

# **FATHERS AND SONS**

Adapted from the novel of Ivan Turgenev By F. J. Morlock

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# FATHERS AND SONS

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C 1982

## CHARACTERS

Piotr  
Nicolai Petrovitch Kirsanov  
Arkady Kirsanov  
Eugeny Bazarov  
Dunyasha  
Pavel Petrovitch Kirsanov

## FATHERS AND SONS

Fenitchka  
Peasant Boy  
Anna Sergejevna Odinstov  
Katya, her sister  
Old Bazarov  
Madame Bazarov  
Servant  
German Doctor

AROUND 1860 -- RURAL RUSSIA

### ACT I

Scene i           Nicolai Kirsanov's Garden.  
                  Afternoon.

Scene ii           The same.  
                  A day or two later. Midday.

Scene iii          The same.  
                  Next day. Early morning.

### ACT II

Scene i           Madame Odinstov's Drawing Room.  
                  A month later.

Scene ii           The same.  
                  A week later. About 9:30 at night.

### ACT III

Scene i           The Bazarov's Drawing Room.  
                  Two days later.

Scene ii           Bazarov's Garden.

### ACT IV

Scene i           Nicolai Kirsanov's Garden.  
                  A week later. Afternoon.

Scene ii           The same.  
                  Several weeks later.

Scene iii          A field near Nicolai's house.  
                  Dawn.

Scene iv          Anna Sergejevna's Drawing Room.  
                  The same day.

### ACT V

Scene i           The Bazarov's Drawing Room.  
                  A few weeks later.

Scene ii           The same.  
                  Two days later.

FATHERS AND SONS

# FATHERS AND SONS

Scene iii Pavel Petrovitch's Sick Room.

## ACT I

### Scene i

The garden of Nicolai Kirsanov's estate. On the right a porch. Piotr is on a ladder watching the road. To the left a swing set in an artificial bower.

**Nicolai**

Well, Piotr, not in sight yet?

**Piotr**

No, Sir, not in sight.

**Nicolai**

Not in sight?

**Piotr**

No, Sir.

**Nicolai** (sighs)

They should be here.

**Piotr**

The coach is always late.

**Nicolai**

Of course.

(Piotr comes down from the ladder)

**Piotr**

Good thing this doesn't happen often. I'm too old to be climbing about on ladders. What if I fell?

**Nicolai**

You're as agile as a cat.

**Piotr**

All the same. It's no way to treat a servant.

**Nicolai**

Just once I ask you and you complain.

**Piotr**

One is free now. Not a serf any more. It is permitted to complain.

**Nicolai**

But must you make a profession of it?

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**Piotr**

Freedom is freedom. What good is it if one can't express oneself?  
(A noise offstage)  
It sounds as if they're coming, Sir.

**Nicolai**

Arkasha, Arkasha.

(Arkady and Bazarov enter)

**Arkady**

Let me shake myself first, Daddy. I will cover you with dust.

**Nicolai** (not noticing Bazarov)

Never mind, never mind. Let me have a look at you; let me have a look at you.

**Arkady**

Daddy, let me introduce you to my great friend, Bazarov, about whom I have so often written to you. He has been so good as to promise to stay with us.

**Nicolai**

I am heartily glad and very grateful for your kind intention of visiting us. Let me know your name and your father's

**Bazarov**

Eugeny Vassilyitch.

**Nicolai**

I hope dear Eugeny Vassilyitch, you won't find it dull with us.  
(To Piotr)  
Please see to Mr. Bazarov's things, Piotr. Give him the room next to Arkady's.

**Piotr**

Will you please accompany me, Sir?

(Bazarov exits into the house with Piotr)

**Nicolai**

So here you are, a graduate at last, and come home again. At last.

**Arkady**

And how is Uncle?

**Nicolai**

Quite well. He was going to wait with me but for some reason or other changed his mind. I think he knew I should want to have you all to myself for a bit.

**Arkady**

And, how long have you been waiting for me?

ACT I

## FATHERS AND SONS

**Nicolai**

Oh, about five hours.

**Arkady**

Dear, old Dad!

(Arkady kisses his father on the cheek)

**Nicolai**

I have got a capital horse for you. You will see. And your room has been fresh papered.

**Arkady**

Is there a room for Bazarov?

**Nicolai**

Of course.

**Arkady**

Please Dad, make much of him. I can't tell you how I prize his friendship.

**Nicolai**

Have you made friends with him lately?

**Arkady**

Yes, quite lately.

**Nicolai**

Ah, that accounts for my not seeing him last winter.

(Pause)

What does he study?

**Arkady**

Natural science. But he knows everything. Next year he'll take his doctor's degree.

**Nicolai**

Ah, a physician. That's good. Russia can use doctors. Incidentally, Arkady, I've had a lot of bother with the peasants this year.

**Arkady**

Now that they've been emancipated. They're difficult, eh?

**Nicolai**

Yes. They are being set against me.

**Arkady** (examining the garden)

You've no shade; it's a pity.

**Nicolai**

But I've had an awning put up

(He points)

ACT I

## FATHERS AND SONS

We can have dinner even in the open air.

**Arkady**

What air though? I don't believe there's such a fragrance in the world as in the meadows here.

(Arkady is suddenly embarrassed by his own enthusiasm)

What would Bazarov say if he heard me gushing like this?

**Nicolai**

Of course. You were born here, so everything here is special to you.

**Arkady**

Oh, Dad, it makes no difference where a man was born.

**Nicolai**

Still

**Arkady**

No. It makes absolutely no difference.

**Nicolai** (pause)

I don't recollect whether I told you but your old nurse, Yegorovura, is dead.

**Arkady**

Really? Poor thing!

**Nicolai**

That's about the only change here at Margino.

**Arkady**

That suits me fine.

**Nicolai**

Ah.

(Hesitates)

There is one change. I think it my duty to prepare you.

(Pause)

A severe moralist might regard my openness as improper; but after all it can't be concealed

(Nicolai is having hard going)

Of course, I have always had decided ideas about the relation of father and son. What I mean is you have a right to disapprove, of course, however,

(He is helpless)

**Arkady** (easily)

Fenitchka?

**Nicolai** (mortified)

Don't mention her name aloud, please.

(Pause)

Well, she is living with me now. I have installed her in the house in two little rooms off the drawing room.

(Pause)

But that can all be changed.

ACT I



## FATHERS AND SONS

**Arkady** (who is somewhat amused at his father's embarrassment)  
Goodness, Daddy, what for?

**Nicolai**  
Your friend is going to stay with us it would be awkward. Not to mention your legitimate objections.

**Arkady**  
Please don't be uneasy on my account or Bazarov's. He's above all that.

**Nicolai**  
Well, but, you, too the little cabin is so horrid that's the worst of it.

**Arkady**  
Goodness, Dad, it's as if you were apologizing. You act as if you're ashamed.

**Nicolai** (terribly embarrassed)  
Of course, I'm ashamed.

**Arkady**  
Nonsense, Dad, nonsense; please don't. What a thing to apologize for! Please, stop

**Nicolai** (changing the subject)  
I have sold the timber.

**Arkady**  
Why?

**Nicolai**  
The money was needed.

**Arkady**  
I'm sorry about the timber. But what an exquisite day it is today!

**Nicolai**  
To welcome you, my dear boy. Anyway, now you are at home, we must have supper and rest.

(Bazarov returning with Piotr)

**Bazarov**  
A meal would not come amiss, certainly.

**Nicolai**  
Yes, yes, let us have supper directly.

**Piotr**  
You wish supper to be served?

**Nicolai**  
Yes, yes

## FATHERS AND SONS

**Piotr**

The cook has been ready for Arkady. It will only be a minute.

**Nicolai**

Wouldn't you like to change, Arkady?

**Arkady**

No thanks. But, I'd better wash up.

**Bazarov**

Arkady

, have you got a light?

(He brandishes his pipe)

**Arkady**

Of course.

**Bazarov**

Will you have a cigar?

**Arkady**

Cigarette, I think, thanks.

(Enter Pavel Petrovitch, a man of about forty–five. Elegantly dressed after an English style. He is in a dark English suit, a fashionable low cravat and kid shoes. He is aristocratic, elegant, graceful. He has exquisitely manicured hands.)

**Pavel**

Welcome, Arkady. I had begun to think you were not coming.

(He kisses Arkady three times in the Russian manner)

**Arkady**

I am fine, Uncle Paul. We had a slight delay. You must meet Bazarov.

(Pavel turns politely to Bazarov and makes a little bow. His aesthetic reaction to Bazarov is instantaneously hostile, although he is too polished a gentleman to be rude.)

(Pavel greets Bazarov with a slight inclination of his supple figure. Bazarov responds with a somewhat exaggerated bow which may be due to awkwardness but possibly to satire.)

**Pavel**

Charmed, I'm sure.

**Arkady**

Tell Piotr to hurry up. We're hungry as wolves. I'm going to wash up. I'll be back directly.

**Bazarov**

I'm coming with you.

ACT I

## FATHERS AND SONS

(Bazarov and Arkady exit into the house)

**Pavel**

Who is he?

**Nicolai**

A friend of Arkady's. A very clever fellow.

**Pavel**

Is he going to stay with us?

**Nicolai**

Yes.

**Pavel**

That unkempt creature?

(Piotr enters from the house with a large tray of food which he places on the table under the awning)

**Piotr**

Dinner is served.

(Bazarov and Arkady return)

**Nicolai**

That was quick.

**Bazarov**

We smelled food.

(They all sit down at the table, a servant girl comes in)

Little girl Fedosya Nikolaevna is not quite well; she cannot come. Will you please pour tea yourself or should she send Dunyasha?

**Nicolai**

I will pour for myself, then. Arkady, how do you take your tea with cream or with lemon?

**Arkady**

With cream.

(Pause)

Daddy.

**Nicolai**

Well?

## FATHERS AND SONS

(Nicolai senses what is coming and he is mortified)

**Arkady**

Is the reason Fenitchka will not come to pour tea because I'm here?

**Nicolai** (turning away to hide his confusion)

Perhaps she is embarrassed.

**Arkady**

She has no reason to be embarrassed. You know my views. If you have chosen her to live with you she must be worthy of it.

**Nicolai** (profoundly moved)

Thanks, Arkasha. Of course, it's not some some caprice, or a cheap affair. It's not easy for me to talk to you about this. But, you understand it's difficult for her especially the first day of your return.

**Arkady** (rising)

In that case I will go to her. I will fix everything.

**Nicolai** (completely disconcerted)

But, Arkady, you can't. I haven't told you yet My God

(But Arkady has gone)

**Pavel**

He doesn't know about the child?

**Nicolai**

Whatever will happen?

**Bazarov**

Trust Arkady to do the right thing.

(Bazarov has been eating unconcernedly throughout this conversation)

**Nicolai**

Oh, of course. I'm sorry, Mr. Bazarov, to expose you to such intimate family scenes.

**Bazarov**

Think nothing of it.

**Pavel** (guarded but polite)

I have been trying to remember where I heard your name before. Was your father a military surgeon, Mr. Bazarov?

**Bazarov**

My father and my grandfather were in the horseguards.

## FATHERS AND SONS

**Pavel**

Ah, I remember your grandfather, he died a hero's death at Sebastopol.

**Bazarov**

He died like a fool, in a foolish war.

**Pavel**

That is a rather harsh way to speak of one's grandfather.

**Bazarov**

As he is my grandfather, I feel I have the right to take that liberty. My grandfather was a romantic. So, for that matter, is my father.

**Pavel**

You seem to have little respect for received opinions.

**Bazarov**

That is true. I am a nihilist.

**Pavel**

Eh?

**Bazarov**

A nihilist.

**Nicolai** (nonchalantly munching)

A nihilist, that from the Latin nihil nothing. The word must mean a man who accepts nothing

**Pavel**

Who respects nothing

**Bazarov**

Who regards everything from a critical point of view.

**Pavel**

Isn't that just the same?

**Bazarov**

No, a nihilist is a man who does not bow down before any authority regardless of what reverence attaches to it.

**Pavel**

A sort of revolutionary par excellence, eh?

(Bazarov nods and munches)

**Pavel**

Indeed. Well, it's not in our line. We are old-fashioned folk. We think that without principles, taken as you say on faith, there's no taking a step, no breathing. Vous avez change tout cela.

## FATHERS AND SONS

**Bazarov** (munching)

Reverence and principles don't feed people.

**Pavel**

What was it?

**Bazarov**

Nihilist.

**Pavel**

Yes. There used to be Hegelians, now there are nihilists. We shall see how you will exist in a void, in a vacuum.

(Arkady returns)

**Arkady**

We have made friends, Dad! Fedosya Nikolaevna is not quite well today, really. But she will come a little later. But, why didn't you tell me I had a brother?

(Nicolai waves his hand helplessly, Arkady embraces his father)

**Nicolai**

You must excuse me.

(He exits to the house)

**Pavel**

Is your special study physics, Mr. Bazarov?

**Bazarov**

Physics and natural science.

