

Love in Translation

Modern-day dating can be a real headache in North American cities. For people with little dating experience or those burned by ugly divorce, the idea of looking for a spouse in a foreign country, known for its solid family values, seems like a viable solution. Both men and women glue themselves to the Internet, searching for partners in exotic places. Men from the Western world frequently find their love interests in Eastern Europe.

Through the film's protagonists, we will witness the whole cycle - from Internet search, to first meetings, and marriage in North America. We are sure it will not be an easy journey. The audience will be shocked, puzzled, sympathetic, and outraged.

First, let's hop on a bus in Odessa, Ukraine. The bus will take us right into the heart of a huge industry that capitalizes on desires, and occasionally helps dreams come true: the **INTERNET MARRIAGE INDUSTRY**. It will be a very extraordinary adventure: an American Internet Marriage Agency, ANASTASIA, has "BUS TOURS" for their male clients: men from US, Europe, Middle East and even Japan fly to Ukraine, get on a bus, and travel all together from one place to another, meeting women along the way. Indeed, it must be hard to resist when one reads an ad this splendid: *"Ukrainian women's personalities are different from Western women's. The main difference is that they are much more patient and can tolerate things that Western women will never be able to bear. They are well groomed, stylish, educated and intelligent but they pay less attention to sports and diets. Nevertheless, they are rarely overweight."*

Twice during the tour, ANASTASIA treats its clients with a true feast: a social gathering at a very large nightclub where the agency invites several hundred Ukrainian girls who apparently dream of getting married to a man from US or Western Europe. You can only imagine the visuals of this outstanding event - dozen English-speaking men surrounded by a countless number of Ukrainian girls. We will get to know the women and their motivations. But the men don't speak Ukrainian or Russian. Will the beauty be the only decisive criteria for our protagonists? If so, the men are on a wrong path, according to JIM - creator of the website '**MARRIAGE AGENCY SCAMS**'.

"DO NOT waste your time with the goddesses. A goddess in Ukraine needs the same amount of work (and life) as a goddess in your country. Even the best looking, rich foreign guy is nothing more than a foreigner to the goddess. Sorry, guys. It is true. I know that you won't follow this advice, but at least consider it." [www. agencyscams.com](http://www.agencyscams.com)

In this first part of the Ukrainian story, we will begin to see what kinds of North American men go on Bride Tours to Eastern Europe. The audience will be divided in their opinions - some will see the men on a bus as pathetic losers and some as brave romantic souls.

In Ukraine the men are making plans to meet as many women as possible: the trip is expensive, and one should increase his chances of finding a loving wife by diversifying the portfolio. We hope their Internet romances, that will follow their dating attempts in Ukraine, evolve into a genuine relationship and we will stay with a couple that met on this tour for a while, capturing their interactions, the differences in culture/language/habits, and wondering if these two people will make it.

The film will also expose the realities of living in Eastern Europe as a single attractive woman and present the true reasons that make women decide to hunt for a stranger on the Internet, hoping that life will be better elsewhere. But will it really? In order to understand what awaits the woman in the Western world, we will go with her chosen man back to his town - to his work, to his life. The audience will be able to predict what awaits both the man and the woman if they get married and start a family.

We go back to the 'Ukrainian couples' and film the state of their romance 6 months after they met in Ukraine. I hope we will not have to conclude the story with a testimonial from JIM's website:

"No American girl I've ever been with has been like her, not even close, she is like a walking plague, a radioactive candy that everyone wants to lick, all the while not knowing they are licking poison... I guess it's our own faults, we buy into the fantasy, and we have no idea what's about to happen to us, or what we're about to go through. "