle to Gulparshin<sup>16</sup>. Do you think so, Abeke?

**Abdulla**: Certainly... Gulparshin. Who can be compared with her?

**Zukhra-Madina**: Ah! Oh!

**Gulparshin**: Girls, today I am so happy. I am so glad.

**Zukhra**: And so am I.. So are we all. We are very glad to meet you.

**Madina**: Oh, Gulparshin, we are very glad to your coming.

**Zukhra**: If you didn't come this time, we would have taken an offence.

**Gulparshin**: Of course... I knew about it. I knew that you would offend... knew, that you would look for me... I missed you, you can't imagine, how I missed you! I missed you very much... I missed... without you, all of you.

**Zukhra**: So did we... We missed, too...

**Gulparshin**: It seemed to me that you forgot me... You forgot me for ever... And I wanted to cry, to give up doing everything and leave for Alma-Ata.

**Madina**: Girls! Boys! I have a wonderful idea! Let Gulparshin stay here in Alma-Ata.

**Gulparshin**: Girls, I can't stay here. They won't let me leave, they won't permit me. Abeke, tell them that you won't permit me...

**Altay**: Friends, my dear friends! We'll make both of you stay here.

**Zukhra**: It's all right, we should do this. We shall tell my husband, he will help them to find a job. (*She is calling*). Hallo, hallo. What are you doing? Is the baby crying? Give him some milk. I tell you, give him some milk. OK, OK. I am in Gulparshin's room. Yes, yes, she is. Yes, we found. Can you help her with the job if she stays in Alma-Ata? OK, OK. (*She puts the receiver*). Gulparshin, he is sending his best regards to you<sup>17</sup>. Everything has been settled.

**Gulparshin**: Who? Your husband? Is he Kaukay?

**Madina:** Yes, he is. Do you remember how she treated him, she didn't recognize him. She thought he was no match for her<sup>18</sup>, he was a mumbler...a sap... And now he is worth speaking, nobody can be compared with him. As you see, he is looking after the child.

**Gulparshin:** And what about you? Where is your husband?

**Madina:** It's not easy to catch him. 15 days at home, 15 – out of...He is usually on watch.

**Altay:** I think, that it's very well. Only in this way a husband can make his wife respect him. Only in this way, you, women can really appreciate your husbands... Friends! My dear friends, I offer to listen to our brother-in-law. Let's ask Abdulla to sing us.

**Zukhra:** It's all right. We support you.

**Madina:** Let them sing together with Gulparshin. Do you remember her nice singing? Didn't you forget her singing?

**Abdulla:** No, no, to sing without rhyme or reason... It's not good, it's amusing.

**Gulparshin** (*flirting*): Nothing amusing! Abdulla, let's sing, Abdulla. Let's sing that... that song which we always sing together. Let's sing it. (*Abdulla takes a guitar. They sing*).

**Altay:** (*As soon as they finished to sing, he clapped his hands*) Oh, it's very nice. Wonderful! Marvellous! (*He gives the champagne to everybody*)

**Madina:** Gulparshin, Gulparshin. My dear friend. It's difficult to speak... You are so happy...to my mind.

**Zukhra:** Girls and boys! Let me say a few words. (*She is standing*). Gulparshin was the youngest girl. But in spite of it, she was the most active, cheerful and careful. She always thought of something amusing, she could always make us merry...She was never boring. She was not angry. We loved Gulparshin, we pet her... We wished she were happy, our Gulparshin... And today we see that our wishes became true, they were realized. The biggest happiness in the life is to find a person who respects you, understands you, your heart and soul. I don't imagine the more happiness in the life. Gulparshin found such a man. Look! How wonderful they were singing! They are match for each other. Only those who love and value each other can make such a match, such a unity. Let's drink for Abeke and Gulparshin.

**Gulparshin:** Thank you, thank you. (*Flirting*). Abeke, Abeke, do you hear? For us, for me and you... Let's, let's drink... (*All are drinking*).

**Altay** (*looking at the watch*): It's high time. I think you forgot that we are going to the restaurant tonight.

**Zukhra:** Gulparshin, I warn you beforehand: after the restaurant we're going to my place. Do you hear? My home...

**Madina:** Girls, will you take me with you? Let's go for a walk as before, till the morning. Don't you mind?

**Zukhra:** We'll listen to the songs of Gulparshin and Abdulla till the morning.

**Altay:** Yes, yes we'll do. (*To Abdulla*). That's all right, Abeke, so long. See you at the banquet in the restaurant...

*All of them are leaving with much noise. Gulparshin and Abdulla stay alone. A pause.*

**Abdulla:** Excuse me, but I can't understand anything.

**Gulparshin:** What can't you understand? Today we'll celebrate the 10-th anniversary of our graduation from the institute. We're going to have a banquet in honour of this great event<sup>19</sup>. I came to celebrate this jubilee.

**Abdulla:** No, no, it's clear, but I can't understand another thing. I am not your husband, but you...

**Gulparshin:** Naturally, you are not my husband. Did you really believe that you are my husband?

**Abdulla:** You are so strange! It's strange of you...

**Gulparshin:** What is strange? I played a joke... They are my fellow-students and I played a joke. Perhaps my neighbours in the room came, I'll go.

**Abdulla:** No, no, wait... Sit down, please. (*He makes her sit*). If you leave me now, leave my room, it seems to me I'll never see you again.

**Gulparshin:** Yes, you'll never see me... I have my own troubles and you have yours, don't you?

**Abdulla:** We've hardly got acquainted with each other...

**Gulparshin:** Why? Your name is Abdulla, you sing and play on the guitar. What else do we need for a close acquaintance? ...I think we'll never see each other

**Abdulla:** You also agree with me. If you are not angry, I'd like to tell you something...

**Gulparshin:** Why do you think that I'll be angry? Tell.

**Abdulla:** I love you.

**Gulparshin:** What?

**Abdulla:** I love you. I liked you.

**Gulparshin:** Thank you.

**Abdulla:** What?

**Gulparshin:** Thank you, I say. Thank you for your love.

**Abdulla:** I ask you not to joke. It's not a joke.

**Gulparshin:** Sorry, I am not going to play a joke. It's true. Are you married?

**Abdulla:** Yes, but is it so important for you?

**Gulparshin:** Don't you want to make a little fool of me?<sup>20</sup>

**Abdulla:** No, no. I'm telling the truth<sup>21</sup>... Everything changed at once since the time of my acquaintance with you, since the moment I have seen you for the first time. I sank into the wonderful, magical world, the world of clearness, kindness... And the fires burnt and glimpsed around the magical world... Your voice, your laughter, your song by magical music entered my heart and made me happy... I... I have never had such feelings. Don't you believe me?

**Gulparshin:** Why? I believe you! But... Do you know how old I am? It's a horror. It's terrible to tell. And you, you are young. You are handsome, attractive. Young girls are match for you. I'm telling the truth. Young girls. You may go out to the balcony and whistle – so many girls will come from different sides. They must be standing there, mustn't they?

**Abdulla** (*being angry*): Gulparshin, I ask you not to turn everything into a joke! Don't make a fun of me! *Jienbay enters, he is tipsy and jolly.*

**Jienbay:** Oh, hello! Sorry for interrupting you. (*Treating Gulparshin*) Hello, my Bonny.

**Gulparshin:** You?... Where did you appear from?

**Jienbay:** I am here... Didn't you know about it? You didn't know about it, perhaps. I am guilty. We haven't seen each other for ages... For ages... (*Turning to Abdulla*) Who is he? Is he a brother-in-law? Or is he... As they say, he is your lover, isn't he?