**Pavel** (ironically)

They say the Teutons have made great progress in that line.

**Bazarov**

Yes, the Germans are our teachers in it. Their scientists are a clever lot.

**Pavel**

I dare say you haven't as high an opinion of our Russian scientists.

**Bazarov**

Very likely

**Pavel**

Well, you are not a chauvinist. But if you are a nihilist, surely you don't believe in these Teutons.

**Bazarov**

They tell me the truth. I agree that's all.

## FATHERS AND SONS

**Pavel**

Do all Germans tell the truth?

**Bazarov** (yawning)

Not all.

**Pavel**

I confess. I don't care for Germans very much. In the past they produced some excellent men, Goethe Schiller But now they have all turned chemists and materialists.

**Bazarov**

A good chemist is twenty times as useful as any poet. An engineer is worth a hundred Goethes.

**Pavel**

Oh, indeed. You don't acknowledge art, then?

**Bazarov** (contemptuously)

The art of making money or of advertising pills!

**Pavel**

Ah ah You are pleased to jest, no doubt? Granted. Then, you place your faith in science?

**Bazarov**

I have already explained that I don't place my faith anywhere. There are sciences like trades and crafts. But abstract science doesn't exist at all.

**Pavel**

Very good. And in regard to other accepted traditions of human conduct, do you adopt the same negative attitude?

**Bazarov**

Is this an examination?

**Arkady**

Uncle Pavel, please

**Pavel**

I am sorry if I have been carried away by the conversation. It's a misfortune to live in the backwoods, as it were, far from mighty intellects. You turn into a fool directly, you try not to forget what you've been taught but poof they'll prove it's all rubbish and that up to date people have no more to do with such foolishness and you are an antiquated old fogey before you're fifty. What's to be done? Young people are, it goes without saying cleverer than we are.

(Pavel rises, bows and exits into the house)

**Bazarov**

Is he always like that?

**Arkady**

I must say, Eugeny, you weren't nice to him. You've hurt his feelings.

## FATHERS AND SONS

### **Bazarov**

I really didn't start it. He should have continued his career if that's his bent. All this vanity and dandyism are a bit out of place a hundred miles from nowhere.

### **Arkady**

He deserves pity rather than ridicule. He's profoundly unhappy. It's a sin to ridicule him.

### **Bazarov**

Who's ridiculing him? He asked my opinion, that's all, and I told him.

(Still eating)

Have some more meat, Arkady, it's delicious. There's no better remedy for idealism than the taste of a good dinner.

### **Arkady**

You're incorrigible.

### **Bazarov**

Of course.

CURTAIN

## Scene ii

Nicolai

Kirsanov's garden. One or two days later.

(Fenitchka is in the garden with a maid, Dunyasha, and her baby. Fenitchka is in the swing, giving the baby a ride. Pavel sees her from the house, hesitates and goes directly to her. Fenitchka jumps out of the swing, in great confusion. She gives the baby to Dunyasha.)

### **Pavel**

Stay put. Stay put. Pardon me, if I disturb you I only wanted to ask you they are sending into town today, I think please, let them buy me some green tea.

### **Fenitchka**

Certainly, how much do you want?

### **Pavel**

Oh, half a pound will be enough, I imagine

(Pause)

I went to your rooms. You have new curtains.

### **Fenitchka** (still embarrassed)

Oh, yes, the curtains. Nicolai Petrovitch was so kind as to make a present of them. They have been up a long time though.

### **Pavel**

It's a long time since I have been to see you. It's very nice now.



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**Fenitchka**

Thanks to Nicolai Petrovitch's kindness.

**Pavel**

You are more comfortable now, than in the little lodge you used to have?

**Fenitchka**

Certainly

**Pavel**

Who has the lodge now?

**Fenitchka**

The laundry maids.

**Pavel**

Ah!

(Pause)

May I see the little one? I love children.

**Fenitchka**

Dunyasha, please bring Mitya. Ah, he doesn't have a frock on.

**Pavel**

It doesn't matter. What a chubby fellow.

**Fenitchka** (to the baby)

That's Uncle.

**Pavel**

How many months old is he?

**Fenitchka**

Six months; he will be seven months next week.

**Pavel**

He's like my brother.

**Fenitchka**

Who else should he be like?

**Pavel**

Yes, there's an unmistakable resemblance.

**Fenitchka**

That's Uncle

(Nicolai enters from the garden)

## FATHERS AND SONS

**Nicolai**

Ah, Pavel, so you're here!

**Pavel**

You've got a splendid little cherub. I came to speak about some tea.  
(He bows and returns to the house)

**Nicolai**

Did he come of himself?

**Fenitchka**

Yes.

**Nicolai**

Has Arkady been to see you again?

**Fenitchka**

No . Hadn't I better move back to the lodge, Nicolai Petrovitch?

**Nicolai**

Why so?

**Fenitchka**

I wonder whether it wouldn't be best just for the first?

**Nicolai**

N—no we ought to have done it before.  
(Turning the baby)  
How are you chubby?  
(Kisses the baby and then Fenitchka)

**Fenitchka**

Nicolai  
Petrovitch, what are you doing?

**Nicolai**

You're so bashful

**Fenitchka**

I can't help it!

**Nicolai**

It's charming.  
(Pause)  
So, my brother came to see you?

**Fenitchka**

Yes.

**Nicolai**

Well, that's a good thing. I've got to get back to the house. You stay here.

Scene ii

## FATHERS AND SONS

(He exits to the house)

(Bazarov and Arkady enter from the garden)

**Bazarov**

You ought to have planted silver poplars. Ah, there's someone here.

(Arkady nods to Fenitchka)

**Bazarov**

Who's that? What a pretty girl!

**Arkady**

Which one?

**Bazarov**

Only one of them is pretty.

**Arkady**

That's Fenitchka, my father's ah, close friend.

**Bazarov**

Ah, your father's got good taste, one can see. I like him, your father. We must make friends, though.

**Arkady**

Bazarov

, mind what you are about.

**Bazarov**

Don't worry yourself, I know how to behave I'm not a booby.

(He goes up to Fenitchka, who exhibits great embarrassment, and takes off his cap)

Allow me to introduce myself. I'm a harmless person, and a friend of Arkady

Kirsanov.

(Fenitchka rises, too embarrassed to speak)

**Bazarov**

What a splendid baby! Don't be uneasy Why is he so red? Is he cutting his teeth?

**Fenitchka** (strangled)

Yes, four already.

**Bazarov**

Show me. Don't be afraid, I'm a doctor.

(He examines the baby)

H'mm, h'mm. Everything's fine. He'll have a good set of choppers. And you are quite well yourself?

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**Fenitchka**

Yes, thank God.

**Bazarov**

Thank God, indeed

(To Dunyasha)

And you?

(Dunyasha giggles)

Well, that's all right. Here's your gallant fellow.

(Returning the baby to Fenitchka)

**Fenitchka**

How good he was with you!

**Bazarov**

Children are always good with me.

(He executes quite a gallant bow. Pavel would be surprised if he saw this.)

Well, if anything goes wrong tell me.

(He returns to Arkady, who has been fidgeting)

**Bazarov**

What's her name?

**Arkady**

Fenitchka

Fedosya.

**Bazarov**

And her father's name?

**Arkady**

Nikolaevna.

**Bazarov**

She's all right.

**Arkady**

She's all right? But my father?

**Bazarov**

He's all right, too.

**Arkady**

Well, I don't think so.

**Bazarov**

You object to the baby?

**Arkady**

Heaven's no. I think he ought to marry her, that's all.

## FATHERS AND SONS

**Bazarov**

Well, well, well. You still attach significance to marriage; I didn't expect that of you.

(They walk off)

CURTAIN

### Scene iii

Nicolai

Kirsanov's garden. The same scene, next day, early morning. A hedge divides the garden so that it is not possible to see over it.

(Bazarov is talking to a little boy. He has frogs in a bag.)

Boy What do you want frogs for, Sir?

**Bazarov**

I'll tell you what for. I shall cut the frog open and see what's going on inside there, and then I shall have a better idea of what's going on inside us.

Boy Why do you want to know that?

**Bazarov**

Because I'm a doctor.

Boy You think I'm the same as a frog? The priest doesn't say that.

**Bazarov**

Never mind the priest.

Boy I always mind the priests.

(Arkady comes out of the house)

**Arkady**

There you are. Up so early.

**Bazarov**

Frog hunting with my friend here. Run along now.

(The boy leaves)

**Arkady**

Well, how do you like it?

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**Bazarov**

Well, it's not much to boast of, but quite nice. Quite nice.

**Arkady**

I hope you like my relations.

**Bazarov**

Your Uncle is a queer fish. Only fancy, such style in the country. His nails, his nails, you ought to send them to an exhibition.

**Arkady**

He was a great swell in his day. He used to turn all the women's heads.

**Bazarov**

Oh, that's it, is it? Keeping up the memory of his conquests. I kept staring at his exquisite collars. They're like marble, and his chin's shaved simply to perfection.

**Arkady**

But he's a splendid man, really

**Bazarov**

An antique survival. But, your father's a capital fellow.

**Arkady** (warmly)

My father's a man in a thousand.

**Bazarov**

Did you notice how shy and nervous he is?

**Arkady**

No.

(Nicolai Petrovitch and Pavel walk by on the other side of the hedge, they stop, overhearing the conversation)

**Bazarov**

Pity your father spends all his time reading poetry. Forty-four years old and he still reads Pushkin. You ought to tell him.

**Arkady**

I already have.

**Bazarov**

Good. Come over this way. I've found a most interesting species of chipmunk.

(Nicolai and Pavel now walk by, talking)

**Nicolai**

So, it seems you are I are passe fossils. Well, well, perhaps it's true. I had hoped to get on close terms with Arkady. But he's become a progressive and we can't understand one another.

## FATHERS AND SONS

**Pavel**

How has he progressed? And in what way is he superior to us? It's that high and mighty gentleman, Sir Nihilist, who's put that into his head. I hate that doctor, I'm convinced he's nothing but an opinionated quack for all his tadpoles!

**Nicolai**

No, brother, you mustn't say that. He knows his profession.

**Pavel**

His conceit is revolting.

**Nicolai**

He is conceited. But, conceit is necessary these days! That's what I didn't take into account. I've tried to keep up. I read all the journals. My neighbours think I'm a Red, and because I lack conceit, my day is over. And I begin to think, maybe it is.

**Pavel**

Why so?

**Nicolai**

I'll tell you why. This morning I was sitting, reading Pushkin, when Arkady came up and, without a word, gently took the book from me just as if I were a baby. In its place he left me this

**Pavel**

What is it?

(He examines the book)

H'mm, Arkady is taking your education in hand. Did you try reading it?

**Nicolai**

Yes, I tried.

**Pavel**

Well, what did you make of it?

**Nicolai**

Either I'm stupid, or it's all nonsense!

**Pavel**

You haven't forgotten your German?

**Nicolai**

Oh, no the German is simple enough. I must be stupid, I suppose!

**Pavel**

Let me have a crack at it.

(He puts it in his pocket)

**Nicolai**

I just received a letter from Kolyazin.

## FATHERS AND SONS

**Pavel**

That old windbag?

**Nicolai**

Himself. He's a bigwig now. He's come to inspect the province and he invites us all to town.

**Pavel**

Are you going?

**Nicolai**

I wouldn't dream of it. And you?

**Pavel**

No. Kolyazin wants to display himself in all his glory. A privy councillor! If I had stayed in the service, I should have done much better than that. Well, he can start without me. Perhaps we could get Bazarov to go. Now, that would be interesting. Besides, I'm behind the times.

**Nicolai**

Yes, brother, it's time to order a coffin it seems, and make a will.

**Pavel**

Well, I'm not giving in quite so soon. I've got a tussle with that doctor fellow before me. I'm sure of that.

(Arkady and Bazarov return from viewing the chipmunk)

**Pavel**

Well, there's Sir Nihilist.

**Nicolai**

Will you join us for breakfast?

**Bazarov** (brandishing his bag)

Directly, I have to put these captives away.

**Pavel**

What have you there, leeches?

**Bazarov**

No, frogs.

**Pavel**

Do you eat them, or keep them?

**Bazarov**

For experiment

(He walks into the house)

**Pavel**

So, he's going to cut them up. He has no faith in principles, but he has faith in frogs.



## FATHERS AND SONS

**Arkady**

I do hope you get on better with Bazarov, Uncle. The great thing is, we mustn't pay any attention to him. He doesn't like ceremony.

**Pavel**

Yes, that's obvious. Is he going to stay with us long?

**Arkady**

Perhaps. His heart is very good, Uncle.

**Pavel**

Of course. I wasn't suggesting he was subject to heart attacks.  
(he laughs)

CURTAIN

## ACT II

### Scene i

Madame Odinstov's drawing room. A servant shows in Bazarov and Arkady.

**Servant**

Madame Odinstov will be with you presently.  
(He leaves)

**Bazarov**

Let's see what species of mammalia this specimen belongs to.  
(Looks around)  
There's something amiss here.

