

Found Text 1 (Berlin Wall)

ACTOR 1 (STUDENT)

Clamor in the East.

ACTOR 2 (EMBASSY)

For a multitude of Germans who cherish freedom, the day on which the Berlin Wall lost its purpose – November 9, 1989 – will be forever etched [into their memory.

ACTOR 3 (CIVIC FORUM)

Cheering East Germans swarmed across the Berlin Wall in a mass celebration Thursday night, hours after the communist nation`s embattled leaders announced that they would [throw open the nation`s western borders.

ACTOR 4 (COMMUNIST)

Strangers, friends and lovers by the score took turns hammering out a 12-inch semicircle from the reinforced concrete [that splits Berlin.

ACTOR 5 (SHIRLEY TEMPLE)

The Berlin Wall, the most potent political symbol of the postwar era, has, for all intents and purposes, fallen.

ACTOR 1 (STUDENT)

Dr. Helmut Kohl:

Note: a convention of Caryl Churchill's, using an open bracket: [to indicate that the next line of dialogue begins early and overlaps the previous line

ACTOR 3 (CIVIC FORUM)

"We are and will remain one nation. Step by small step we will find our way to a common solution."

ACTOR 5 (SHIRLEY TEMPLE)

Soviet spokesman:

COMMUNIST

"The pulling down of the Berlin Wall, which has symbolized the division of Europe for many long years, is surely a positive and important fact. Our new policy contributes to the strengthening of mutual confidence and to the improvement of political life."

ACTOR 2 (EMBASSY)

A Czech driver:

ACTOR 3 (CIVIC FORUM)

"There is no West Czechoslovakia, but if there was, I'd be the first to go."

SHIRLEY TEMPLE BLACK

Telegram. Prague, the U. S. Embassy. Shirley Temple Black, Ambassador. To the State Department. Confidential.

On the surface, Czechoslovakia appears the "island of stability" that many state officials portray. Rumors are intensifying, however, that the Jakeš regime has been more shaken than it is ready to admit by the events occurring in what was the staunchest ideological ally in the region, the GDR. But there is a paradox at work here. While the leadership

may feel pressed to react to GDR developments, the popular Czechoslovak reaction has been different. It is our sense that the average man, distinct from dissident and intellectual circles, has become more, not less, cautious. The reaction is easier to understand if one can appreciate the deeply risk-adverse psychology of the Czech people. In the face of change, they prefer to opt for what they know.

ACTOR 4 (COMMUNIST)

Miloš Jakeš, the Communist Party leader in Czechoslovakia, remains firmly in control at a time when his fellow hard-liners have either stepped down voluntarily [or been forced to resign.

ACTOR 2 (EMBASSY)

“He will probably survive this year,” a European diplomat said, “but he may not make it through the party congress next year, and he certainly won’t settle in [for 5 or 10 years.”

ACTOR 3 (CIVIC FORUM)

Some opponents of the Government hope to stage a protest on Friday to mark the anniversary of the death of one of the political martyrs in Czechoslovak history. The protesters intend to commemorate the death of Jan Opletal, who was killed in 1939 by Nazi storm troopers while protesting the German occupation of Czechoslovakia.

ACTOR 1 (WOMAN)

Some youths are losing faith.

SCENE 1 (AUDIENCE)

(VANĚK is sitting in a somewhat awkward position. He is trying to avoid aggravating his hemorrhoids. OFFICER enters and jingles keys. VANĚK doesn't respond. OFFICER jingles keys again.)

Mr. Vaněk?
OFFICER

Yes.
VANĚK

OFFICER
It's a pleasure to meet you, Mr. Vaněk.

Thank you.
VANĚK

OFFICER
I enjoyed your play, the one in the brewery—

Vaněk
You've read it?

OFFICER
I've confiscated it, more than once.

(Pause.)

Listen, Ferdinand—you're Ferdinand, aren't you?

26 *The Velvet Oratorio*

VANĚK

Yes.

OFFICER

Listen, Ferdinand—you don't mind if I call you that?

VANĚK

Go ahead.

OFFICER

If you do, let me know.

VANĚK

I don't mind.

OFFICER

Listen, Ferdinand—I wanted to have a word with you.

VANĚK

Very well.

(Pause.)

How much longer will I be here?

OFFICER

Where?

VANĚK

Here.

OFFICER

I don't know. A few more hours. Maybe another day or so.

VANĚK

Another day?

OFFICER

Maybe a few more hours.

(Pause.)

Listen, Ferdinand—you sure you don't mind?

VANĚK

What?

OFFICER

When I call you Ferdinand?

VANĚK

No.

OFFICER

Listen, Ferdinand—what's the deal with this march?

VANĚK

What march?

OFFICER

This march. This march you're having.

VANĚK

I'm not having a march.

(Pause.)

A few more hours here?

OFFICER

Maybe a day. Not longer than that. You've been detained much longer, haven't you?

VANĚK

It's just the boredom. The hours.

OFFICER

Listen, Ferdinand—how many people will be there, do you think?

VANĚK

Where?

OFFICER

At the march. At this march of yours.

VANĚK

I'm not having a march.

OFFICER

Because I need to know how many men to assign.

VANĚK

What march?

OFFICER

For the student. That...Jan Opletal fellow.

VANĚK

Oh, that march. That's not my march.

(Pause.)

OFFICER

Listen, Ferdinard—you're a peaceful sort of fellow, right?

VANĚK

Certainly.

OFFICER

It's just that things could get out of hand.

VANĚK

Out of hand? How?

OFFICER

At this march of yours.

VANĚK

It's not my march.

(Pause.)