**Abdulla:** Be careful in choosing words.

**Jienbay:** Oh, sorry, sorry. You seem to be a brother-in-law. Ha-ha! Let's introduce, I am Gulparshin's elder brother. On her mother's side. My name is Jienbay. Ha-ha!

**Abdulla:** I told you to be careful!

**Gulparshin:** Abdulla, I ask you to leave us both. Will you go out to the balcony, please? (*Abdulla goes out. A pause.*)

**Gulparshin:** Jienbay, my dear, what do you want? Tell me, please what do you want?

**Jienbay:** Nothing.

**Gulparshin:** If nothing, why did you come here?

**Jienbay:** Why did I come, you say? I wanted, that's why I came. Do you want me not to come back, do you want everything went dark before me?<sup>22</sup> And I would sit in prison all my life and rot there. It won't be so, my dear!

**Gulparshin:** Good Heavens! Why can't you leave me alone? Wherever I go you are on my way, like a robber.

**Jienbay:** Excuse me, my dear, but I'm not guilty. It is all of a sudden<sup>23</sup>. I was at the airport... I saw you going out of the plane... Ha-ha... You... First, I couldn't believe my eyes. I thought I became mad, I took somebody for you by mistake. I thought it was a mirage. No,... no,

it was you. You knew nobody. By the way, I liked your husband. How can you find such handsome husbands?

**Gulparshin:** He is not my husband, no, he isn't. I've seen him for the first time.

**Jienbay:** Ah, what do you say? Ha-ha. Don't you know each other? My dear, you have a very bad habit... You never tell the truth. It's not a good habit. If you sinned, tell about it. You should ask for your behaviour.

**Gulparshin:** I... I tell you the truth. If you don't believe, ask him...

**Jienbay:** I'll ask him. A poor girl. (*He puts his hands into his pocket*). What about cutting you, here, as a chicken? What would he do then?

**Gulparshin:** Jienbay, my dear, I ask you to leave me alone. Don't touch me.

**Jienbay:** Oh, I can't choose another way. Now, pray forgiveness of your sins before your death<sup>24</sup>, a strumpet.

**Gulparshin:** A..aa...Abdulla. A...

(*Abdulla enters*)

**Abdulla:** Ah, son-in-law! What's the matter with you?

**Jienbay:** A son-in-law? What son-in-law? Don't you think I am a brother-in-law?

**Abdulla:** Yes, I think so.

**Jienbay:** Did you think so? Listen to me! He is a real prophet. Do you know that I cut many prophets in my life...What a scoundrel!

**Gulparshin:** Abdulla! Knife... he has a knife...

**Abdulla:** Does he have a gun as well? A sawn-off gun. Do you have a sawn-off gun? (*He catches a chair*). I'll cut your brainless head. Try to come up to me.

**Gulparshin:** Abdulla, stop speaking to him. Don't speak to him.

**Jienbay** (*to Gulparshin*): Look at her, how she started to protect! Fool! He isn't worth soiling my hands<sup>25</sup>. Tfoo! You will leave this place, I'll wait. Then I'll cut ... you both. Do you hear... both of you. I served three years in prison<sup>26</sup>, I lose nothing. (*Jienbay is leaving. Gulparshin falls on the chair*)

**Abdulla:** Gulparshin, what's the matter with you?

**Gulparshin:** I...I am afraid... He has really come from the prison...

**Abdulla:** Stop exciting, try to be calm. Have some water. (*He gives her some water*). Do you see, everything will be OK.

**Gulparshin:** He... If he drinks much, he won't stop.

**Abdulla:** Don't trouble. Don't be afraid of him. Don't you see that he is a coward? He won't come back here. (*A pause*). Is he your husband?

**Gulparshin:** Yes, he is my former husband. We divorced three years ago. (*She is crying*). I...I wanted to forget everything... I wanted as ordinary people to be happy in my life... But everything appears to be the same, everything... and he is on my way again...

**Abdulla:** Don't cry, stop crying. You shouldn't cry. Now you'll go to the banquet... Celebrations... A holiday...

**Gulparshin:** Celebrations? A holiday? The holiday was over for me long ago. Long ago, when I was 16... The holiday, happiness, everything... everything was over for me then.

### The end of part I.

## TASKS TO PART I

### ACTIVE VOCABULARY

appreciate <i>v</i>	dressing-gown <i>n</i>	miss <i>v</i>
awkward <i>adj</i>	drunkard <i>n</i>	orchestra <i>n</i>
banquet <i>n</i>	dudge <i>v</i>	record <i>v</i>
boring <i>adj</i>	exaggerate <i>v</i>	recognize <i>v</i>
circumstances <i>n</i>	fellow-student <i>n</i>	remarkable <i>adj</i>
conductor <i>n</i>	flirt with <i>v</i>	settle <i>v</i>
decent <i>adj</i>	guilty <i>adj</i>	share <i>v</i>
deliberately <i>adv</i>	inopportunist <i>adv</i>	smart <i>adj</i>
décolleté <i>n</i>	importunate <i>adj</i>	stretch <i>v</i>
divorce <i>v</i>	magical <i>adj</i>	strumpet <i>n</i>

### Word combinations

to be embarrassed / be confused – быть смущённым, смущаться  
 to be on watch – стоять (быть) на вахте (на смене)  
 by the way – между прочим  
 to flirt with smb. / coquette with smb. – флиртовать (кокетничать) с кем-либо  
 folk orchestra – оркестр народных инструментов  
 to get acquainted with smb. – знакомиться с кем-либо  
 to give a banquet in smb's honour – дать банкет в чью-либо честь  
 to give a toast – дать тост  
 to grow (become) prettier – похорошеть, расцвести  
 it's no use – зря, напрасно  
 lawful wife – законная жена  
 to leave smb. alone – оставить кого-либо одного  
 to make a laughing stock of smb. – сделать кого-либо посмешищем  
 not fit to hold a candle to smb. – не стоить мизинца

to pay attention at (to) – обратить внимание на кого-либо (что-либо)  
 to play dirty tricks on smb. – пакостить  
 to play a joke on smb. – шутить с кем-либо  
 to propose a toast – предлагать тост  
 poisonous tongue – ядовитый язык  
 sawn-off gun – обрез  
 to settle oneself in a hotel – устроиться в гостинице  
 to soil one's hands with – марать руки  
 to take a shower (a bath) – принимать душ (ванну)  
 to take an offence / to feel hurt – обижаться  
 to tell a complement – сказать комплимент  
 to tell the truth – говорить правду  
 to vanish without a trace/ vanish into thin air/ disappear – исчезнуть бесследно; испариться в воздухе.