**Arkady**

What? You, you Bazarov clinging to narrow morality . . . ?

**Bazarov**

What a funny fellow you are! Don't you know that something amiss translates to something right in my books? I don't believe the gossip but I like to think it's grounded.

**Arkady**

You're an awful wag at times.

**Bazarov**

At least I hope she's not too well educated.

**Arkady**

Why not?

**Bazarov**

Because in my experience, educated women are the most perfect frights.

## FATHERS AND SONS

**Arkady**

One would think that you of all people would demand an intellectual woman.

**Bazarov**

Frankly, I'm interested in their physical attributes.

**Arkady**

Is it because of her reputation that you wangled this invitation?

**Bazarov**

Precisely. We need something to divert us if we are to suffer with Uncle Pavel. She has a perfectly scandalous reputation although others say it's undeserved. And she's got the best pair of shoulders I've seen in a long time. (Looking around)

At any rate she likes to be comfortable, doesn't she? Perhaps we ought to put on evening clothes.

(Enter Anna Sergeyevna Odinstov, widow. She is breathtakingly beautiful in a calm, cool, placid way. She wears an off the shoulder gown. She has, as Bazarov remarked, lovely shoulders. She is perhaps thirty, a couple of years older than Bazarov. Without a doubt she has never truly loved any man. She is followed by her sister who is about seventeen, pretty, but demurely dressed.)

**Anna**

Thank you for coming. I will not let you go for at least a month. This is Katya, my sister. She plays the piano well don't you love?

(Katya curtsies)

And now, let us sit down.

(They all seat themselves. Bazarov is somewhat ill at ease. Anna is having an effect on him that he has never previously experienced. Arkady is dazzled too.)

Is Auntie coming to tea?

**Katya**

Yes. A little later.

**Anna**

I should offer you pictures to look at but I can tell you will not like them. Better sit closer and have a conversation.

**Bazarov** (drawing up his chair)

What subject have you in mind?

**Anna**

What you like. I warn you, I am dreadfully argumentative.

**Bazarov**

You!

**Anna**

Yes. Does that surprise you?

## FATHERS AND SONS

**Bazarov**

It does.

**Anna**

Why?

**Bazarov**

Because you appear to be very cool headed. One must be impulsive to be argumentative.

(Throughout this conversation Katya shows an album to Arkady who feigns interest, but is constantly stealing looks at Anna Sergeyevna)

**Anna**

Have you figured me out so quickly? But you are quite wrong. I am impatient and obstinate, ask Katya. And I am very easily carried away.

**Bazarov**

You know best, I'm sure. But you are wrong to think pictures hold no interest for me.

**Anna**

Really? I rather suspected you had no artistic feelings.

**Bazarov**

I haven't. But pictures are frequently more instructive than text in a book. Particularly in anatomy or biology.

**Anna**

How do you get on without artistic feeling?

**Bazarov**

What do I need it for?

**Anna**

Why, to understand men?

**Bazarov**

Experience enables one to do that. And as individuals go, they're hardly worth it. All people are alike in every basic particular. A botanist wouldn't think of studying individual trees.

**Anna**

You make it sound so simple. Isn't there a difference between the stupid and the clever, the good and the malevolent?

**Bazarov**

Only to the extent that these differences can be explained as pathology. We are all made on the same plan. If we are not functioning in the same way, it is due to some external condition. In our case, society. Reform society and you will reform man.

**Anna**

So, if we reform society, there will be no criminals? No wicked? No insane?

## FATHERS AND SONS

**Bazarov**

None, except where the defect is organic, as in the case of brain damage.

**Anna**

And, what is your opinion, Arkady Nicolaievitch?

**Arkady**

I agree with Eugeny.

**Anna**

You amaze me, gentlemen. Katya, play something for Arkady Nicolai evitch.

(Katya goes to the piano, followed by Arkady; Katya appears reluctant and Arkady politely indifferent)

**Katya**

What am I to play for you?

**Arkady**

What you like. What sort do you like best? Do you like Mozart? Yes?

(Katya begins to play Mozart's Sonata Fantasia in C minor; she plays well, if stiffly)

**Anna**

We will go for a walk in the garden tomorrow. I want you to teach me the Latin names for the flowers.

**Bazarov**

Good heavens, why?

**Anna**

Order is needed in everything.

**Arkady** (to Katya)

What an exquisite woman your sister is.

**Katya** (still playing)

Do you think so? Most men do, in fact. Is that enough?

**Arkady**

It's very lovely.

(He speaks absently, watching Anna and Bazarov who are in an increasingly close tete a tete)

**Anna** (looking up)

I hear Auntie. I expect tea is ready. Will you go in to tea?

(Katya plays some final bars, and escorted by Arkady, follows Anna and Bazarov who continue the tete a tete as they exit)

## FATHERS AND SONS

CURTAIN

### Scene ii

Anna  
Sergeyevna's Drawing Room.

(Bazarov and Anna Sergeyevna enter, talking)

**Bazarov**

Everything is so ritualistic here. Liveried servants, one might as well go to the English style and dine in white tie and tails.

**Anna**

Perhaps things are a little too formal, but routine is necessary in the country.

**Bazarov**

Perhaps, but I have the feeling that everything moves "on rails."

**Anna**

Is that why you are proposing to leave us? What about your promise?

**Bazarov**

What promise?

**Anna**

Have you forgotten? You said you would give me some lessons in chemistry.

**Bazarov**

It can't be helped. My father expects me. However, you can read a book I'll leave you on the subject; it's a good book and clearly written. You will find everything you need in it.

**Anna**

Why go away?

**Bazarov**

And, why stay?

**Anna**

I thought perhaps you were enjoying your stay. Perhaps you think you will not be missed here?

**Bazarov**

I am sure of it.

**Anna** (quietly)

You are wrong, if you think that. But, I don't believe you mean it. Why don't you be candid?

**Bazarov**

What am I to say? People are not generally worth being missed and I less than most.

Scene ii

## FATHERS AND SONS

**Anna**  
Why?

**Bazarov**  
I'm a practical, boring person. I don't know how to talk.

**Anna**  
Are you fishing for a compliment, my friend?

**Bazarov**  
That's not a habit of mine. You know very well, I've nothing in common with the elegance you cultivate so well.

**Anna**  
It will be very boring, without you.

**Bazarov**  
Arkady  
will remain.

**Anna**  
I will be bored.

**Bazarov**  
Really? In any case, not for long.

**Anna**  
What gives you that idea?

**Bazarov**  
In your well ordered existence, there is no place for boredom or any disturbing emotions.

**Anna**  
Do you think my life so well ordered?

**Bazarov**  
Without a doubt. As soon as the clock strikes the hour you will drive me away as you usually do at this time.

**Anna**  
No. I won't drive you away. You must stay. Sit down! I want to have a talk with you before you go away. Tell me something about yourself; you never talk about yourself.

**Bazarov**  
I try to talk only on improving subjects.

**Anna**  
You are very modest. But I should like to know something about you. About your family, for whom you are forsaking us.

**Bazarov**  
You are very kind, but we are obscure people.

## FATHERS AND SONS

**Anna**

You regard me as an aristocrat, a snob!

**Bazarov** (defiantly)

Yes.

**Anna**

You know me very little.

**Bazarov**

That's true. What makes you, with your intellect, with your beauty, invite two obscure students to stay with you?

**Anna**

What? What was it you said? "With my beauty?"

**Bazarov**

Never mind that. I meant to say that I don't exactly understand why you have settled in the country.

**Anna**

How do you explain it yourself?

**Bazarov**

Why, I assume you do it through a love of comfort, and ease, because you are indifferent to everything else.

**Anna**

You think me incapable of any great emotion?

**Bazarov**

Like a kitten. Only curiosity can move you.

**Anna**

So, you consider me a placid, pampered, spoiled creature?

**Bazarov**

Undoubtedly.

**Anna**

Not very chivalrous of you.

**Bazarov**

I make no pretenses along that line.

**Anna**

That's why we are such great friends, you are just like me.

**Bazarov**

Great friends?

(He rises and paces in agitation)

**Anna**

Where are you going?

Scene ii

## FATHERS AND SONS

(Bazarov by way of reply sinks into a chair)

**Anna**

You have not discussed how unhappy I am.

**Bazarov**

You unhappy? What for? Surely you can't attach importance to idle gossip?

**Anna**

Gossip! Heavens, no. I'm unhappy miserable is the word, because I am without passion for life. I don't conceal that I like comfort, but I have little desire to live. All romantic nonsense to you!

**Bazarov**

You are in good health, beautiful, independent, rich. What more do you want?

**Anna**

What do I want?

**Bazarov**

Yes?

**Anna**

Courage.

**Bazarov**

Are you disillusioned?

**Anna**

No. Just dissatisfied.

**Bazarov**

You want to fall in love and you can't love; that's where your unhappiness lies.

**Anna**

You think I can't fall in love?

**Bazarov**

You're immune. But I should not call it unhappiness.

**Anna**

What would you call it?

**Bazarov**

A misfortune.

**Anna**

A misfortune? How did you know that?

**Bazarov** (angrily)

By hearsay.

Scene ii



## FATHERS AND SONS

**Anna**

My idea is everything or nothing. If you can't have a total commitment, better have nothing.

**Bazarov**

Those are honorable terms. I'm surprised you haven't found what you wanted.

**Anna**

It's not easy to find another person like that. Like me.

**Bazarov**

The chief thing is to be willing to take the leap oneself. Not to worry if someone else will leap with you.

**Anna**

Isn't that a little reckless?

(Pause)

You speak as though you've experienced all that.

**Bazarov**

It happened to come up. All that, as you know, is not in my line.

**Anna**

But, could you take the leap?

**Bazarov**

I don't know. I don't like to boast.

(He rises)

I'd best be going, it's past your bedtime.

**Anna**

Wait a little. I want to ask you.

(Pause)

You mentioned a text book?

**Bazarov**

Yes. It's very good. Fully illustrated and quite up to date. No metaphysical nonsense.

**Anna**

Eugeny,

(She pauses)

I don't want to talk about that silly book.

**Bazarov**

In that case . . .

**Anna**

I want to speak openly to you.

**Bazarov** (a little uncomfortable)

As you wish.

## FATHERS AND SONS

**Anna**

There's no need to tell you, you're well aware yourself, that you are not an ordinary man. What do you want from life? Who are you? What are you?

**Bazarov**

You surprise me. You know I am studying natural science and

**Anna** (earnestly)

Who are you?

**Bazarov**

I am going to be a district doctor.

**Anna**

What do you say that for? You don't believe it yourself. Arkady might answer me that way, but not you.

**Bazarov**

In what way is Arkady

**Anna**

Stop. Is it possible that you could content yourself with such a humble career? You with your ambition? A district doctor? Don't put me off like you would a child or a stranger.

**Bazarov**

I am not in the habit of talking about my ambitions freely, and between us there is such a gulf.

**Anna**

What sort of gulf? Are you telling me I'm an aristocratic snob again?

**Bazarov**

The future does not depend on us. If a chance turns up to do something, so much the better. If not, better not have gossiped about it.

**Anna**

Is this kind of explanation idle gossip? Or do you consider me, as a woman, unworthy of your confidence? I know you have a low opinion of women.

**Bazarov**

I don't despise you, Anna Sergeyevna! And you know that!

**Anna**

I don't know anything! I can understand your unwillingness to talk about your dreams of the future, but I don't see why you can't speak freely of what is in your heart.

**Bazarov**

Can you?

**Anna** (firmly)

Yes.

## FATHERS AND SONS

**Bazarov** (bowing)

You are more fortunate than I am.

**Anna**

As you please. But, I am sure this constraint, this reticence will vanish at last.

**Bazarov**

So you have noticed reticence, constraint, as you put it?

**Anna**

Yes.

**Bazarov**

And would you like to know the reason for this reticence? Would you like to know what is passing within me?

**Anna** (a bit frightened)

Yes.

**Bazarov**

And you will not be angry?

**Anna**

No.

**Bazarov**

No? Then, let me tell you that I love you like a fool, like a madman! There you have forced it out of me!

**Anna** (tenderly)

Eugeny

(Bazarov embraces her ferociously, not like a timid child but like a passionate man)

**Bazarov**

Well, are you insulted?

**Anna**

No.

**Bazarov**

Well?

**Anna** (whispering)

You have misunderstood me.

**Bazarov**

Am I to go today?

**Anna** (arranging herself)

Why should you go? I did not understand you did not understand me.

(Slightly awkward)

## FATHERS AND SONS

I did not understand myself, either. I am to blame

**Bazarov**

I have to apologize to you, Anna Sergeyevna. You must be in a fury with me.

**Anna**

No. I'm not angry with you, but I am sorry.

**Bazarov**

So much the worse, Anyway, I am sufficiently punished. My position, you will certainly agree, is most foolish. Tomorrow I shall be gone.

**Anna**

I am to blame. I did not foresee this. Eugeny, I would rather you stayed.