I have a problem with hemorrhoids.

OFFICER

Do you? My uncle had that problem, too.

VANĚK

It's acting up.

OFFICER

He used a cushion.

VANĚK

I have one of those. At home.

OFFICER

Yes. They can be very helpful.

VANĚK

So if you don't have any more questions for me...

(Pause.)

OFFICER

Listen, Ferdinand, it's just with what happened at the Wall—

VANĚK

What happened at the Wall?

OFFICER

The Wall. The Berlin Wall.

VANĚK

What happened at the Berlin Wall?

OFFICER

Well, we just don't want things to get out of hand, is all.

VANĚK

What happened at the Wall?

OFFICER

Don't you know?

VANĚK

I've been in detention. What happened?

(Pause.)

OFFICER

Maybe I can find you a cushion.

VANĚK

I'd appreciate it.

OFFICER

It's just—if you could tell me how many people there will be at this march—

VANĚK

It's not my march.

OFFICER

It's to both our benefits, really. I mean, you're a peaceful sort of fellow.

VANĚK

Yes, but—

OFFICER

I just wouldn't want things to get out of hand.

VANĚK

I wasn't even planning on going.

OFFICER

Where?

VANĚK

To the march. For Jan Opletal. I wasn't planning on going.

OFFICER

No?

VANĚK

No.

(Pause.)

Look, I'd really appreciate it if I didn't have to stay here another day. My hemorrhoids —

OFFICER

Those can be painful. My uncle had them.

VANĚK

Yes. So you see.

OFFICER

If you could just tell your people, we don't want things to get out of hand, after the Berlin Wall—

VANĚK

What happened at the Berlin Wall?

OFFICER

It fell.

VANĚK

It fell? The Berlin Wall fell?

OFFICER

So you see, we don't want things to get out of
hand—

VANĚK

The Berlin Wall fell?

OFFICER

Yes. Didn't you know?

VANĚK

I've been in detention.

(Pause.)

OFFICER

Listen, Ferdinand..

VANĚK

Yes?

OFFICER

Everything's all fucked up.

Chorus 1 (The March)

CHORUS

Am I late?
Has it started?
Has it—
Where is—
You're not late it starts at four
All these people
Look there's Vilma
No that's Jana
No that's Vilma, see the hat?
All these people All these students
Eva Hana Halka Blanka Jitka Radka
No that's Vilma, see that hat?
That's not her hat
No it's mine she borrowed it
Where is—
Will you see a movie with me?
Now?
No, tomorrow
Do you have the notes from class?
No, I forgot them
You promised
I forgot them
When are we going?
We're not moving, we should go
Wait a moment
Vilma, give me my hat
We should go
Anton's coming, he's not here yet
He'll meet us there
Where?

At Wenceslas
Wenceslas not Vyšehrad?
Is that where we are—
Am I late?
I just came from class, where were you?
Here we go.

Remember Jan Opletal!
We are known—
Remember Jan Opletal
Known throughout history—
Remember Jan Opletal
We are known throughout history—
Remember Jan Opletal!
Not to start revolutions

This is just another protest
No effect
This is our moment
After Berlin, it's our turn
No one will listen
Where are we going?
They won't let us go to Wencelas
Jan Opletal!
Wencelas
They won't let us
To Vyšehrad!
Freedom!
I forgot my jacket.
Opletal, Opletal!
Berlin!
It's getting cold
Berlin! Berlin!
Who is that woman with my boyfriend?

Warsaw and Berlin!
My feet hurt in these shoes
Free elections!
If not now, when?
If not us, who?
It's finally here.

This is amazing, amazing
All these students
All these people.
It's too cold, I'm going home.
We can't let this end
Tell me what happens
To Wenceslas!
They won't let us
Give me a call
They can't stop us
To Wenceslas! See you later
To Wenceslas!
To Wenceslas!
I'm going home

Where are we going?
Wencelas!
Who is leading?
Who's in front?
They won't let us—
Who is leading?
I'm in front but I'm not leading
Who's that—
What's that jingling—
Keys?
They're ringing—
Keys!

Like bells
Like it's the end of a school term
Ringing—
It is the end of my school term—
Mine too but the professor—
It's like when it's exam time.
Ringing
The Marxist professor won't let me graduate
Ringing
She's an asshole
Hey!

What was that—
Look out who's pushing?
It's the—
Hey!
The police, they're—
We just want to go to Wenceslas
Let us—
Look out
Careful
Sorry, I was pushed
They're pushing
They mean business

After Wenceslas we will go home!
After Wenceslas we will go home!
After Wenceslas we will go home!

Look out, professor
Dinosaurs out!
Pick him up Jakeš out!
He broke his arm
Careful

We want a new government!
I can't help, they're pushing
Don't move
Sit down
The street is the voice of the people!
They're pushing
Don't move
Sit down
They're pushing
They're—
What are they doing?
They're arresting Pavel
Be careful
I didn't
Pushing
They're hitting Jan
Kicking Knocking Clobbering
Pushing
Arresting
Kicking Knocking Clobbering
Pushing
Arresting
Beating
They're—
They're—
Pushing
Pushing
Pushing

Down the alley
"No violence"
We can get out down the alley
Into the theater
"Our hands are empty, no violence"
In the basement of the theater
Will someone let us in?
"The world is watching"
That apartment
Into that apartment
Look there's Vilma.
Look they're gone.
The streets are looking empty now.
There may be still some out there.
Be careful.
Maybe they're gone.

I'm going home
I'm going—
They're taking—
I'm going home
My boyfriend and I have plans
For tomorrow
A movie
We have plans.