### NOTES

1. You can hardly speak – Разговариваешь с трудом.
2. I'm playing a joke – Я шучу.
3. Good Heavens! – Боже! *Syn.* Oh God!- Господи! For goodness sake! – Ради бога! Good Lord! – О, господи!
4. Don't you mind having one hundred grammes? – Может по сто грамчику, а?
5. What a poisonous tongue! – Какой ядовитый язык!
6. You are unlikely a musician, you are a bandit, surely. – Да вы не музыкант, вы бандит наверное.
7. They always play dirty tricks. – Они всегда пакостят.
8. For shame! *Syn.* You ought to be ashamed of!- Как вам не стыдно!
9. To tell you the truth. – честно говоря
10. If my memory doesn't fail. – Если память мне не изменяет.
11. Then you disappeared without a trace. – Затем ты исчезла без следа.
12. Why didn't you learn me sense, to be cleverer? – Почему ты не образумил меня быть умнее?
13. I'm your best half sent by God. – Я, посланная тебе богом твоя половина
14. You don't say so! – Что ты говоришь? Скажешь тоже!
15. He is a Jack of all trades. – Он мастер на все руки
16. Nobody fits to hold a candle to Gulpashin. – Никто не стоит и мизинца Гульпаршин.
17. He is sending his best regards to you. – Он передает тебе привет.
18. He was no match for her.- Он ей не пара.
19. In honour of this great event – В честь этого важного события.
20. Don't you want to make a little fool of me? – Вам не кажется, что вы хотите сделать из меня дурачка?
21. I'm telling the truth – Я говорю правду.
22. Do you want everything went dark before me? *Syn.* Do you want everything swam before my eyes? – Ты хотела бы, чтобы я уже никогда не увидел белого света?
23. It's all of a sudden. *Syn.* For no reason at all. Without rhyme or reason. – Это всё случайность. Ни с того, ни с сего.
24. Pray forgiveness of your sins before your death – Замаливай грехи свои перед смертью.
25. He isn't worth soiling my hands – Да он не стоит того, чтобы руки марать.
26. I served three years in prison, I lose nothing. – Я три года отсидел в тюрьме, мне нечего терять.

**Exercise 1.** Answer the questions on part I of the play.

1. What city does Gulparshin arrive in?
2. The events are in a hotel room, aren't they?
3. How does the hotel room look like?
4. How long hasn't Gulparshin been in Alma-Ata?
5. Why did she come to Alma-Ata?
6. Whom did Gulparshin call on the telephone?
7. Who is Altay?
8. Who enters the room when Gulparshin was taking a shower?
9. Whose room did she settle in by mistake?
10. What situation was Gulparshin in?
11. Describe Abdulla. What kind of man is he? What is he?
12. Did Altay come to the hotel to see Gulparshin?
13. What did Altay and Gulparshin speak about?
14. Why did Gulparshin introduce Abdulla to her friends as her husband?
15. What kind of girl was Gulparshin when she was a student?
16. Whom does Altay call "a Jack of all trades"?
17. Who are Zukhra and Madina?
18. What can you tell about the attitude of Abdulla to Gulparshin?
19. Who interrupts the conversation between Abdulla and Gulparshin?
20. Is Gulparshin afraid of her former husband Jienbay? Why?

**Exercise 2.** Give the English equivalents to the following words and word combinations:

Устроиться в гостинице, надоедливый человек, скучать, делать из кого-либо посмешище, познакомиться, дать кому-либо тост, обрезать, смущаться, сказать кому-либо комплимент, кокетничать (флиртовать) с кем-либо, однокурсник, похорошеть, оркестр, обстоятельства, между прочим, ядовитый язык, возражать, дирижёр, дать банкет в честь чего-либо, пакости, передавать привет, важное событие, музыкант, талантливый человек, мастер на все руки, оркестр народных инструментов, марать руки, стоять на вахте (на смене).

**Exercise 3.** Translate the following sentences from Russian into English using words and word combinations from the play. Pay attention to the italicized words in the sentences:

1. Они жили в разных городах, поэтому давно не виделись и *соскучились друг по другу*. 2. *Господи, и такие гостиницы бывают. Большие на общежитие похоже*. 3. *Какой ядовитый язык. Да вы не музыкант, вы бандит, наверное*. 4. Мужчины все такие. Где бы ни были, они везде пакостят. 5. *Если память мне не изменяет, я и тебе писала*. 6. Сначала они часто виделись, а потом Зухра как в воду канула. 7. Алтай говорил с волнением: «Я виноват перед тобой, я виноват во всём. Виноват и в том, что ты с мужем развелась». 8. *Абдулла – музыкант. Он руководитель оркестра народных инструментов*. 9. Я, посланная тебе богом твоя половина, я – твоя законная жена. 10. Он – певец, очень талантливый джигит. Он прекрасный парень и кроме того, он мастер на все руки. 11. Выпускники института встретились в Алма-Ате и дали банкет в честь 10 - летия окончания института. 12. Ты хочешь, чтобы я уже никогда не увидел белого света? Оставь меня в покое.

**Exercise 4.** Give the synonyms to the following italicized words and word combinations in the sentences.

1. They met after so many years. He *was confused* seeing her. 2. Her husband was very jealous. He asked his wife, "Why *are you flirting with* this young man?" 3. Altay noticed that Gulparshin *became prettier*. 4. "Why *are you laughing at* me?" she asked. 5. Don't *make a joke* with me. 6. A scientist got an invitation to the conference. He *stayed at the hotel* in the centre of town. 7. "You should *have a bath* every day", said a doctor to the patient. 8. Abdulla promised to phone her, but he didn't. She *took an offence*. 9. As soon as they graduated from the institute, she

*vanished without a trace.* Nobody knew where she was. 10. *Good Lord!* Why can't you leave me alone? 11. She cried, "You are a scoundrel! *For shame!*" 12. Introducing Abdulla to her girl-friends, Gulparshin said, "Abdulla is a fine fellow. He is a singer, guitarist, he is a talented fellow, he is the leader of the folk orchestra. He is a conductor. *He can do everything, he is skill.*" 13. Jienbay was very angry, he began to cry, "*Do you want everything went dark before me?*" 14. Excuse me, my dear, but I'm not guilty. *It is all of a sudden.* 15. When he *sat in prison* for a long time, she sent him letters and waited for his coming back.

**Exercise 4.** Using a role play, learn by heart a dialogue. Choose an extract from the play presenting a dialogue (conversation) between:

- a) Gulparshin and Altay;
- b) Gulparshin and Abdulla;
- c) Gulparshin and her girl-friends Madina and Zukhra;
- d) Gulparshin and her former husband Jienbay.

## PART II

*The same room in the hotel. The morning. Gulparshin, Abdulla, Zukhra and Madina. All are smart. They were at the banquet all together.*

**Madina:** I... Only one day passed, but it seems to me as if I have known Abdulla for many years. Abdulla, I am very much obliged to you.

**Zukhra:** Not only you, but we all... The banquet was excellent. He sings perfectly well... he dances finely.

**Madina:** Thank you very much. All the girls fell in love with you... And so did I... I fell in love with you.

**Gulparshin:** Girls, don't say so! I am jealous, I am very jealous!

**Madina:** Be jealous or not, it makes no difference.

**Zukhra:** I'd like to call home, girls. *(She is calling up)* Hallo! Hallo! Here am I. What, is she crying again? Doesn't she stop crying? Oh, I told you at night that today we are going to Medeo... The whole group... Just now ... in an hour. What? Is she crying? Give her some milk. Take her in your arms. Dandle her. Oh, OK,OK. *(She puts the receiver).* Oh, girls, what kind of husband he is, he can hardly look after the child. I must go and suckle her.

**Madina:** So must I. I'll go too. I should go home because I haven't been there since yesterday. Gulparshin, let's go home together.

**Gulparshin:** I am awfully tired, I'm dying... Let me have a rest a little.

**Zukhra:** That's all right. We'll go there quickly. Only there and back.

**Madina:** Then, we'll go to Medeo. To M e d e o. Do you remember we always went there together... That's all right... So long.

*Both Zukhra and Madina are leaving. A pause.*

**Gulparshin:** Abeke, it's difficult to tell me... I am so thankful to you.

**Abdulla:** For what ?

**Gulparshin:** For what? For going to the banquet together with me... For sitting with us... For your looking at me pettily... For your pet words, jokes.... For dancing with me... For everything... Will you sing a song once more?