**Bazarov**

There's no recalling the past, Anna. And this was bound to come about sooner or later.

(Pause)

So, I must go.

(Pause)

Excuse my impertinence, but you don't love me and you never will love me, I suppose?

(Anna does not answer, but although Bazarov takes it her answer is "no", there is evidence that the reason for her silence is that the answer is "yes")

**Anna**

I am to blame.

**Bazarov**

Goodbye then.

**Anna**

We shall meet again shan't we? Before you go?

**Bazarov**

As you command.

**Anna**

In that case, we shall.

(Bazarov leaves, a short pause, Katya enters)

**Katya**

Is it all right?

**Anna**

No. It's not all right. I wanted him to declare himself and he has.

## FATHERS AND SONS

**Katya**

Well, then?

**Anna**

I'm afraid of him.

**Katya**

You, afraid of a man?

(Anna laughs throatily)

**Anna**

Yes, me! At last. God knows what it will lead to. He can't be played with.

(Pause)

Anyway, peace is the best thing.

**Katya**

I think you love him.

CURTAIN

## ACT III

### Scene i

Bazarov's family home. The Bazarov home is cramped and confined. We are in the living room. It is hung with pictures, icons, knick-knacks. Old Bazarov is a benign, bearded old man of about sixty. He is pacing up and down, dressed in a military coat which he wears unbuttoned. The room, like its master, is shabby genteel, but there is no constraint about it. Such as it is, it is a happy home. A door at the left leads to the porch; another on the right leads to the living quarters.

(Suddenly, Old Bazarov rushes out and we hear his voice)

**Old Bazarov**

Arrived, at last! Come, get out; get out; let me hug you.

(Bazarov, Old Bazarov and Arkady enter from the door at the audience's left)

**Old Bazarov**

Finally, you see everything is just the same.

(Bazarov is bearing this effusion of emotion with as much grace as he can, which isn't much, because he knows he is in for more)

(Madame Bazarov watched from the door at the right, crying "Enyusha, my baby, my baby." She is a plump,

## FATHERS AND SONS

little, old woman in a white cap and a striped jacket. She is almost fainting with emotion. She embraces Bazarov who winks at Arkady with a long suffering expression.)

**Old Bazarov**

That's enough, that's enough, old woman give over.

(Madame Bazarov continues to hang on her son's neck, making the following fulsome excuse)

**Madame Bazarov**

For what ages! Now, I have my dear one, my darling, again.

**Old Bazarov**

Well, to be sure, it's in the nature of things. Women are weak. A mother's heart.

**Bazarov**

Let us come in, Mother. We'd really like to sit.

(Bazarov is, on the whole, surprisingly gentle with his parents)

This is Arkady Nicolaievitch.

**Old Bazarov**

Heartily glad to make your acquaintance. But you mustn't expect great things.

(To his wife)

Mother, calm yourself, please. This gentleman, our guest, will think ill of you.

**Madame Bazarov**

My dear sir, I am so pleased.

**Arkady**

And, I, too.

**Madame Bazarov**

You must excuse a silly old woman like me. You see, I thought I wouldn't live to see my dar-ling

(She cries again)

**Old Bazarov**

Well, you see, we have lived to see him, as I promised you, many times.

(He calls a servant, a small ragged girl)

Bring your mistress a glass of water and these gentlemen vodka.

(Pause)

On a tray, mind you.

**Madame Bazarov** (as the servant exits)

Let me embrace you just once more. Why, how handsome you have grown!

**Old Bazarov**

Well, I don't know about being handsome, but he is a real man. Now, I hope, old woman, that having satisfied your mother's heart, you will turn your thoughts to satisfying the appetites of our guests.

**Madame Bazarov** (rising from her chair)

This minute! I will run myself to the kitchen. Everything shall be ready, everything.

## FATHERS AND SONS

(She hurries out)

**Old Bazarov**

Don't put us to shame, good woman.

(To Arkady)

I warn you, my dear, Arkady Nicolaievitch, we live rather rough here.

**Bazarov** (interrupting, irritated, but not unkind)

Stop that, what are you apologizing for? My friend knows we are not rich. The question is, where are we to put him?

**Old Bazarov**

In the little lodge, perhaps?

**Bazarov**

That sounds good.

**Old Bazarov**

I will run over there at once.

(He runs out, left)

**Bazarov**

There you have him! Comical old fellow, but very good natured. He chatters too much.

**Arkady**

Your mother seems awfully nice.

**Bazarov**

Wait till you see the dinner she'll give us.

**Arkady**

How many serfs has your father?

**Bazarov**

Fifteen, in all. Of course, they're free now.

(Pause)

Well, brother, we are here. So, in spite of all the discomforts of life, man must go and invent others for himself.

**Arkady**

What are you alluding to?

**Bazarov**

Alluding? I'm saying it straight out. We've both behaved like fools. What's the use of talking about it! Still, a man who's furious to be ill, invariably gets well.

**Arkady**

I should have thought you have nothing to complain of.

**Bazarov**

Don't you? I'll say this, it's better to be a slave than to let a woman have power over the tip of your little finger. It's all rubbish. A man hasn't time to attend to such trifles. As the Spanish say, "a man ought not to be tame!"

## FATHERS AND SONS

**Arkady**

I'm surprised she let you go.

**Bazarov**

I'm not her servant, after all.

**Arkady**

Ah, is that why you're so melancholy?

**Bazarov**

You'll get old if you know too much.

**Arkady**

I'm rather sorry to lose Katya.

**Bazarov**

We have taken a beating, Arkady. That's what comes of being educated people.

(Arkady gives a forced laugh. There is an uncomfortable pause. Old Bazarov returns, jubilant.)

**Old Bazarov** (to Arkady)

In a few minutes your room will be ready to receive you. You smoke, sir?

(Offering a pipe)

**Arkady**

I generally smoke cigars.

**Old Bazarov**

You do very sensibly. I, myself, prefer them, but unfortunately in these wilds, they are rather hard to come by.

**Bazarov**

That's enough humble pie. You'd do much better to sit here on the sofa and let us have a look at you.

(Old Bazarov laughs and sits. He is very like his son in build and feature, but whereas his son's predominating trait is gruffness, his is affability and politeness bordering on unconsciousness. It is quite probable that the younger Bazarov's manners were adopted in rebellion against his father's excessive optimism, cordiality and impracticality.)

(The servant returns and serves tea, then exits)

**Old Bazarov**

Humble pie! You mustn't assume I wish to appeal to our guest's sympathies. Quite the contrary.

**Bazarov**

I see you have here "The Friend of Health for 1855."



## FATHERS AND SONS

**Old Bazarov** (proudly)

It was sent me by an old comrade out of friendship. We are not completely out of date We even have some small idea of phrenology.

**Bazarov**

Do people still believe in phrenology in these parts?

**Old Bazarov** (coughing)

In these parts, of course, you know best. How could we keep pace with you? In my day there was a sort of humorist theory, all very ridiculous to us, although it had once dominated medical thinking. Something new has taken the place of phrenology. You bow down to it. But in twenty years, that, too, will be replaced.

**Bazarov**

If it's any consolation to you we laugh at medicine. We don't bow down to anything.

**Old Bazarov**

But you're going to be a doctor? Aren't you?

**Bazarov**

All the more reason.

**Old Bazarov**

Well, perhaps. What do I know? I was merely an army surgeon.

**Arkady**

You were in my grandfather's brigade.

**Old Bazarov**

Yes, yes. Your grandfather was a very honorable man. A real soldier.

**Bazarov**

Confess, he was rather a blockhead.

**Old Bazarov**

How can you say such a thing? General Kirsanov?

**Bazarov**

Come, drop him. Let's change the subject.

(Changing the subject)

Driving in, I was pleased to see that birch copse has shot up.

**Old Bazarov**

You must see what a little garden I've got now! All kinds of fruit and medicinal herbs. I've retired from active practice, you know. But two or three times a week, a peasant will come for help. I can't very well drive them away. And there are no doctors here at all.

**Arkady**

No doctors at all? How uncivilized.

**Old Bazarov**

Yes, yes, of course. We do what we can.

## FATHERS AND SONS

(Old Bazarov notices his wife advancing from the kitchen)

You must be magnanimous and pardon me if I've bored you. I dare say my good wife will give more satisfaction.

**Madame Bazarov**

Dinner is ready!

(Madame Bazarov is in a state of elation. She has put on a cap with ribbons and a pale blue flowered shawl.

Directly she looks at Bazarov, however, her composure breaks. She quickly wipes away a tear.)

**Bazarov**

Come, Arkady. I will show you the way. One thing's a bother. My mother's so tender hearted, if you don't grow round as a tub and eat ten times a day she gets all fussed.

(Bazarov leads Arkady off at the door to the right)

**Madame Bazarov** (to her husband)

My ba-by!

(She bawls)

**Old Bazarov**

There, there now, old woman. How long does he intend to stay? I don't dare ask him myself.

(Bawling)

What if he only stays for two days?

SHORT CURTAIN

### Scene ii

Bazarov's garden. Several garden chairs.

(Old Bazarov is seated, reading, when Arkady enters)

**Old Bazarov**

The best of health to you. How have you slept?

**Arkady**

Capitally.

**Old Bazarov**

Here I am, you see, reading. Half an hour ago, you should have seen me in a totally different position laying out a bed for turnips. You, I know, are accustomed to luxury, but even the great ones of this world do not disdain to spend a brief time under a cottage roof.

**Arkady**

As if I were a great one or accustomed to luxury!

**Old Bazarov**

## FATHERS AND SONS

Pardon me, pardon me. I can tell a bird by its flight. I tell you, without flattery, I am sincerely delighted at the friendship I observe between you and my son. Permit me to inquire! Have you known him long?

**Arkady**

Since last winter.

**Old Bazarov**

Indeed. Permit me to ask you, as a father, without reserve, please. What do you think of my son?

**Arkady** (sincerely)

Your son is the most remarkable man I have ever met.

**Old Bazarov** (agitated)

You really mean that?

**Arkady**

I'm convinced that your son has a great future ahead of him and that he will do great honor to your name.

**Old Bazarov** (beaming)

You have made me perfectly happy. I should tell you that I idolize my son; I won't speak of my wife, everyone knows how mothers are! But, I don't dare show my feelings before him; he doesn't like it. He hates any show of feeling, many people find fault with him for that. But, it's not for want of feeling, just firmness of character. Would you believe it, from the day he was born, he would never accept a penny more than he could help from me? That's God's truth!

**Arkady**

He is a disinterested, honest man.

**Old Bazarov**

Exactly so. And one day I hope in his biography . . . I am sure he will have a biography, it will say "The son of a simple army doctor who spared nothing for his education."

**Arkady** (presses his hand)

You are very good. I know he loves you.

**Old Bazarov**

Do you think it will be in medicine that he will attain distinction?

**Arkady**

No. Although he will be one of its leading lights.

**Old Bazarov**

In what then?

**Arkady**

Who knows? But, rest assured, he will be famous.

**Old Bazarov**

He will be famous!

## FATHERS AND SONS

(A servant enters from the house)

**Servant**

Your wife sent me to call you in to tea.

**Old Bazarov**

Serve it here.

**Servant**

Yes, Sir.

(Returns to the house)

**Old Bazarov**

Why is it my son hasn't come?

**Bazarov** (entering from the garden)

I'm here.

**Old Bazarov**

Aha. You are too late, my friend. I have already had a long conversation with your colleague. By the way, I want to consult with you.

**Bazarov**

About what?

**Old Bazarov**

There's a peasant here suffering from icterus.

**Bazarov**

You mean jaundice?

**Old Bazarov**

Yes, I've prescribed for him, but it isn't helping much. Though you laugh at medicine, I'm certain you can give me practical advice. Ah, here's tea.

(The servant enters with a samovar and serves tea to all. As tea is being served, another servant enters.)

Second servant Major Bazarov, you are needed. There is a peasant to see you about a sick horse.

**Old Bazarov**

Such are the duties of country life. Please excuse me, gentlemen.

(He goes off into the house humming a lovely tune)

**Bazarov**

Singular vitality.

(He laughs)

**Arkady**

Has this house been standing long?

Scene ii

## FATHERS AND SONS

**Bazarov**

Yes, my grandfather built it.

**Arkady**

Who was he? Your grandfather?

**Bazarov**

Devil knows. He served with Suvarov.

**Arkady**

Yes, I've seen the portrait of Suvarov in the drawing room. I like these dear little old houses like yours. They're so cozy.

**Bazarov** (unsentimentally)

Unfortunately, they're full of flies. Faugh!

(Pause)

**Arkady**

Tell me, were they strict with you when you were a child?

**Bazarov**

Those two cream puffs? You can imagine what they were like. I've run them since I was five or so.

**Arkady**

Are you fond of them?

**Bazarov**

I am, Arkady.

**Arkady**

They are fond of you, too.

(Pause)

**Bazarov**

Do you know what I am thinking?

**Arkady**

No?

**Bazarov**

I'm thinking my parents are very happy. My father is still fussing around doctoring people, playing bountiful master with the peasants, and mother is bustling about the house; while I . . .

