

THE  
PYRAMID

By Giedrius Zubavičius



# THE PYRAMID

## THE FILM IDEA

A tennis court. In the frame, we see a man of about 34 years old, fielding the tennis ball fiercely.

Off-screen:

“For many years, this man has been playing tennis or billiards almost every day, wherever he is. From a friend, with whom he graduated from the High School of the KGB, he has received a gift – a Wilson tennis racket and some tennis balls. He has had those balls and racket with him, wherever he goes. This man simply has a specific feature – he gets attached to people, places and things. Let’s call this man ... Georgy...”



Subtitle:

## THE PYRAMID

1968. Prague.

Soviet tanks are rolling down the streets. Off the screen, Jean Sibelius' Third symphony is playing.

Georgy comes up to the record player and takes the stylus off the vinyl disc. He goes up to the TV set that is showing Soviet tanks, and turns it off.

Amsterdam. Georgy is next to a canal. From his jacket pocket, he takes out a piece of bread and begins to feed birds.

Soviet Embassy in Amsterdam. Georgy, along with Andrey (32 y.o. man) is in the office. Both are smoking. On a table with documents and a typewriter, there is a pack of red Marlboro.

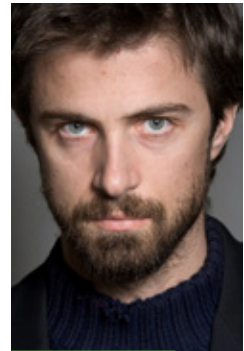
In the embassy lobby, there is Georgy. He has been chatting with his wife on the phone. A long conversation on domestic matters ("how are you?", "how are the children?" and so on.) Georgy, even knowing that his telephone is being tapped, patters the text: "I have seen the tanks...that's a very hard thing to see...." It's a text for those who have been listening or tapping, on both sides.

1970. Amsterdam. A tennis court. Georgy is striking the ball into the wall. Without any warning, a British diplomat visits the court. Georgy has known him from some diplomatic meetings. The Briton proposes him to dine together, in a place where no one will see and hear them.

Georgy begins to meet with the British intelligence residents – usually, at a tennis court, or in a billiard club. Sometimes, the resident would sit down next to him in a cinema hall during the film...

Watching films is another passion that Georgy has. He has seen Antonioni's film *The Passenger* more than once, in a modest Amsterdam cinema that often screens the same movies over and over again.

1975. Amsterdam. Georgy's secondment is coming to an end. He has made an agreement with the British intelligence that he "will disappear from view". Both sides agree: in case of jeopardy, Georgy will sit down next to a pond in Moscow, at Chistye Prudy, for two nights in a row. This is a sign that he is in great danger and must flee. That will be the launch of the Sibelius plan. While he sits on the bench, a couple of foreigners with a child will start feeding birds. This means that the alarm has been accepted.



*Georgy*

1977. Moscow. Georgy gets his appointment to work in the Embassy in London. Meetings with the British intelligence people.

Georgy's meeting with Andrey, his fellow and colleague in Amsterdam.

Playing Russian pyramid in a smoky bar on the outskirts of London. A long party, and a long conversation. The most important part of conversation is as follows:

Andrey:

- Be careful. And you should know: any action against your country is a betrayal, by any measure.

George scores the winning ball.

1981. Georgy has been called to Moscow. Immediately, he notes from the colleagues glances and conversations that "something is wrong". When he sees that his apartment door is locked with one more lock than when he was leaving, he understands that the apartment has been searched. But the book with an escape plan, a small volume by Leo Tolstoy, is standing on the shelf untouched. He takes the book in his hands, opens it at the bookmarked page, and reads out:

There are people with big, strong wings, who, driven by lust, descend into the crowd and break their wings. Then they beat about with a broken wing, jumping up and falling down. When their wings heal themselves, they will soar high.

He puts the book back on the shelf.

A week later, Georgy is driven to the KGB countryside villa. Three employees of the KGB come into the room. On the table, there is some herring, pickles and vodka. During the dinner, Georgy feels bad, and gets intoxicated. With him being in this state of mind, the interrogation begins. Georgy understands that when he awakes in the morning – he has been intoxicated with something, and has been interrogated under the influence.

Investigator:

- Confess, sir. Just repeat what you said to us last night.

Georgy realizes that he did not betray, because otherwise, he would already be in prison.

KGB begins to follow Georgy.

The next morning, Georgy easily gets rid of the "tail", and takes a seat on a bench in front of the pond. For a couple of days, the British have been observing this place. While Georgy is sitting, a foreigners' couple with a child comes around, and starts feeding birds. The Sibelius operation begins.





Georgy at his place. Georgy takes from the shelf the volume by Leo Tolstoy, puts it into the water, unglues the inside front cover, takes out the escape guide wrapped up in cellophane, reads it, and then burns down the cellophane. Takes his phone and talks with Andrey:

Georgy (part of the conversation):

- You know, I have been thinking a lot. I remember our conversations. Do you remember Amsterdam? I've been listening to Sibelius a lot, again...

Evening. Georgy easily gets rid of the "tail", and reaches the train station. At similar time, the British Embassy car leaves from Moscow, heading towards Leningrad.

The night train. Georgy cannot sleep. In the train's enclosed platform, he is smoking, taking the Marlboro cigarettes secretly out of his pockets.

Morning. Georgy in a crammed-up bus. Through the window, he sees the agreed location. Pretending that he has nausea and wants to vomit, he makes the bus stop, jumps off and rolls over through the ditch. The bus departs.

A British car, Volvo, stops next to the road, which is being crossed by Soviet tanks. The KGB crew stops nearby. After the tanks pass by, the British car vrooms ahead and leaves behind the KGB car.

In a minute, the British car stops over the turning. Out of the forest, Georgy comes out, barging along. The British open the trunk, where Georgy climbs in. A few moments. The car is back on track.

Georgy inside the trunk. He hears the British diplomats' casual conversations. After a while, he hears the voices of Soviet border guards, and dogs barking – the Soviet border is here.

The borderland has been overcome. The car is moving on. After a while, it stops. Georgy, still inside the trunk, hears the voices of the Finnish border guards.

FINALE:

1994. Helsinki.

Inside a bar. A few guys are playing Russian billiards. Georgy starts to open the door, but changes his mind, and never enters. He opens another door next to him, the one with the sign Moskva on it. He comes in. There are bare pink walls, with the only picture hanging on them – a photo of Vladimir Vysotsky.

Off-screen:

"This is a story about a man whom we have called Georgy ...

But, to be honest, we can say – maybe that Georgy never existed, just like the whole story never happened. All of this is more like pure fiction...

Damn it...as usual..."



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FILMS