*Abdulla takes a guitar and sings. As soon as he finishes singing, Jienbay enters. He is worried by something, he looks troubled and bad.*

**Jienbay:** Sorry... Sorry... I'd like... I'd like to ask...

**Abdulla:** Me?

**Jienbay:** Yes, you both... Both... I don't know anybody in this city... Nobody except you... only you... I don't know anybody here...

**Abdulla:** Go on... please.

**Jienbay:** What ... to tell... how to tell... Will you give me a sip<sup>1</sup>...

**Gulparshin:** Why did you come here with your shameless eyes?

How can you dare to ask?

**Jienbay:** I... I am telling to him.. *(Treating Abdulla)* You... you are a real man. You should understand me...

**Abdulla:** Yes, I see your state, but there is nothing here to drink.

**Jienbay:** Don't say so... You see... I... I can die... I'll die... Please... I beg you. Try to sorry for me.

**Gulparshin:** Jienbay, listen to me, Jienbay. Stop... stop...

*(She is running up to the cupboard and takes the champagne)* Help yourself, you want this... Drink.

*Jienbay fills a tall wine glass with the champagne with trembling hands and drinks at a gulp. He is sitting. A pause.*

**Abdulla:** Have some more drinking.

**Jienbay:** No, don't fill. It is the water. The water. Uh, Good Heavens! Good Heavens! I am going to die...

**Abdulla** *(taking out of money)*: Here is some money... Go downstairs to the café, you'll find vodka there...

**Jienbay:** Do you... you really give me?

**Abdulla:** Yes, but I ask you never to come here again. Don't bother us.

**Jienbay:** All right, all right. I'll never come... Never come. (*He takes the money*). Thank you. You are a real man. A man. I'll never forget your kindness. Good bye. (*Jienbay is leaving. A pause.*)

**Gulparshin:** So it was always the same... Always the same... I lived in this way. My God! What a nuisance!<sup>2</sup>

**Abdulla:** Stop worrying! Be quiet!. He'll never come back. You see, he'll never come.

**Gulparshin:** That's not the point... That's not the point. (*A pause*). I want to be alone.

**Abdulla:** If you want, I may go...

**Gulparshin:** No, don't go, leave here... I'd like not to see and to hear ever... You don't prevent me. (*She is singing a sad song. She looks indifferent*) Do you think I am in my right mind?<sup>3</sup> Don't you think I went mad?

**Abdulla:** No, no. Don't say so.

**Gulparshin:** You...you.. don't tell the lie.. I see in your eyes... I look like a mad, but I don't take an offence...Do you know that not only you think so. My husband also thought so. Sometimes I happen to be in such state... At this moment I see nothing, I hear nothing... I'm alone... Are you in such state?

**Abdulla:** I... I don't know. No, I am not.

**Gulparshin:** You are happy. And I...I... Do you know where I am now? I... I am in the other world.

**Abdulla:** You are very tired. You didn't sleep. That's why you feel tired.

**Gulparshin:** No, I am not. I am tired of life... What about my jumping steadily from the fifth floor?

**Abdulla** (*standing from his seat*): You should really have a rest. Sleep a little.

**Gulparshin:** Are you afraid? Don't be afraid... I should have the courage to jump from the fifth floor. I don't have it.

**Abdulla:** But you have such things which not all the women have – it's the beauty, kindness.

**Gulparshin:** Thank you. Let God bless you!<sup>4</sup> You're right, I should have a rest and a sleep... Don't you mind if I have a sleep?

**Abdulla:** Certainly! You should... (*He is leaving. A pause*)

**Gulparshin:** Yes, I should have a sleep. I must forget everything and sleep. (*A pause*). What about sleeping for ever? For ever. Quietness. I needn't think about anything... Worry...I needn't report back to anybody... I won't be afraid of anybody...I won't tell the lie... I'd like to be in the eternal peace<sup>5</sup>... Eternal peace. (*She is looking at the window*). Oh, it's terrible!

*Altay enters. A pause.*

**Altay:** Gul... Gulparshin. I came.

**Gulparshin:** What?

**Altay:** I came. (*A pause*)

**Gulparshin:** What do you want?

**Altay:** I... I need nothing. I only want to see you and speak... (*A pause*). Are you alone?  
Where is your husband?

**Gulparshin:** Husband? What husband? He is not. He went somewhere.

**Altay** (*A pause*): I wanted to see you very much... That's why I came..

**Gulparshin:** Why didn't you come up to me at the restaurant yesterday?

**Altay:** I... couldn't. Your husband... husband was always near you.. I couldn't.

**Gulparshin:** Were you afraid of my husband?

**Altay:** Yes... you may think so...

**Gulparshin:** You were afraid of your wife but not my husband. Your wife... I saw... I watched you the whole evening, till the end of the banquet. You... You looked like a mouse fallen in the water<sup>6</sup>... Compressed... You looked miserable... You don't have the courage to look at me even once.

**Altay:** No, why do you think so? I looked... Not once... But you... You...

**Gulparshin:** What did I do?

**Altay:** You admired your husband the whole evening. You didn't take your eyes off him as if you saw him for the first time that day.

**Gulparshin:** Don't you guess that I saw him for the first time?

**Altay:** I was jealous... I was very jealous... You looked at him tenderly, pettily, flirting and I burnt with jealousy<sup>7</sup>.

**Gulparshin:** It's not true!

**Altay:** It's true! Really and truly! Believe me, it's true!

*He tries to embrace Gulparshin.*

**Gulparshin** (*trying to tear herself out of his embrace*): Let me go, let me go. You... How can you allow? For shame!

**Altay:** I missed you... missed you very much... Haven't seen you for ages!<sup>8</sup>

**Gulparshin:** For ten years.

**Altay:** Yes, yes. Ten years. I remembered you for these ten years, every day.

**Gulparshin:** It's not true!

**Altay:** You may not believe me, but I tell you the truth. I have been looking for you all my life... I always thought about you, I missed...

**Gulparshin:** If you had really missed me... you would have come... For ten years ... only once.

**Altay:** I wanted to find you and come... But I was afraid, I didn't have the courage...

**Gulparshin:** Were you afraid? Whom? Your wife?

**Altay:** No, I was afraid neither of my wife nor you. I was afraid of myself- it was terrible before my conscience, honour... I am guilty before you. I am a sinner. I was afraid to meet with you. (*A pause*). And then... I couldn't do in the other way. There were many of them.

**Gulparshin:** Who are they?

**Altay:** I say about my wife... Her relatives... mother, father... All... I was alone... I had nobody,...no relatives. I depended on them, they tore me to pieces<sup>9</sup>... You know what time that was...

**Gulparshin:** Altay, why do you tell me everything?

**Altay:** Why? I want to explain.

**Gulparshin:** No, you needn't. Don't need to explain anything, don't make excuses to me... I am not a small child... Do you think I am still 16? I am different... I am different. Do you hear, I am a different person.

**Altay:** Gulparshin, stop swearing, please. Don't you believe me?

**Gulparshin:** I believe nobody.

**Altay:** But... Gulparshin, I am not a strange man for you... I...I... Did you forget everything? (*A pause. Gulparshin keeps silent*). I didn't forget. I remember everything. Everything, everything. Last time I think about everything much... About everything that happened. About myself... About my life, about my way of life, about past time. And what is my conclusion, you think? I realized that the best bright, merry days were those, spent with you. I was really happy when I was with you. You are the only woman whom I'll respect and love till the end of my life . You...