**Arkady**

While you?

**Bazarov**

While I think and brood. Isn't it loathsome?

**Arkady**

Isn't everybody that way?

Scene ii

## FATHERS AND SONS

**Bazarov**

Yes, when we're young. I feel nothing but weariness and anger.

**Arkady**

Anger? Why anger?

**Bazarov**

Have you forgotten?

**Arkady**

You're unlucky in love, but I don't see any reason for anger.

**Bazarov**

You are one of those men who cluck, cluck, to the hen, but if the hen approaches, you run. I'm not like that.

(Pause)

Enough of this. It can't be helped and it's degrading to talk about it. Look, see that ant dragging away a fly.

(To the ant)

Take her, brother, take her. It's your privilege to be free of pity, make the most of it, not like us conscience-stricken self-destructive animals.

**Arkady**

But you haven't destroyed yourself.

**Bazarov**

Amen. And no woman is going to crush me. You won't hear another word from me about it.

**Arkady**

You're in a melancholy mood today.

**Bazarov**

It's pettiness, pettiness that's insufferable.

**Arkady**

Pettiness doesn't exist if you refuse to recognize.

**Bazarov**

That's an idea! A real man ought not to care. Unfortunately, it's hard to stifle the hate.

(Pause)

**Arkady**

It's funny. I don't hate anybody.

**Bazarov**

That's because you don't have a very high opinion of yourself. I hate so many.

**Arkady**

You have a high opinion of yourself, then?

**Bazarov**

That's obvious, isn't it? And the more I see of people, the more my opinion grows. Most people are scum, Arkady. Particularly our beloved peasantry, for whom I'm supposed to sacrifice myself when the revolution comes. They

## FATHERS AND SONS

won't even thank us for it. And what do we gain by it? Our love of humanity! Pah!

**Arkady**

Isn't it a matter of principle?

**Bazarov** (viciously)

You talk like your Uncle. There are no principles.

**Arkady**

What a depressing thought.

**Bazarov**

Not to your taste, brother? Well, once you've made up your mind to mow down everything, don't spare your own legs. I like to deny, to negate, my brain's made on that plan. That's all there is to it. Deeper than that, man will never penetrate and frankly he's a fool to try.

**Arkady**

But, surely man is better than that. For example

**Bazarov** (savagely)

No fine talk, Arkady. No fine talk.

**Arkady**

I talk the best I can. You're being despotic. I have an idea, why shouldn't I express it?

**Bazarov**

Just so. And why shouldn't I express my ideas? Fine talk is positively indecent.

**Arkady**

And is rudeness decent?

**Bazarov**

You really do intend to walk in your Uncle's footsteps. How pleased that worthy imbecile would have been if he could hear you.

**Arkady** (hotly)

What did you call my Uncle?

**Bazarov** (coolly)

I called him an imbecile. Aha! Family feeling spoke there. How obstinately it speaks in people!

**Arkady** (indignant)

It was a simple sense of justice and not the least family feeling. But since you don't have such ideas, you can't appreciate them in others.

**Bazarov** (mockingly)

In other words, Arkady Kirsanov is too exalted for my comprehension.

(Bowing)

I must acknowledge your superiority and say no more.

## FATHERS AND SONS

**Arkady**

Eugeny, stop. We shall end by quarreling?

**Bazarov**

Ah, Arkady, do me a favor, let's quarrel for once in earnest.

**Arkady**

But, we shall end by

**Bazarov**

Fighting? What does it matter? But you're no match for me. I'd have you by the throat, like that!

(He gestures)

In a minute!

**Old Bazarov** (returning)

Ah, you're still here?

**Bazarov** (in an undertone)

Pity he interrupted us.

**Old Bazarov**

When I look at you, my youthful friends, I cannot refrain from admiration. You are like the Dioscuri, a veritable Castor and Pollux.

**Bazarov**

Come, shut up, father. Don't show off your Latin.

**Old Bazarov**

Once in a while it's surely permissible. However, I am not here to pay you compliments, but with the object, first, of announcing that the village priest will be dining with us.

**Bazarov**

Father Alexey?

**Old Bazarov**

Well, yes, he is to dine with us. I did not anticipate this, and do not even approve it, but somehow it came about.

**Bazarov**

He won't eat my dinner, will he?

**Old Bazarov**

How you talk!

**Bazarov** (his good humor returning)

Well, that's all I ask. I'm ready to sit down to table with any man.

**Old Bazarov**

I was certain before I spoke that you were above any kind of prejudice. You will like him. You see, your mother wished to have a Te Deum sung on the occasion of your arrival.



## FATHERS AND SONS

**Bazarov**

What?

**Old Bazarov** (placatingly)

Oh, it's all over now. And Father Alexey wished to make your acquaintance. You will see. He even plays whist.

**Bazarov**

Good, I'll clean him out.

**Old Bazarov**

That remains to be seen. You play too rashly.

**Bazarov**

Napoleon's rule, father. Napoleon's rule.

**Old Bazarov**

You see where it got him.

(He goes back into the house)

I must tell your mother.

**Bazarov**

I'll bet he did it himself.

**Arkady**

What?

**Bazarov**

Ordered that Te Deum.

**Arkady**

You think so?

**Bazarov**

He's just as religious as she is. Well, that's it. I'm off from here tomorrow. I want to work and I can't work here. I'll go back to your father's, if you'll let me.

**Arkady**

Of course.

**Bazarov**

I'm sorry I got that way. I don't usually apologize for anything, but I want to apologize for that.

**Arkady**

It's all right, brother.

**Bazarov**

Good.

(Pause)

In your house I can shut myself up. Here, my father says "My study is at your disposal" and he hovers around like a mother hen. And I can hear mother sighing on the other side of the wall. And if you try talking, there's nothing to say.

## FATHERS AND SONS

**Arkady**

She will be very much grieved.

**Bazarov**

I'll come again. Life is not over.

**Arkady**

I feel sorry for your mother.

**Bazarov**

Has she won your heart with strawberries?

**Arkady**

She's very clever really. We talked for half an hour yesterday.

**Bazarov**

About me, I suppose?

**Arkady**

Not at all.

**Bazarov**

Well, if a woman can talk sensibly for a half hour, it's a hopeful sign. But, I'm going all the same.

**Arkady**

It won't be easy to break it to them.

**Bazarov**

No, it won't be easy. I shall have to upset them more than ever. Never mind. Never say die! He'll get over it.

(Old Bazarov returns)

**Old Bazarov**

Well, well, everything's all arranged.

**Bazarov** (to Arkady)

Well, it's now or never.

(To Old Bazarov)

An, I almost forgot to tell you. We'll need the horses tomorrow.

**Old Bazarov**

Is Arkady leaving us then?

**Bazarov**

Yes, and I'm going with him.

**Old Bazarov** (staggered)

You are going?

## FATHERS AND SONS

**Bazarov**

Yes, I must.

**Old Bazarov**

Very good, of course, only How is it?

**Bazarov**

I must stay with him a little time. I will return later.

**Old Bazarov**

Ah, for a little time. Very good. Well, everything will be taken care of. I had hoped you were to be with us a little longer. Three days, after three years, it is rather little. Rather little.

**Bazarov**

But, I'm coming back in a few weeks. It's necessary for me to go.

**Old Bazarov**

Well, duty first, I suppose. Very good. Your mother and I, of course, did not anticipate this. She had just decided to redecorate your room.

**Bazarov**

It will be ready when I return then.

**Old Bazarov**

Freedom is the best thing. I do not wish to hamper you.

**Bazarov**

We shall soon see each other again, father, really.

**Old Bazarov**

Of course. Of course.

**Bazarov**

What do you say to a walk, Arkady?

**Arkady**

Sounds good.

(They go into the garden)

(Madame Bazarov enters)

**Madame Bazarov**

What is the matter, dear?

**Old Bazarov**

Nothing, never mind. Don't worry yourself.

## FATHERS AND SONS

**Madame Bazarov**

Is Enyusha all right?

**Old Bazarov**

He's all right.

**Madame Bazarov**

Do you know I'm afraid he might not be comfortable on that bed? I should have given him our feather bed but he doesn't like too soft a bed.

**Old Bazarov**

He is going, mother.

**Madame Bazarov**

What?

**Old Bazarov**

He has cast us off. He has forsaken us. He is dull with us. Lord, have mercy on me for a poor sinner.

**Madame Bazarov** (proving the stronger of the two)

There's no help for it, my dear. Don't grieve. A son is like a falcon. He must fly off at his pleasure. You and I are like twigs in a nest, and don't move from our place. Only I am left you, as you for me. We must wait. And pray God.

(They embrace)

CURTAIN

## ACT IV

### Scene i

The garden of Nicolai Petrovitch Kirsanov.

(Nicolai Petrovitch, Pavel, Arkady and Bazarov are seated, having tea)

**Nicolai**

Well, did you enjoy your stay with Madame Odinstov?

**Bazarov**

We came to look at the gentry and we had a look at them.

**Pavel**

She is a great aristocrat.

(Without realizing how badly he is treading on Bazarov's toes)

**Bazarov**

She is a rotten, aristocratic snob.

## FATHERS AND SONS

**Pavel**

Allow me to ask you, according to your ideas, have the words "rotten" and "aristocratic" the same meaning?

**Bazarov** (drinking his tea)

I said rotten, aristocratic snob.

**Pavel**

Precisely so. But, I suspect you have the same opinions of aristocrats as of aristocratic snobs.

**Bazarov**

And, if I do?

**Pavel**

I think it my duty to inform you that I do not share your opinion; that's all.

**Bazarov**

Well, that was to be expected before either of us opened his mouth.

**Pavel**

Everyone knows me for a man of liberal views. I am not a reactionary. But, for that very reason, I respect aristocrats, real aristocrats.

**Bazarov**

Very good

**Pavel**

Kindly remember, Sir. Kindly remember, Sir, the English aristocracy. They do not abate one iota of their rights and for that reason they respect the rights of others. The aristocracy has given freedom to England.

**Bazarov**

We have heard that story, many times. What are you trying to prove by it?

**Pavel**

I am trying to prove by that, Sir, that without a sense of personal dignity, without self-respect there is no cure foundation for the social order.

**Bazarov**

Assuming I admit that, what then?

**Pavel**

Personal character is the chief thing. It is the rock society is built on. I am well aware that you are pleased to consider my dress, my habits, my refinements, ridiculous. But, all that proceeds from a sense of self-respect. Indeed, from a sense of duty. I live in the wild, but I will now lower myself.

**Bazarov** (rising and folding his arms)

Let me ask you, Pavel Petrovitch. You respect yourself and sit with your hands folded; what sort of benefit does that confer on society? If you didn't respect yourself, you would still do nothing.

**Pavel** (mortally insulted)

That's a different question. I do not have to explain to you why I sit with my hands folded as you are pleased to express it. I am talking about principles. Only immoral and silly people can live without principles. I said so to

## FATHERS AND SONS

Arkady right after he came home. Didn't I, Nicolai  
?

(Nicolai nods)

**Bazarov**

Aristocracy, liberalism, progress, principles, foreign words, and useless to a Russian.

**Pavel**

What is good for something according to you? If we listen to you, we shall find ourselves outside humanity, outside its laws.

**Bazarov**

We can get on without that, too. You don't need laws to put bread in your mouth when you're hungry. What's the use of these abstractions to us?

**Pavel**

I don't understand you! How is it possible to act if you don't acknowledge principles?

**Arkady**

I've told you already, Uncle, that we don't accept any authorities.

**Bazarov**

We act by virtue of what we recognize as beneficial. At the present time negation is beneficial.

**Pavel**

And, you deny everything?

**Bazarov**

Everything.

**Nicolai**

But, one must construct, too, you know.

**Bazarov**

That's not our business, now. The ground wants clearing first.

**Arkady**

The present condition of the people requires it.

**Pavel** (energetically)

No! No! I'm not willing to believe that you know the Russian people. It is a patriarchal people; it cannot live without faith and tradition.

**Bazarov**

I'm not going to dispute that. I'm even willing to agree you are right.

**Pavel**

But, if I am right, it proves nothing?

## FATHERS AND SONS

**Arkady**

Nothing at all.

**Pavel**

How does it prove nothing? You must be going against the people then?

**Bazarov**

What if we are? The peasants believe the earth rests on three fishes. Are we to agree with them? But am I not a Russian, too?

**Pavel**

No. You are not a Russian.

**Bazarov**

My grandfather ploughed the land. Ask any of your peasants which of us he would acknowledge as a Russian. Besides, you don't even know how to talk to them.

**Pavel**

Perhaps not, but I don't despise them either.

**Bazarov**

Suppose they deserve contempt? My attitude is a produce of the same national spirit you have just been defending.

**Pavel**

So, that's it. Nihilism is to cure all our woes, and you, you are our heroes and saviours.

**Arkady**

Yes, we've had enough of perpetual talk.

**Pavel**

Don't you talk as much as everyone else?

**Bazarov**

Whatever faults we have, we do not err in that way.

**Pavel**

Well, then? Do you act, or what? Are you preparing for action?

**Bazarov**

Why, even you suppose you're not a useless person.

**Nicolai**

Gentlemen, gentlemen, no personalities, please.

**Pavel**

Don't be uneasy. I shall not forget myself. H'mmm, action, destruction, but how destroy without even knowing? Why?

**Bazarov**

We shall destroy because we are a force.

## FATHERS AND SONS

### **Arkady**

A force is not accountable.

### **Pavel**

Unhappy boy! If you could only realize what you are doing to our country. Force. There's force in the Tatars, but what is that to us? What is precious to us is civilization. And, don't tell me civilization is worthless. The humblest shoemaker represents civilization. You fancy yourselves advanced people and yet you worship power like a savage. Recollect the people are millions who will crush you rather than permit you to destroy their sacred traditions.

### **Bazarov**

If we're crushed it serves us right. But only time will tell. And, don't think we're so few as you suppose. All Moscow was burnt down by one man.

### **Pavel**

Yes, yes. First a pride almost Satanic, then ridicule, that's what gains ascendancy over inexperienced youth. There's one of them sitting beside you, ready to worship the ground under your feet. Look at him.

(Arkady turns away)

In the old days men had to study. Now they need only say everything is silly and the trick's done. To be sure, they were simply geese before, and now they have suddenly turned nihilists.

### **Bazarov**

Your praiseworthy sense of personal dignity has given way. Our argument has gone too far. Better to cut it short, I think. I shall be quite ready to agree with you when you bring forward a single institution worthy of preservation.

### **Pavel**

I will bring forward not one, but millions.

### **Bazarov**

Think it over, carefully. Meanwhile Arkady and I

### **Pavel**

Will continue to ridicule everything.

### **Bazarov**

No, we'll go on dissecting frogs. Come, Arkady. Goodbye, for the present, gentlemen.

(They go off into the garden)

### **Pavel**

So that's what they are like our successors.

### **Nicolai**

Our successors! I remember telling mother once that she couldn't understand me because we belonged to two different generations. She was dreadfully offended. You see. Now our turn has come.

### **Pavel**

You are beyond everything in generosity and modesty. I'm convinced that you and I are more nearly right than they, though we are forced to express ourselves in an old fashioned way, and have not the same insolent conceit and swagger of these young people.



## FATHERS AND SONS

**Nicolai**

Do you know? Bazarov it seems to me is more of an aristocrat than any of us.

**Pavel** (stupefied)

Bazarov  
, how?

**Nicolai**

He is proud, he doesn't give a damn for anyone's opinion of him. He is totally uncompromising, courageous

**Pavel**

But refinement, breeding, manners?

**Nicolai**

Those he regards as superfluous.

**Pavel**

But, are they?

**Nicolai**

I hope not. I hope not.

**Fenitchka** (popping in from the house)

Would anyone like more tea?

**Nicolai**

No, tell them to take the samovar. I've had all the tea I can stomach!

(Nicolai, Pavel and Fenitchka retire into the house. After a brief pause, Bazarov and Arkady enter.)

**Arkady**

I think you really hurt Uncle Pavel's feelings.

**Bazarov**

Is he always like that?

**Arkady**

You weren't nice to him.

**Bazarov**

Enough of him. He should have continued his career in Petersburg if that's his bent. I've found a rare species of water beetle. *Dytiscus morginatus*, do you know it?

**Arkady**

I promised to tell you his story.

**Bazarov**

The story of the beetle?

## FATHERS AND SONS

**Arkady**

The story of my Uncle! He deserves pity rather than ridicule.

**Bazarov**

How so?

**Arkady**

You see, he fell in love with a Princess. She was married and had many lovers. First, he succeeded, then she grew cold toward him. Then she died. He suffered greatly. In short, it's a sin to despise him.

**Bazarov**

A man who stakes his whole life on a woman is fit for nothing, he's not a man.

**Arkady**

But remember, his education.

**Bazarov**

Education? Every man must educate himself! It's all nonsense. He had much better dissect this beetle.

(The exit as the CURTAIN FALLS)

### Scene ii

Several weeks later in Nicolai Kirsanov's garden.

(Fenitchka is sitting on a garden seat. In her lap a whole heap of red and white roses)

(Bazarov enters)

**Fenitchka**

Oh, Mr. Bazarov, what are you doing here?

**Bazarov**

Making a nosegay?

**Fenitchka**

Yes, for the table at lunch. Nicolai Petrovitch likes it.

**Bazarov**

It's a long time yet to lunch. What a heap of flowers!

**Fenitchka**

I went out early because it will be too hot later. I feel a little weak even now.

**Bazarov**

Let me feel your pulse.

(He takes it)

## FATHERS AND SONS

You'll live a hundred years.

**Fenitchka**

God forbid.

**Bazarov**

Oh, you want to be young?

**Fenitchka**

Yes, it is better.

**Bazarov**

How so?

**Fenitchka**

Why, because I can do everything.

**Bazarov**

Age makes no difference to me.

**Fenitchka**

I don't believe you.

**Bazarov**

Judge for yourself. I live alone.

**Fenitchka**

But that depends on you.

**Bazarov**

Not at all. Someone must take pity on me to change that.

**Fenitchka**

What's that book you have?

**Bazarov**

That? Oh, Karl Marx.

**Fenitchka**

Are you still studying?

**Bazarov**

Yes. You should try to read a little.

**Fenitchka**

Oh I don't understand anything. What a thick book.  
(She tries to read, it is obvious that she is barely literate)

**Bazarov**

You're pretty when you read. The end of your nose moves so nicely.  
(Fenitchka laughs)

Scene ii

## FATHERS AND SONS

I like it when you laugh.

**Fenitchka**

Nonsense.

**Bazarov**

And when you talk, too.

**Fenitchka**

Psha, you've talked with such clever ladies.

**Bazarov**

Believe me all the clever ladies in the world are not worth your little finger.

**Fenitchka**

What a tease you are. But I want to thank you for that medicine you prescribed for Mitya. He sleeps like a lamb now.

**Bazarov**

But you have to pay doctors. Doctors you know are grasping people.

**Fenitchka**

I'd be delighted. But, I must ask Nicolai Petrovitch.

**Bazarov**

Do you think I want money? No, I don't want money.

**Fenitchka**

What, then?

**Bazarov**

Guess.

**Fenitchka**

How am I to know?

**Bazarov**

Well, I will tell you. One of those roses.

**Fenitchka**

By all means. A red or white?

**Bazarov**

Red, and not too large.

**Fenitchka**

Here, take it.

**Bazarov**

What's wrong?

FATHERS AND SONS

**Fenitchka**

I thought someone was coming.

**Bazarov**

Nicolai  
Petrovitch?

**Fenitchka**

No. Besides, I'm not afraid of him. I thought it was Pavel Petrovitch.

**Bazarov**

Why are you afraid of him?

**Fenitchka**

He always scares me. And I know you don't like each other. You always spin him around.

**Bazarov**

Suppose he drubbed me. Would you stand up for me?

**Fenitchka**

Me? But, no one can get the better of you.

**Bazarov**

It's nice of you to say so. This rose smells delicious. I'd like you to smell it with me.

(She leans over to smell it and Bazarov kisses her. She protests somewhat feebly. There is a cough. Fenitchka jumps up and runs off)

**Fenitchka**

It was wrong of you.

(Pavel enters)

**Pavel** (dryly)

I must apologize for hindering your scientific pursuits, but I must beg you to spare me five minutes of your time.

**Bazarov**

You may have as long as you like.

**Pavel**

Five minutes will be enough for me. I want to put a single question to you.

**Bazarov**

A question? What about?

**Pavel**

At the commencement of your stay, before I renounced the pleasure of conversing with you, I heard your opinion on many subjects, but so far as my memory serves, you never expressed yourself on duelling. Allow me to hear your views on that subject.

## FATHERS AND SONS

**Bazarov** (folding his arms)

Theoretically, it's silly, but from a practical standpoint, quite another matter.

**Pavel**

If I understand you, regardless of your views, you would not allow yourself to be insulted?

**Bazarov**

Exactly.

**Pavel**

You relieve my mind. You see I have made up my mind to fight you.

**Bazarov**

Me?

**Pavel**

Undoubtedly.

**Bazarov**

But, what for?

**Pavel**

I prefer not to explain. To my mind, your presence here is superfluous. I cannot endure you, I despise you. Is that enough?

**Bazarov**

Perfectly. I see no need for further explanations.

**Pavel**

I am sensible of my obligation to you, and may reckon then on your accepting my challenge without compelling me to resort to violent measures?

**Bazarov**

You mean that stick? It is unnecessary and perhaps not a perfectly safe proceeding. I accept your challenge.

**Pavel**

Excellent. I should like to know whether you think it necessary to resort to the pretext of a trifling quarrel.

**Bazarov**

No, there's no need for that.

**Pavel**

For once, we are in agreement. We cannot endure one another.

**Bazarov**

What more is necessary?

**Pavel**

As regards seconds, there will be none, for where could be get them?

## FATHERS AND SONS

**Bazarov**

Agreed.

**Pavel**

Then I have the honor to suggest that the combat take place tomorrow at dawn, over there in the fields, at ten paces.

**Bazarov**

That will do. We hate the sight of each other at that distance.

**Pavel**

We might make it at eight. Let us each put a suicide note in his pocket.

**Bazarov**

Now, that I don't approve of. It has the unsavoury flavor of a French novel.

**Pavel**

Perhaps. But you will agree it would be unpleasant to incur a suspicion of murder?

**Bazarov**

True. But, there's a better way. We can have a witness.

**Pavel**

Allow me to inquire, whom?

**Bazarov**

Why, Piotr.

**Pavel**

I think you are joking, Sir.

**Bazarov**

Not at all. I shall manage it.

**Pavel**

You persist in jesting, still. But after the courteous readiness you have shown me, I cannot complain. And so, everything is arranged. By the way, do you have pistols?

**Bazarov**

How should I, dear Sir? I am a student, not in the army.

**Pavel**

In that case I offer you mine. You may rest assured, I have not fired them in five years.

**Bazarov**

That's very consoling news.

**Pavel**

And now, my dear, Sir, it only remains for me to thank you and to leave you to your studies.

## FATHERS AND SONS

**Bazarov** (bowing)

Till we have the pleasure of meeting, again, my dear, Sir.

(Pavel goes toward the house.)

I'll bet he's after her himself. And just when I had finally assumed the role of Gay Lothario.

(Arkady enters)

**Arkady**

Ah, there you are, Bazarov.

**Bazarov**

I am here.

**Arkady**

I've decided to pay a visit to Anna Sergeyevna. Would you like to come?

**Bazarov**

When are you leaving?

**Arkady**

In the morning.

**Bazarov**

No. I have some unfinished work to attend to. Besides, I'm not welcome there any more.

CURTAIN

### Scene iii

A field, trees in the background.

(Piotr and Bazarov are waiting for Pavel. Piotr is very nervous. Bazarov is calm and seated. Pavel enters, walking rapidly. He has a pistol case under his arm.)

**Pavel**

I beg your pardon for keeping you waiting. I had to avoid waking the servants.

(He bows)

**Bazarov**

It doesn't matter. We only just arrived ourselves.

**Pavel**

So much the better. There's no one about to hinder us.

**Bazarov**

Let us proceed.

**Pavel**



## FATHERS AND SONS

You do not wish any further explanation?

**Bazarov**

No. I don't.

**Pavel** (offers the case)

Would you like to load?

**Bazarov**

You load. I will measure out the paces. One, two, three.

**Piotr**

Say what you like. I am going farther off.

**Bazarov**

Four, five. Go ahead, move off. Get behind a tree if you like. Six, seven, eight. Is that enough, or shall I add two more?

**Pavel** (who has loaded the weapons)

Do as you like.

**Bazarov**

Then we'll add two more. There's the barrier then.

**Pavel**

Will you be so good as to choose?

**Bazarov**

I will be so good.

(He picks one pistol)

**Pavel**

I am fighting in earnest.

**Bazarov**

No doubt.

(They back off about ten paces from the barrier and then approach)

**Pavel**

Are you ready?

**Bazarov**

Perfectly.

**Pavel**

We can approach each other.

(They walk towards the barrier. Pavel fires first and misses. Bazarov then fires, striking Pavel in the leg.)

Scene iii

## FATHERS AND SONS

**Bazarov**

Are you wounded?

**Pavel**

You have the right to a second shot.

**Bazarov**

Some other time.

(Pavel begins to fall and Bazarov catches him)

**Pavel**

No. Thank you. I need no one's help.

**Bazarov**

I am no longer a duelist, but a doctor. I'd better have a look at it. Piotr, come here.

(Piotr has fled and Pavel Petrovitch faints. Bazarov lays him on the grass and begins to treat him.)

**Bazarov**

What delicate skin!

**Piotr** (returning)

Is he dead?