**Gulparshin:** You told about it before. You always told about it.

**Altay:** I was young, then... I was 20... And now I speak about it consciously. It's true, believe me.

**Gulparshin:** Altay everything was left in the past... Everything passed...

**Altay:** No, no. You don't say so! I am burning with love to you<sup>10</sup>. The fire of love didn't put out in my heart, it means that it wasn't over for ever.

**Gulparshin** (*crying*): I have been waiting for you... For ten years... All these ten years I've been waiting for you... But you... you...

**Altay** (*embracing*): Gulparshin, don't cry. I came... Came...

**Gulparshin:** No, no, I came, not you.. I came myself, I couldn't wait any more... Altay, I don't want to live, I want to die. This idea doesn't leave me.

**Altay:** Gulparshin, don't say such terrible words.

**Gulparshin:** That's why I wanted to see you... To see only once... I think if I see, I'll become quiet and forget everything.

**Altay:** You did right coming here. You are a clever woman, I know. (*He is embracing and kisses her*)

**Gulparshin** (*without protesting*): Altay, my dear... Don't touch me... Let me go...

**Altay:** No, no, I won't let you go... I won't let you go. I missed you... I missed you very much...

**Gulparshin:** OK... OK... Stop kissing, please... He... he may come any moment.

**Altay:** I ... I'll close the door...

**Gulparshin:** No, no. Don't close... You shouldn't...

*Abdulla enters. Altay is confused and he lets Gulparshin go.*

**Abdulla** (*being angry*): A-a, Aleke, it's you... Sorry...I... suddenly...came without knocking... It seems I am at the wrong time.

**Altay** (*confusing*): No, no. You don't say so, Abeke! We... simply...ordinarily. We were joking as we studied together, we are fellow-students...

**Abdulla:** Oh, a joke, you say... Do you know what I can do with you for such a joke? (*Coming up aggressively to Altay*).

**Gulparshin** (*separating them*): Abdulla, Abeke. You are behaving like children, stop quarrelling.

**Abdulla** (*being very angry*): What?

**Gulparshin:** Stop quarrelling! It doesn't suit you. (*Treating Altay*): Go out, please ( *She points to the balcony. Altay is going there. A pause*). Abeke, you are a good man. Kind, jolly, kind-hearted... But I can't understand you.

**Abdulla:** Of course, you can't understand me.

**Gulparshin:** I say seriously... What's the matter? Why are you so angry?

**Abdulla:** Do you want to make a laughing-stock of me?<sup>11</sup>

**Gulparshin** (*being angry*): You are really very strange... Who am I for you?...I am a strange person for you. What do you care for if somebody embraces and kisses me?

**Abdulla:** Oh, you began speaking another way! Why didn't you speak in this way yesterday at the banquet? Why did you speak another way?

**Gulparshin:** Oh, I see that you really took everything at its face value<sup>12</sup>... Do you think that if I went to the banquet with you, it means I am yours? Do you think I am going to throw myself into your arms and sleep with you?

**Abdulla:** Sorry, but you think as a woman of easy virtue, very brutally... it doesn't suit you.

**Gulparshin:** Thank you for your edifications... I am not an angel... Do you know that I am not an angel...

**Abdulla:** Yes, you are not an angel... Nobody... neither I nor you are an angel. (*He is opening the cupboard*). Sorry, I forgot my guitar... Sorry for interrupting you... (*He takes the guitar*). I'll come back in an hour, I hope that you'll move to your room... Good bye. (*He is leaving. A pause*)

**Gulparshin** (*opening the window of the balcony*): Ah, are you here? Come here, please. (*Altay goes out, he is looking around*). Ha-ha! Didn't you jump from the balcony... God forbid<sup>13</sup>, I was afraid that I'd be guilty before your children all my life if they remain orphans...

**Altay:** Where is Abeke?

**Gulparshin:** Abeke is out! Abeke left, he decided not to prevent us...

**Altay:** What?

**Gulparshin:** He left, I say. Ha-ha! Not to prevent us, do you see? Decided to leave us alone... A modern man, ha-ha. (*She stops laughing*). We divorced.

**Altay:** What? Ah?

**Abdulla:** We divorced, I say. Really and truly! Upon my word!<sup>14</sup> He couldn't find a reason for divorce, this incident was to the point.

**Altay** (*falling to the armchair*): Gulparshin, you are killing me!

**Gulparshin:** Are you frightened? Ha-ha! If you are so coward, why do you court for a strange wife?

**Altay:** Gulparshin, stop teasing me... Wait for a minute. I can't understand... how did you divorce at once, suddenly, without rhyme or reason?

**Gulparshin:** It happened so. It's ordinary, we divorced. Aren't you glad? Nobody will prevent us, why aren't you glad?

**Altay:** I... I am ... I am glad. (*He tries to embrace Gulparshin*)

**Gulparshin** (*trying to push him*): You want only this. Only this... You are not interested in anything else.

**Altay:** Gulparshin, don't be angry with me.

**Gulparshin:** I say seriously.

**Altay:** Gulparshin, I love you. You... you are so beautiful, you are so lovely.

**Gulparshin:** It's a lie! You've never loved me.

**Altay:** Gulparshin, why don't you believe me? Why?

**Gulparshin:** If you loved... If you really loved, you... you would...

**Altay:** All right! All right! Gulparshin, I'll divorce too.

**Gulparshin:** What?

**Altay:** I'll divorce too. It's true. I'm sure – I love only you.. Only y o u.

(*A pause*). Do you know I want to start my life again. I want to marry you, to start everything from the beginning... Let... let people think whatever they want. It's all the same for me<sup>15</sup>. The only thing I'd like is ... I'd like you to be with me. I am ready for everything, God knows, I'm ready for everything. (*He tried to embrace again... Zukhra and Madina enter the room with much noise*)

**Zukhra:** Gulparshin, what are you doing here?

**Madina:** It's high time to go to Medeo. Hurry up! Let's go.

**Zukhra:** Well go for a walk and have our photos taken.

**Madina:** Oh, yes. Let's go. Where is Abdulla, by the way?

**Gulparshin:** Abdulla is out. He went away for ever.

**Madina:** What?

**Gulparshin:** He left for ever, I say. He disappeared.

**Zukhra:** Gulparshin, don't say so!

**Madina:** She is right, don't say such bad words.

**Gulparshin:** I say nothing bad, I am telling the truth. We divorced with Abdulla.

**Zukhra:** When?

**Gulparshin:** Today... just now...

**Madina:** Gulparshin, why do you say so? Don't tell such nonsense!

**Zukhra:** You may joke but keep within limits<sup>16</sup>.

**Gulparshin:** But I don't make a joke. It's true. Here is Altay who is a witness... He saw everything with his own eyes...

**Altay (confusing):** I... What I saw.... I was on the balcony...

**Zukhra:** What balcony? What kind of balcony? Speak clearly.

**Altay:** ... I was on the balcony when he took his guitar and left.

**Gulparshin:** Oh, yes, it was so... He took his guitar. Ha-ha! That's a pity!<sup>17</sup> He took his guitar. The guitar is nice... But we'll have a nice life without the guitar...

**Zukhra:** Who will have? Who?

**Gulparshin:** Altay. We'll have, with Altay. (*Queitness. A pause*). Altay, why are you keeping silent? Won't we? Tell them...

**Altay** (*confusing*): I... what to tell... Wait...

**Gulparshin:** Altay, don't be afraid. Be courageous. (*She joins hands with Altay and repeats his words*). Let people tell what they want. It makes no difference for me. It's all the same. The main thing is... that we're together... the main thing is.. we'll go together joining our hands, we'll spend all our life together...