**Bazarov**

The bone's not touched. The ball didn't go deep. Get some water quick, and he'll outlive us yet.

(Piotr stands transfixed, stupefied)

Go for water. Imbecile.

**Pavel**

No need. A momentary vertigo. Help me to sit up. I can walk back home.

(Chuckling)

He does look like an imbecile.

**Bazarov**

Let me bind your leg. But, I must first revivify this corpse.

(He shakes Piotr)

Now, get on home and say nothing.

(Piotr runs off)

**Pavel**

The duel, if you consent, shall not be renewed. You have behaved honorably, today, to-day observe.

**Bazarov**

There's no need to recall the past, and I intend to be off without delay.

(Binding the wound)

I brought some bandages with me. Your wound is not serious, but it's best to stop the bleeding.

Scene iii

## FATHERS AND SONS

**Pavel**

At any rate there will be no scandal and for that I am thankful.

**Bazarov**

Have I bound up your leg too tight?

**Pavel**

No, not at all, it's capital. There's no deceiving my brother, we shall have to tell him we quarrelled over politics.

**Bazarov**

Very good. You can say I insulted all anglophiles.

**Pavel**

That will do perfectly.

(Pause)

Look what that fool, Piotr, has done. Here comes my brother in a sprint.

**Nicolai** (enters, agitated)

What does this mean, Mr. Bazarov? What is this?

**Pavel**

Nothing. They have alarmed you for nothing. I have had a minor disagreement with Mr. Bazarov, and I have had to pay for it a little.

**Nicolai**

But, what in heavens name was it all about?

**Pavel**

Mr. Bazarov alluded disrespectfully to Sir Robert Peel and I called him out.

**Nicolai**

But, you're covered with blood!

**Pavel**

Well, do you suppose that I have ice water in my veins? But, bleeding is beneficial, isn't that so, doctor? Now, help me up and I shall walk home.

(Bazarov and Nicolai help Pavel to rise)

**Nicolai**

I must ask you to look after my brother till we get another doctor from town.

**Bazarov**

Of course. I shall leave whenever a competent surgeon arrives. I shall leave my address in case there's any fuss.

**Pavel**

There will be no fuss.

**Nicolai**

I shall manage that. I am very sorry your stay in my house should have such an end. It is the more distressing to

## FATHERS AND SONS

me because of Arkady.

**Bazarov** (impatiently)

Don't trouble yourself. I shall drop in on Arkady to inform him. It will not destroy our friendship.

**Pavel**

You know, doctor, my opinion of your skill as a physician has changed.

**Bazarov**

Indeed?

**Pavel**

You're not half bad.

(They help him out and there is a SHORT CURTAIN)

### Scene iv

Anna

Sergeyevna's garden.

(Enter Arkady)

**Arkady** (hesitating)

Well, there's no turning back now.

**Katya** (seeing him)

It's you!

(She is genuinely delighted)

Anna

, Anna! Arkady Nicolaievitch is back.

(Anna enters)

**Anna**

Welcome back, runaway! Where did you find him, Katya?

**Arkady**

I have brought you something, Anna Sergeyevna which you certainly didn't expect.

**Anna**

You have brought yourself, that's better than anything. And, where is Mr. Bazarov?

**Arkady**

He's still with my father. He has work to do.

**Anna** (disappointed)

## FATHERS AND SONS

Oh, such devotion to duty is a noble trait, I suppose. Katya, entertain our guest. I will return at lunch.

(Anna exits)

**Katya**

Well, so, you are here.

**Arkady**

I'm here.

**Katya**

And, alone. How courageous. Yes, I thought you went nowhere without Bazarov

.

**Arkady**

You see, however.

**Katya**

Have you shaken yourself free, or are you still under his influence, like my sister?

**Arkady**

I see you don't like him.

**Katya**

I have no opinion about him.

**Arkady**

Katerina Sergeevna, that's impossible. There's no escaping it.

**Katya**

Very well. I don't like him, then. Or rather, I should say he's not my type. And, I think he's not your type, either.

**Arkady**

Really? I'm very fond of him.

**Katya**

But, he's a wild animal and we are tame.

**Arkady**

Am I tame, too?

**Katya**

Uh-huh.

**Arkady**

That's really an insult.

**Katya**

You want to be a beast, then?

## FATHERS AND SONS

**Arkady**

Not a beast, but strong, full of force and power.

**Katya**

It's no use wanting to be that way. You either are or you're not. Bazarov doesn't want to be that way, he simply is.

**Arkady**

You think your sister is still under his influence?

**Katya**

Yes. But, no one can keep the upper hand over her for long.

**Arkady**

Why?

**Katya** (slowly)

She values her independence a great deal.

**Arkady**

Who doesn't?

**Katya**

But, what good is it?

**Arkady**

Confess that you are a little afraid of her.

**Katya**

Of whom?

**Arkady**

Your sister.

**Katya**

And, how about you?

**Arkady**

Without a doubt.

**Katya**

My sister is very well disposed to you right now. Much more so than when you first came. Really. You haven't noticed it?

**Arkady**

But, why?

**Katya**

I have no intention of telling you.

## FATHERS AND SONS

**Arkady**

You are obstinate.

**Katya**

Very observant. Does that irritate you?

**Arkady**

No. I am wondering how you have come to be so observant. You are so shy, so reserved. You keep everyone at a distance.

**Katya**

Do I? But, I do not wish to keep everyone, (she speaks significantly) at a distance. I make exceptions.

**Arkady**

You are very kind.

**Katya**

It's my custom

**Arkady**

You know, you're just as independent as your sister? But, more reserved.

**Katya** (irritated)

Don't compare me with my sister, please. You seem to forget my sister is beautiful, clever

**Arkady**

Katerina, let me tell you. I put you above your sister in every way.

**Katya**

Do you? I shall tell you something now. You can have your way with her.

**Arkady**

Katerina, what are you saying?

**Katya**

Exactly what I mean. You can have her. But you can't have me like that. Now, what do you say?

**Arkady**

As I said before. I place you above her, in all ways.

**Katya**

I rather thought you would change your tune. You could be her lover, you know. Seriously. She's had many. It's no secret. Everyone knows. Only poor Bazarov failed to attain his desire, because he wouldn't submit to her. Now she misses him, and is ready to console herself with you. As a surrogate. It's her way of being close to him.

**Arkady**

What you say is appalling.

**Katya**

Why don't you run to her?

## FATHERS AND SONS

**Arkady**

Because I love you.

(The enormity of his words terrifies him and he runs off)

(Anna returns)

**Anna**

Alone? I thought you were with Arkady?

**Katya**

He went off.

**Anna**

You haven't been quarrelling, I hope?

(She puts her hand on Katya's chin)

**Katya**

No.

(Quietly removing her sister's hand)

**Anna**

How solemn you are. I was going to suggest taking a walk. He's always asking to do that.

**Katya**

Is he?

**Anna**

He's very nice. Don't you think?

**Katya**

Very

**Anna**

Shall we walk?

**Katya**

All right.

(They go off)

(A servant enters with Bazarov)

**Servant**

I thought I should find him here, Sir. Shall I announce you to Anna Sergeyevna?

**Bazarov**

No. Just find him. I'll wait.



## FATHERS AND SONS

(A moment goes by. Bazarov fidgets. The servant returns with Arkady)

**Arkady**

This is unexpected. What good luck brought you? I suppose everything is all right at home? No one sick?

**Bazarov**

Everything's all right, but not everyone's well. Sit down. I'll tell you about it. Your Uncle found it necessary to challenge me yesterday.

**Arkady**

Good heavens! You didn't accept?

**Bazarov**

Unfortunately, I couldn't refuse. You see, my dear fellow, what comes of keeping company with feudal types. You turn into a feudal type yourself.

**Arkady**

But, is he hurt?

**Bazarov**

Yes. But, not badly. A wound in the thigh. He'll be all right.

**Arkady**

But, what was the cause of the quarrel?

**Bazarov**

I'm not sure, exactly. As you know, he's no great admirer of mine. Besides, he's rather peevish. Anyway, he got off lightly.

**Arkady**

I'm sorry it turned out like this.

**Bazarov**

Don't worry. I'm not troubled. It was a useless piece of foolery. I decided, however, to return to my father's, and I turned in here to see what I'm giving up.

**Arkady**

I hope you're not giving me up.

**Bazarov**

Would that trouble you? It strikes me you have given me up already. Your affair with Anna Sergeyevna must be getting on well.

**Arkady**

What affair?

**Bazarov**

Don't pretend you didn't come here on her account, or that you're not in love with her. Or, are you just being discreet?

## FATHERS AND SONS

**Arkady**

You know, I've always been open with you. You're making a mistake.

**Bazarov**

H'mm, but, it's a matter of indifference to me. As for you and me, we're tired of each other.

**Arkady**

Eugeny!

**Bazarov**

Hell, there's no great harm in that. It's life. By the way, I forgot to tell them to hold the horses.

**Arkady**

But, Anna Sergeevna will certainly wish to see you.

**Bazarov**

You're mistaken there.

**Arkady**

On the contrary. Besides, you know very well, you came intending to see her.

**Bazarov**

Perhaps. But, I've lost the nerve. Anyway, she won't care to see me.

(Anna Sergeevna enters)

**Anna**

On the contrary, I most certainly do. Arkady, Katya is waiting for you.

(Arkady rises and leaves)

**Anna**

So, you're back.

**Bazarov**

Before everything, I must set your mind at rest, I came to my senses long ago.

(Anna receives this speech with mixed emotions. On the one hand, she is relieved that there will be no "scene." One with which she secretly acknowledges to herself, she might not be able to cope. On the other hand, she is not too pleased that Bazarov has freed himself of her spell. Eventually, she concludes he had not, and her good humor returns.)

**Anna**

Let bygones be bygones. I was to blame for flirting. Let us be friends as before. That was a dream, wasn't it? And who remembers dreams?

**Bazarov**

Who remembers them? Love is just an imaginary feeling.

Scene iv

## FATHERS AND SONS

**Anna**

How true. I had a fit of depression. I even made plans to go abroad. Then it passed off. Now, I can resume my old part.

**Bazarov**

What part is that?

**Anna**

That of the guardian to Katya.

(Pause)

You know, I have never quite understood your friendship for Arkady. I thought him rather dull. But, I think, now, he is clever. And he's young above all!

**Bazarov**

Is he still shy with you?

**Anna**

Was he shy? Perhaps. I hadn't noticed.

**Bazarov**

It can hardly be any secret to you that he was in love with you.

**Anna**

What? Arkady, too?

**Bazarov**

You're hardly lacking in perception.

**Anna**

You are mistaken.

**Bazarov**

I don't think so. Let's walk.

(Bazarov and Anna go out. Arkady and Katya enter from another direction.)

**Arkady**

Katerina Sergeevna, there is one very important subject we have not talked about.

**Katya**

Really?

**Arkady**

You!

**Katya**

Me?

**Arkady**

I am not the wretched self-conscious boy I was when I first came here. I want to be useful. Up till recently, I did

## FATHERS AND SONS

not understand myself. I hope you understand me.

(Katya does understand him quite well, but, she is much too clever to say so)

**Katya**

I haven't the foggiest.

**Arkady** (agitated)

I think it the duty of everyone to be open with those people who are, who are, so I

(Katya isn't helping a bit, she looks at her shoes)

I foresee, I shall surprise you. I am trying, to say

(Anna and Bazarov have entered the garden without seeing Katya and Arkady

. Arkady falls silent.)

**Anna**

You and I made a mistake, we are both past our first youth. I, especially so, we are both, why affect not to know it, clever, at first we interested each other, and then . . .

**Bazarov**

Them, I grew stale.

**Anna**

You know that was not the cause of our misunderstanding. We are too much alike. Now, Arkady

**Bazarov** (grimly)

Do you want him?

**Anna**

Shh. You say he is not indifferent to me. I know I'm older, but, frankly, he's charming.

**Bazarov** (in a steady, but choking voice)

The word "fascination" is most frequently employed in such cases.

**Anna**

He's just like a brother to Katya. Perhaps, I ought not to have allowed such intimacy between them.

**Bazarov** (archly)

That caution is, no doubt, prompted by your feelings as a sister.

**Anna**

Of course. It's strange how I can confide in you. I'm afraid of you. But, I trust you, because you are so good.

**Bazarov**

I am not in the least good. And your confidences are like laying a wreath of flowers on a corpse.

(Bazarov and Anna disappear)

## FATHERS AND SONS

**Arkady**

Katerina Sergeevna, I love you no one but you. I ask for your hand, Surely, you must have known. Say one word.

**Katya**

Yes.

**Arkady**

You believe me?

**Katya**

Yes.

**Arkady**

Katya, Katya.

(They embrace)

(Bazarov and Anna have returned)

**Bazarov**

So, that's how it is? Well, I'm damned.

**Anna**

The younger generation have grown awfully sly.

**Bazarov**

In any event, it's time for me to go.

**Anna**

Don't go. It's exciting talking to you. Stay.