**Altay** (*trying to free his hands*): Gulparshin, stop... Stop... (*Treating girls*)

Ha-ha! Girls, it's only a joke, only a joke...

**Gulparshin:** Is it a joke? You've just told... Just now... here. You've just told it.

**Zukhra:** Wait for a minute, please. (*To Altay*) I know you rather well as a peeled<sup>18</sup>. Is it really so? Tell me the truth!.

**Altay:** Yes, it's true... I've told... I told simply...Nothing much.

**Zukhra:** You... you were always the same. You only look guiltless, harmless. But really nothing good of you, only dirty tricks!

**Altay:** You are always the same... At every trifle<sup>19</sup>, if something happens- I am guilty. You think only bad of me. You should clear what's the matter... I ..I wanted to calm her, I wanted her not to be upset... A divorce is always a bad joke... She wanted to put an end to her life, by the way.

**Madina:** What?

**Altay:** She told that she wanted to die, to jump from the fifth floor... And I... naturally... if you don't believe, ask her...

**Gulparshin:** Scoundrel!

**Zukhra:** Altay. Go away! Go away!.

**Madina:** Yes, go away.

**Altay:** As usually...At every trifle they turn me out neck and crop<sup>19</sup>... they want to get rid of me. (*He is leaving. A pause*)

**Zukhra:** Gulparshin, my dear. We are your really close and trusted friends... We are ready to do all our best for you. Tell me, please .. what's the matter?

**Madina:** Oh, yes. What does it mean – to die? You wanted to jump from the sixth floor? Oh, Lord! You... you didn't look like this... You didn't look like this, Gulparshin.

**Gulparshin:** You know nothing about my life, girls... You don't know how I lived... how I've lived for the last ten years. I went through many hardships and suffered<sup>20</sup>... You don't know about it.

**Zukhra:** What about you? Do you know anything about our life? Do you know how we lived...?

**Madina:** I want to tell the same.

**Zukhra:** I guess you think that we are very happy, we don't have any problems. Ha-ha! You don't know how we lived. How did we wander? How did we haunt thresholds of other people? We lived in huts of strange people... Sometimes it was difficult to find even such huts.

**Madina** (*can hardly speak, crying*): The mistress banished us from her sight. As you see, that's why our child is very nervous and troubled, she is always crying much...

**Zukhra:** Do you hear? She banished... In winter... The child was two months only... And we had this way of life today... in Alma-Ata... She... with her two-month child remained without any roof... What did she have to do? To die?

**Gulparshin:** I... I see everything.

**Zukhra:** No. You don't understand. If you understood, you wouldn't have told that you wanted to die. It never crossed your mind<sup>21</sup>.

**Madina:** You think as if you are the only divorced woman. Every second woman is in this position...

**Zukhra:** Well, do you think that somebody has the better life? All people have the same. The time is so cruel... It never spares... If you don't struggle...trying to clench your teeth and find a way out of a difficult situation, you will fail.

**Gulparshin:** I don't want to struggle. I don't want to do anything... neither clenching my teeth nor screwing up my eyes, I want nothing... I want to live by real life. Is it clear – to live!... I am a woman... A woman... I need nothing, neither tsar's mansions nor wealth and fame... I should like only love, mercy... warmth, I'd like... I'd like somebody to love me... pet me... pamper me...respect me.

**Zukhra:** Where will you find such kind of man? There are no such men and there will never be.

**Gulparshin:** It seemed to me that there are. I dreamt to meet such man all my life. All my life I dreamt about it. I wanted to meet such kind of man, to love him and live with him all my life, to give birth a lot of children... I wanted to be a woman, only a woman but nothing more.

*Abdulla enters with flowers. A pause.*

**Abdulla:** Gulparshin, I came... came to excuse... I am guilty before you.

**Gulparshin:** Oh, what do you say? You are not guilty.

**Abdulla:** No, it's true, I am guilty... Forgive me, please...will you? Forgive me only once...I'll never offend you... If you don't believe – I can swear.

**Madina:** No, no. Don't swear, Gulparshin believe you... Tell him, you believe...

**Gulparshin** (*confusing*): I...I... of course...

**Abdulla:** Oh, I knew you would forgive me... I knew you were not angry... You are a witty woman... You are not like me.. You are clever, aren't you?.

*(He gives some flowers to Gulparshin)*

**Gulparshin:** Thank you. Thank you...

**Madina:** You are a real man.

**Zukhra:** Yes, you are a real man. I'd like to... Let me shake your hands<sup>22</sup>. *(She shakes his hand)*.

**Madina:** And I... let me kiss your hands. *(She kisses)*

**Zukhra:** I.. I want you to do the following: if you really want to excuse, sing a song, please.

**Madina:** Gulparshin, I am glad for you, I am glad you found such a man.

**Zukhra:** So... so am I. You are happy... Gulparshin... You are a happy woman.

**Gulparshin:** Thank you, girls. Thank you.

**Zukhra:** And now, you'd better have a rest, Gulparshin. We'll go to Medeo next time...

**Madina:** Yes, we'll go next time... You'd better have a rest. Let Abdulla have a rest too, he looks tired... Don't you, Abeke?

**Abdulla:** It makes no difference.

**Zukhra:** We'd better leave... Let's call up, then...

**Madina:** Oh yes, well, ring me up in the evening. So long! See you soon.

*Zukhra and Madina are leaving. A pause.*

**Gulparshin:** Abeke, forgive me, please. Forgive me.

**Abdulla:** What do you say? You shouldn't be sorry.

**Gulparshin:** Why? I must be sorry for something... It's worth being sorry for something. *(A pause)*. You don't know who he is, do you? He is my first love... My beloved. But the God didn't link my destiny with him and fate separated us<sup>23</sup>...

**Abdulla:** I see, I see.

**Gulparshin:** No, you don't understand... You don't understand... *(A pause)* I was only 16 when I met him. At the age of sixteen I entered the institute and then.... Can you imagine what feelings, what love a sixteen-year-old girl had... I fell in love with him... Nothing stopped me... Then...Then...

**Abdulla:** Then... He married another girl, then, didn't he ?

**Gulparshin:** Yes. On the third course... He married a girl who studied a course senior. *(A pause)* . Do you know that ...then...for the first time I wanted to die... that time... I had to die, then. But I didn't have courage to die. I was afraid of death.

**Abdulla:** Everybody is afraid of death.

**Gulparshin:** You are right...But I was dead then... my soul, feelings, heart... everything, everything was dead.

**Abdulla:** Sorry, but I can't understand how you linked your life with this drunkard?

**Gulparshin:** Why can't you understand it? I thought I would never marry... anybody... Never... Then when I was over 25, I met Jienbay... He swore, that he couldn't live without me, he didn't let me stray out one step from him<sup>24</sup>. Then... Then it made no difference... (A pause)

**Abdulla:** It was your mistake, I think.

**Gulparshin:** I know about it... But... Sometimes I think that if we had a child everything would be different, everything would get right. But we didn't have a child. God didn't give. Besides, he was terribly jealous of me ... to every pole... At every trifle – a scandal, fight... At last it happened he was put into prison... I thought I got rid of him... For ever... It hadn't even entered my head, that after serving his time in prison, he would come to Alma-Ata and here... we... would meet with him. It's so surprising... It's difficult to believe.