**Bazarov**

I thank you for the flattering opinion of my conversational talents. I've a poor man, but I don't take charity. Goodbye.

**Anna**

I am certain we will see each other again.

(Bazarov leaves)

(Anna approaches Katya and Arkady, who separate in surprise)

**Anna**

Children, what do you say? Is love simply an imaginary feeling?

## FATHERS AND SONS

(They stare at her flabbergasted)

SHORT CURTAIN

### ACT V

#### Scene i

Bazarov's parents home again.

(Bazarov is reading one of his father's medical books. He seems rather nervous. Old Bazarov tiptoes in and watches him. Bazarov becomes aware of it and slams the book down.)

**Bazarov**

Why do you always seem to be walking round me on tiptoe? That way's worse than the old one!  
(Bazarov gets up and walks out through the door to the porch)

**Old Bazarov**

There, there, I meant nothing. You shall forget me completely.

(But Bazarov has gone. Madame Bazarov enters from the living quarters.)

**Madame Bazarov**

If you could only find out, darling, what Enyusha would like for dinner today.

**Old Bazarov**

But, why don't you ask him yourself?

**Madame Bazarov**

Oh, he will get sick of me.

(Pause)

Enyusha's breaking my heart. He's always so silent and sorrowful. If only he'd let me put an amulet on his neck, that would cure his melancholy. If only he'd abuse us like he used to.

**Old Bazarov**

I think he's getting better. How he gave it to me just now. It was splendid.

**Madame Bazarov**

I know. But, it's so hard.

(She rushes back into the living quarters)

(Old Bazarov sits down and looks at the medical book his son was reading)

**Old Bazarov**

H'mm. I wonder why he was interested in this.

## FATHERS AND SONS

(Bazarov returns)

**Bazarov**

Dad, have you any caustic?

**Old Bazarov**

Yes. What do you want it for?

**Bazarov**

I need it for a cut.

**Old Bazarov**

For whom?

**Bazarov**

For myself.

**Old Bazarov**

What kind of cut is it?

**Bazarov**

I got it dissecting that peasant they brought in with typhus.

**Old Bazarov**

For God's sake, let me do it myself.

(Old Bazarov runs out and returns quickly with a bottle of caustic. He examines his son's hand with great agitation.)

**Bazarov**

What a devoted practitioner.

**Old Bazarov**

Don't joke. Show me your finger. The cut is not a large one. Does it hurt?

**Bazarov**

Press harder.

**Old Bazarov**

Perhaps, we had better burn it with a hot iron.

**Bazarov**

That should have been done sooner. Even now the caustic is useless, really. If I've taken the infection it's really too late.

**Old Bazarov**

How long ago?

## FATHERS AND SONS

**Bazarov**

More than four hours ago.

**Old Bazarov**

Why did you wait so long?

**Bazarov**

The village is quite a ways. And the village doctor had no caustic.

**Old Bazarov**

What?

**Bazarov**

You should have seen his lancets.

**Old Bazarov**

May I feel your pulse?

**Bazarov**

It's unnecessary. I'm feverish.

**Old Bazarov**

Has there been any shivering?

**Bazarov**

Yes, there has been shivering.

**Old Bazarov**

Perhaps, you have caught cold.

**Bazarov** (wryly)

Undoubtedly.

(Pause)

Dad, I'm in a bad way. I've got the infection, and in a few days, you'll have to bury me.

**Old Bazarov**

Nonsense. It's a coincidence. You've got a cold.

**Bazarov**

Hush! A doctor can't be allowed to talk like that. There's every symptom of an infection.

**Old Bazarov**

Even supposing

**Bazarov**

Blood poisoning.

**Old Bazarov**

Very well, as you like, we'll cure you.



## FATHERS AND SONS

**Bazarov**

That's humbug. There's no cure. I didn't expect to die so soon. Most unpleasant. Most unpleasant. You and mother are deeply religious, it will be easier for you. For me, there is no consolation.

**Old Bazarov**

I shall rebel. I shall rebel.

**Bazarov**

Have you ever met people with blood poisoning who have not made off straight to the promised land? Poor mother. What will she do with her beet soup?

**Old Bazarov** (crying)

I shall rebel. I shall rebel. Where is God's justice?

**Bazarov**

Don't whimper, Dad. If Christianity is no help, be a philosopher. Didn't you always boast you were a philosopher?

**Old Bazarov**

What, me a philosopher?

**Bazarov**

What I dread most is losing my wits.

**Old Bazarov**

My son. My dear son.

**Bazarov**

Tomorrow, or the next day, my brain will send in its resignation. I'm not sure even now if I'm completely in command of myself. Am I? Do I sound all right?

**Old Bazarov**

Yes, yes, perfectly.

**Bazarov**

All the better. I want you to send

**Old Bazarov**

For a doctor? At once. At once.

**Bazarov**

No, to

**Old Bazarov**

To Arkady?

**Bazarov**

Let him be. No, to Madame Odinstov. Anna Sergeyevna. Say, send her my greetings. Tell her I am dying. That's all.

**Old Bazarov**

I will do it. I will do it.

## FATHERS AND SONS

**Bazarov**

Good. I should like it to go today. It's the only chance there is of her receiving it before

**Old Bazarov**

At once.

**Bazarov**

I want to lie down, father. I feel dizzy. You break it to mother. I'm not up to that.

(Bazarov goes out)

**Old Bazarov**

If he dies, I shall rebel!

(He waves his fist to heaven)

SHORT CURTAIN

### Scene ii

Same scene, two days later.

(Bazarov is propped up in a chaise lounge covered with blankets. He is dying and feverish, but he refuses to give in. Old Bazarov is watching him.)

**Bazarov**

(a+b) times (a+b) equals  $a^2+2ab+b^2$ . 10 take away 2 plus eight is 16.

**Old Bazarov**

Enyusha!

(He wants to say something, but can't)

**Bazarov**

I can still reason, Dad.

**Old Bazarov**

Eugeny, please God, you will get well, but to comfort your mother, (he hesitates) and me too. Perform the duty of a Christian! You don't know how hard it is for me to say this to you, but, it would be worse if . . . think a little. For your mother.

**Bazarov**

I am not a Christian. However, if Father Alexey will perform the rites with that understanding, I will not refuse.

**Old Bazarov**

I will send, immediately.

**Bazarov**

There's no hurry. I shall last a while yet.

FATHERS AND SONS

**Old Bazarov**

Eugeny, I beg

**Bazarov**

Did you send to Anna Sergeyevna?

**Old Bazarov**

To be sure, I did.

**Bazarov**

If she were coming, she'd have come by now.

(There is a commotion at the door. Old Bazarov goes to the door. Anna's voice: I am Madame Odinstov. I have brought a doctor with me. Are you his father? Anna enters with a German doctor at her side.)

**Old Bazarov**

Benefactress.

**German Doctor**

Wo ist der Kranke?

**Old Bazarov**

Here, here, follow me.

(Bazarov sits straight up)

**Bazarov**

I want to see her.

**Old Bazarov**

But, first the consultation.

**Bazarov**

No. The consultation afterwards.

**Old Bazarov**

But

**Bazarov**

I insist. Leave us alone.

**German Doctor** (whispering)

I can tell from this distance, it is hopeless. Notice his shining eyes. It's a sure sign.

(He and Old Bazarov go out)

Komm! You can give me his symptoms while they talk.

(Anna and Bazarov are left face to face)

## FATHERS AND SONS

**Bazarov**

Thanks. I didn't expect this.

**Anna**

I hope

(She is dismayed)

**Bazarov**

Ah, Anna Sergeyevna, let us speak the truth. It's all over with me. So far, I'm not afraid, but delirium is coming. I've fought it off till now. But, I can't hold out much longer. Well, what I had to say to you. I love you. You didn't want to hear it before. It disturbed your peace of mind. But, now, it cannot upset you.

**Anna** (half to herself)

It upsets me, Eugeny. It upsets me.

**Bazarov**

Never mind. Don't be uneasy. Don't come too close.

(Anna goes directly to him)

Ah, you are brave. How lovely you are, too. Make the most of life while there is time. I frittered away my time. I thought I was a giant. There were problems to solve and things to be smashed. And now the problem is for this giant to die decently. But, I'm not going to turn tail. You will forget me. My father will tell you what a man Russia is losing. That's nonsense. Russia doesn't need me. But, don't contradict the Old Buzzard. And be kind to mother. It's clear, I wasn't needed. Who is needed?

**Anna**

Don't agitate yourself so much.

**Bazarov**

What difference? My cup is full. You have come. I'm starting to get mixed up.

**Anna**

Lie back. Rest. I shall be here.

**Bazarov**

Tailors are needed. Butchers are needed.

(He falls asleep)

(Anna waits a moment. Old Bazarov and the German Doctor return)

**Old Bazarov**

Can we have a look at him?

**Anna**

He's asleep.

**German Doctor**

He's dead.

**Anna**

No. No. He can't be. I had so much to say to him.

## FATHERS AND SONS

### **German Doctor**

Tot.

(Anna weeps)

### **Old Bazarov**

I said I would rebel. And, I rebel. I rebel.

(He waves his hands wildly and begins smashing things)

(Madame Bazarov enters and folds her husband in her chubby arms)

CURTAIN

## **Scene iii**

Pavel Petrovitch's room.

(Fenitchka comes in with a cup of tea for Pavel, who is lying in a chaise lounge with a blanket up to his waist. Fenitchka is about to rush out.)

### **Pavel**

Where are you going in such a hurry, Fedosya Nikolaevna? Are you busy?

### **Fenitchka**

No.

(She wants to get away, but can think of nothing better than:)

I have to pour tea.

### **Pavel**

Dunyasha can manage. Sit a little with a poor invalid. I want to have a little talk with you.

(Fenitchka sits on the edge of a chair, but says nothing)

Listen. I've wanted to ask you something for a long time. I've noticed, you seem to be afraid of me. Are you?

### **Fenitchka**

Me?

### **Pavel**

You. You never look at me as though you felt guilty about something.

### **Fenitchka**

What should I feel guilty about?

### **Pavel**

I don't know. Have you wronged someone? Not me, surely. Who, my brother? But you love him, don't you?

### **Fenitchka**

I love him.

## FATHERS AND SONS

**Pavel**

With all your heart?

**Fenitchka**

With all my heart.

**Pavel**

Truly? Look at me, Fenitchka. It's a great sin to lie.

**Fenitchka**

I am not lying.

**Pavel**

You wouldn't cheat on him?

**Fenitchka**

Heavens, no. As God is my witness.

**Pavel**

What about that doctor fellow?

**Fenitchka**

How can you say such things?

**Pavel**

You know I saw.

**Fenitchka**

What did you see?

**Pavel**

When you were picking flowers.

**Fenitchka**

How am I to blame for that?

**Pavel**

You were innocent? Are you sure?

**Fenitchka**

Very sure. I love Nicolai Petrovitch. Mr. Bazarov was very nice, but he shouldn't have done that. It was unfair, and I couldn't say anything.

(Pavel suddenly takes her hand and presses it)

**Pavel** (excitedly)

Love him. Love my brother. Don't give him up for anyone in the world. There is nothing more terrible in the world than to love and not be loved. Never leave my brother.

## FATHERS AND SONS

(Fenitchka doesn't know what to make of Pavel. He still frightens her. Nicolai enters carrying the baby. Fenitchka runs to him and embraces him.)

**Nicolai**

What's the matter? You don't feel worse?

**Pavel**

On the contrary. Never better.

(Fenitchka runs out with the baby)

**Nicolai**

You were in a great hurry to move on the sofa. I was bringing my young hero to see you. Now, why did she take him off? What's going on?

**Pavel**

Brother!

**Nicolai**

Eh

**Pavel**

Brother, give me your solemn word of honor you will carry out my one request.

**Nicolai**

What request?

**Pavel**

I have been thinking a great deal. It is very important. Brother, do your duty. Put an end to this scandal.

Nicola (aghast)

You want me to send her away?

**Pavel** (earnestly)

Marry Fenitchka. She loves you. She is the mother of your son.

**Nicolai**

But, it is only out of respect for you that I haven't married her all this time. I thought you opposed such mesalliances.

**Pavel**

You were wrong to pay any attention to my views, they're snobbish and old hat. Bazarov was right, you know. I'm just an old aristocratic snob.

**Nicolai**

That reminds me, Bazarov is dead.

**Pavel**

What? But, he is so young and vigorous.

## FATHERS AND SONS

**Nicolai**

He contracted blood poisoning doing an autopsy.

**Pavel**

I knew no good would come from all his dissections. It may surprise you, but I am very sorry to hear it.

**Nicolai**

Indeed? Arkady is shattered, of course. But, with your views, I thought

**Pavel**

You were right about him. He had something. Energy. Honesty. He meant well. I still don't doubt that the road to hell would be paved with his good intentions and that we are destined to fight. Still, he was a worthy opponent.

**Nicolai**

What I'm afraid of is that there will be more like him.

**Pavel**

If that day comes, our country will be torn apart.

**Nicolai**

H'mm.

CURTAIN