*A pause. Jienbay enters. He looks strange- he seems neither tipsy nor sober.*

**Jienbay (to Abdulla):** Here you are... Take.

**Abdulla:** What is this?

**Jienbay:** Money. Here is your money... I didn't use them. (He gives money) I ask you to leave us for a minute.

**Abdulla:** Sorry, but do you have a right to turn me out neck and crop?

**Jienbay:** I have such right. Do you mind?

**Gulparshin:** Abdulla, I ask you to go to the balcony.

*Abdulla is leaving. A pause.*

**Jienbay:** I... I... thought much while I was in prison... I imagined my whole life before my eyes every day, day after day. And I understood. The only good, bright thing I had in my life is you. You are my joy, you are my life. Only you.

**Gulparshin:** If you really loved me, why did you abuse me? Why did you torture me?

**Jienbay:** Gulparshin, my dear, listen to me... It was because I loved you. It's true. If somebody had a look at you or played a joke on you – I was very jealous. I don't know what's the matter with me. It was because of my love. If I didn't love, would it be so? Would I be jealous? (A pause). Gulparshin, let's go, let's leave just now.

**Gulparshin:** Ah! What do you say?

**Jienbay:** I say, let's come back home... to the village... I'll give up everything... I'll give up drinking... being jealous... Everything.

**Gulparshin:** You tell about it not for the first time. You told me about it hundred times, you even swore.

**Jienbay:** But it's for the last time. The last... it's true. I will never offend you... I won't hurt a fly, I won't bother you... I will carry you in my arms!<sup>25</sup>

**Gulparshin:** You... you... You were late... You see, you were late...

**Jienbay:** No, no I wasn't late. I feel – I wasn't late. My heart tells me that I wasn't late. I always believed, when we divorced, when I was in prison, I always believed and hoped that we would be together. This hope helped me to survive. Otherwise I would disappear, I would stay in prison for ever.

**Gulparshin:** It's not true!

**Jienbay:** Yes, it's true! I don't tell a lie. I knew that you would come to Alma-Ata, I felt in my heart. I've never gone to the airport... But yesterday... yesterday I wanted to go to the airport... I knew that I would meet you... I looked ... and saw you... going out of the plane. You didn't look at me... Tell me, please, Gulparshin if I didn't love, would it happen so?

**Gulparshin:** What do you want of me?

**Jienbay:** Gulparshin, I'll die without you. You see my state, I'll die without you. Let's go ... let's go home... To our village... Now there is a plane... I ask you, let's go... We'll have a child, we are young, both... you and I... Everything will be right with us, we'll have a child and we'll be happy. Let's try... let's decide...

**Gulparshin:** I should think over...

**Jienbay:** How long will it take for you?

**Gulparshin:** I don't know... A day, perhaps... A month...

**Jienbay:** I... I'll wait... Downstairs... In the hall... For a month... for a year.. I'll wait for you. I'll wait for you.. (*He is leaving. Abdulla enters. A pause*).

**Abdulla:** What's the matter?

**Gulparshin:** Nothing! I've told you that I felt giddy<sup>26</sup>... It's strange... He wants to take me with him...

**Jienbay:** What?

**Gulparshin:** He says that he will take me with him... For ever.. Abdulla, do you hear? He wants to take me . (*Abdulla keeps silent*)

**Gulparshin:** What shall I do? I am a woman.. (*Abdulla goes on keeping silent*). Everything is over... The story of your marriage is over. It was a wonderful, interesting story, I'll remember it and tell about all my life. It is over.

**Abdulla:** You... You.. Will you go with him? Will you go with Jienbay?

**Gulparshin:** What shall I do? If it is preordained that I should go, I'll go with him<sup>27</sup>, Abeke. Man proposes, God disposes. Not flying from fate.<sup>28</sup> (*A pause*). We'll never meet again... I feel by my heart, we'll never meet... We'll never see each other.

**Abdulla:** Why? I'll take your... your address, let's write down. (*He takes out a notebook*). I'll find you... Wherever you'll be... Even if you are at the end of the world<sup>29</sup>.

**Gulparshin:** You... you... Put yourself together... Everything will disappear... will be forgotten...

**Abdulla:** No, nothing will be forgotten... You... You should know that I love you. It's true. I've never loved so, I have never fallen in love in this way. Why don't you believe me?

**Gulparshin:** Why not? I believe you... It's true, I believe. But there is a big gulf between us, isn't it?<sup>30</sup>

**Abdulla:** Don't tell it, Gulparshin.

**Gulparshin:** It's true that there's a gulf, and we'll never overcome it, neither I nor you... We are the people of other kind by nature. (*A pause*). But I am happy, though very late. I met you, I got acquainted with you. I am so glad, I am so happy.

**Abdulla:** But Gulparshin.... Tell me... Tell me please... what shall I do? It's necessary to give you a present... For memory...

**Gulparshin:** Abdulla, you're mistaken. You gifted me the wonderful world, you gifted me the life... The life... Belief into future... Hope... What else may be more expensive?

(*A pause. Gulparshin picks up her things*)

**Abdulla:** You... you... Are you going to leave? Are you going to leave for ever?

**Gulparshin:** Abdulla, I have a favour to ask of you. The last request. Will you sing me a song, please? (*Abdulla is singing. They are sitting quietly in different places*).

**Gulparshin** (*she stands and turns off the radio*): That's all... that's all... Everything is over (*Suddenly she embraces strongly Abdulla who looks confused*)

My dear, my dear. Good bye. (*Gulparshin takes a bag and goes steadily to the hall*). She is crying. Abdulla is standing on the scene and as soon as Gulparshin leaves the hall, he cries.

**Abdulla:** Gulparshin... Gulparshin.

*But his shouts are suppressed by the rumbling of the plane's engine. Then a sad melody is heard on the radio.*

**The end.**

## TASKS TO PART II

### ACTIVE VOCABULARY

abuse <i>v</i>	forgive <i>v</i>	stray <i>v</i>
admire <i>v</i>	guiltless <i>adj</i>	suckle <i>v</i>
angel <i>n</i>	giddy <i>adj</i>	survive <i>v</i>
banish <i>v</i>	gulf <i>n</i>	suffer <i>v</i>
be obliged to smb. <i>v</i>	jealous <i>adj</i>	swear <i>v</i>
courage <i>n</i>	preordain <i>v</i>	tear <i>v</i>

dandle <i>v</i>	remain <i>v</i>	tenderly <i>adv</i>
destiny <i>n</i>	scoundrel <i>n</i>	threshold <i>n</i>
edification <i>n</i>	sin <i>v</i>	trifle <i>n</i>
eternal <i>adj</i>	sober <i>adj</i>	wise <i>adj</i>

### Word combinations

1. to be in the same year as smb. – быть одного года с кем-либо
2. to carry in one's arms – носить на руках
3. to drink at a gulp – выпить залпом
4. endearing words – ласковые слова
5. eternal peace – вечный покой
6. to fall in love with smb. – влюбиться в кого-либо
7. to feel giddy – чувствовать головокружение
8. to give birth – родить
9. to give/pledge one's word of honour – дать честное слово
10. to give a sip – дать глоток
11. to go through – переживать
12. to have the courage to say smth. – иметь смелость сказать что-либо
13. to haunt smb's thresholds – обивать пороги
14. in one's right mind – в своём уме
15. to join hands – братья за руки
16. to keep within limits – знать меру
17. to learn sense / grow wise – научить уму-разуму
18. to leave smb. alone / in peace – оставить кого-либо в покое
19. to link one's destiny / life with smb. – связать свою судьбу (жизнь) с кем-либо
20. to make a laughing-stock of smb. – сделать из кого-либо посмешище
21. not a step – ни на шаг
22. not for the world – ни за что на свете
23. not to take one's eyes off smb. – не отрывать глаз от кого-либо
24. to put an end to one's life – покончить с собой
25. to throw oneself into smb's arms – броситься в объятия
26. to undergo hardships – перенести (перетерпеть) трудности

### NOTES

1. Will you give me a sip – Не найдётся ли у вас хоть глоточка...?
2. What a nuisance! – За что такое наказание!
3. Do you think I'm in my right mind? – Как вы думаете, я в своём уме?
4. Let God bless you! – Да воздаст вам бог!
5. I'd like to be in the eternal peace – Обрести бы вечный покой.
6. You looked like a mouse fallen in the water – Ты был похож на мышь, которая попала в воду.
7. I burnt with jealousy – Я сгорал от ревности.
8. Haven't seen you for ages! – Столько лет тебя не видел!
9. I depended on them, they tore me to pieces – Я был зависим от них, они меня растерзали.
10. I'm burning with love to you – Я сгораю от любви к тебе.
11. Do you want to make a laughing-stock of me? – Вы что, из меня посмешище хотите сделать?
12. Oh, I see that you really took everything at its face value – Да, вы и вправду, как посмотрю, всё приняли за чистую монету.
13. God forbid! – Не дай бог!

14. Upon my word! – Честное слово! *Syn.* To give/ pledge one's word of honour – дать честное слово.
15. It's all the same for me. *Syn.* It doesn't matter. It makes no difference for me – Мне всё равно.
16. You make joke but keep within limits. – Шутить, но знай меру.
17. That's a pity! – Как жаль!
18. I know you rather well as a peeped – Я ведь знаю тебя как облупленного.
19. At every trifle they turn me out neck and crop, they want to get rid of me. – Чуть что, так прогоняют прочь, хотят избавиться от меня.
20. I went through many hardships and suffered – Чего только я не пережила, чего только не натерпелась.
21. It never crossed your mind – Тебе и в голову не пришло.
22. Let me shake your hands – Разрешите пожать вам руку.
23. But the God didn't link my destiny with him and fate separated us... - Да вот, только богу неужгодно было нас соединить, судьба нас разлучила.
24. He didn't let me stray out one step from him – Он ни на шаг не отпускал меня от себя.
25. I won't hurt a fly, I will carry you in my arms – Я пальцем не трону! Всю жизнь на руках носить буду.
26. I've told you that I felt giddy – Я же говорил тебе, у меня голова закружилась.
27. If it isn't preordained that I should go, I'll go with him – Раз у меня на роду написано, с ним и уйду.
28. Man proposes, God disposes – Чему быть, того не миновать. Человек предполагает, бог располагает. *Syn.* Not flying from fate. – От судьбы не уйдёшь.
29. Even if you are at the end of the world – Хотя на краю света.
30. But there's a big gulf between us, isn't it? - Но между нами большая пропасть.

**Exercise 1.** Answer the questions on part II of the play:

1. What was the meeting of the fellow-students at the hotel?
2. Did the young people enjoy their banquet?
3. Who spoiled Gulparshin's mood?
4. What did Jienbay ask to give him?
5. Why did Gulparshin want to stay alone in the room?
6. What did Gulparshin and Altay speak about?
7. Did Altay fall in love with Gulparshin when they were students?
8. Why didn't he marry her?
9. What hardships in life did Gulparshin have?
10. What can you tell about the lives of Gulparshin's girl-friends – Zukhra and Madina?
11. Are they happy? What can you tell about their family life?
12. What way of life does Gulparshin dream about?
13. Whom does Gulparshin tell about her life sincerely? Why?
14. Has Gulparshin known Abdulla before?
15. Abdulla falls in love with Gulparshin, doesn't he?
16. What does Gulparshin thank Abdulla for?
17. What is the end of the play?
18. How does Jienbay look like at the end of the play ? Compare his behaviour at the beginning and at the end of the play.
19. Did you like the play? What personages did you like most? Why?
20. What do you think about the future life of Gulparshin?
21. Will Gulparshin forbid Jienbay and come back to him or not?
22. What social problems does the author touch in this play? Are they actual today?
23. How can you interpret the title of the play *A sad story of a beautiful woman* ?
24. What is the general slant (mood) of the play?

25. Did you like the play?

26. What can you tell about the personages of the play? Describe each of them.

**Exercise 2.** Give the English equivalents to the following words and word combinations:

быть обязанным кому-либо, ревнивый, влюбиться в кого-либо, выпить залпом, грешить, быть одного возраста, вечный покой, гореть от любви (ревности), родить, унижать, ласковые слова, ангел, быть виноватым, клясться, обивать пороги, назидание, чуть-что (по пустякам), переносить трудности, мучить, научить уму-разуму, ни на шаг, судьба, избавиться от кого-либо, пожать руку, прощать, прогонять прочь, иметь смелость сказать что-либо, восхищаться, шутить, знать как облупленного, дать честное слово, переживать, оставить в покое, связать свою судьбу с кем-либо, ни за что на свете, не отрывать глаз от кого-либо, броситься в объятия, умный (мудрый), чувствовать головокружение.

**Exercise 3.** Translate the following sentences from Russian into English using words and word combinations from the play. Pay attention to the italicized words in the sentences:

1. Он просил *дать ему глоток воды*, он сильно хотел пить. 2. Гульпаршин думала: «*Господи! За что же мне такое наказание? Обрести бы вечный покой*». 3. *Что вы говорите? Вы в своём уме?* 4. Я знаю тебя с детства, как *облупленного*. 5. Она *перенесла много трудностей в жизни*, но ей и в голову не приходило *покончить с собой*. 6. Родители хотели *научить его уму-разуму*. Они души в нём не чаяли. 7. *Вы что, из меня посмешище хотите сделать? Шутите, но знайте меру*. 8. Гульпаршин представила Абдуллу своим мужем и её однокурсники *приняли всё за чистую монету*. 9. Она *хотела прогнать его прочь*. 10. Он обещал, что и *пальцем её не тронет и будет носить её на руках*. 11. Раз у неё на роду написано, она останется с ним. *Чему быть, того не миновать. От судьбы не уйдёшь*. 12. У неё *закружилась голова* и я *ни на шаг не отходил от неё*. 13. *Да воздаст вам бог!* 14. Ей и в голову не пришло, что он *действительно влюбился в неё*. 15. Он был *зависим от родителей жены*, они его *растерзали*. 16. «*Чего только я не пережила, чего только не натерпелась. Мне теперь всё равно*», сказала она и ушла.

**Exercise 4.** Give the synonyms to the following italicized words and word combinations in the sentences.

1. As soon as his glass was filled, he *drank quickly*. 2. Jienbay gave his *word of honour*, but Gulparshin didn't believe him. 3. Her parents wanted to *learn her sense*, but she was obstinate as a mule and didn't listen to the. 4. The woman asked her husband to *leave her in peace*. 5. Her friends couldn't understand why *she had linked her life with* this terrible man. 6. The fellow-students *haven't seen each other for many years!* 7. She said, "*It makes no difference for me.*" 8. The young man said, "*I'm burning with love to you*". 9. That's a pity! Are you leaving for Alma-Ata today? 10. They tried to calm her. She wanted to *put an end to her life*, by the way. 11. *It never crossed her mind* that he fell in love with her. 12. You don't know him. He is my first love. But the God *didn't link my destiny with him* and fate separated us. 13. *Not flying from fate*. 14. I will never offend you. *I won't touch you with my finger*, I won't bother you. 15. They couldn't imagine what *hardships she had undergone*.

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