VASYA. I see.

VASYA'S WIFE. 'She'll bring it tomorrow...' This is some kind of scam. Go on with you, girl. Let it keep you awake at night.

GIRL. I'll go now, get some money out in town and I'll come back. Two hundred.

The GIRL knocks on the wooden gate. VASYA'S WIFE comes out.

VASYA'S WIFE. Well look at that, she's back.

GIRL. Of course I am, I made a promise.

VASYA'S WIFE. These days every one makes promises but no one keeps them. Starting with the president and right down to all the rest.

VASYA. Who's that?

VASYA'S WIFE. It's her.

GIRL. It's me. Here.

She gets out two hundred griven. They look at her.

VASYA'S WIFE. I've already plucked it. I thought we'd have enough for borschch, but you'd flattened her and I couldn't do any more than feed her to the dogs.

GIRL. How horrible...

VASYA'S WIFE. It's not easy when you're poor.

VASYA'S WIFE does not accept the money.

She laid upward of thirty eggs a month. Like our golden goose, she was. A dozen eggs is about thirty griven, so we are going to lose around a hundred a month. Take that for the year and we're losing one thousand two hundred griven. She could have kept laying for about two years, that's two thousand four hundred.

GIRL. Oh... I haven't got that much...
VASYA'S WIFE. I mean you'd think just a simple chicken. But she was keeping a whole family alive.

GIRL. I've got a thousand here. Of course I never imagined that a chicken could cost—

VASYA'S WIFE. And then I used to talk to her. Not with the other chickens, but I did with her. She was more than just a chicken.

VASYA'S WIFE doesn't accept the thousand griven which the GIRL offers her.

What if I was to run over your parrot?

GIRL. I haven't got that much on my card. I took out all the money I had.

VASYA'S WIFE. Vasya!

VASYA comes out.

She's only got a thousand.

VASYA (tuts). We'll have to ring the police and prosecute, or we'll lock you in our basement until your family arrive with some proper money.

GIRL. Are you serious?

VASYA. It was you who killed the chicken.

GIRL. I can give you my bracelet if you want?

VASYA'S WIFE takes the GIRL's arm and examines the bracelet.

VASYA'S WIFE. What is it?

GIRL. Silver.

VASYA'S WIFE. That's not worth much.

GIRL. Actually it is worth a bit.

VASYA. How much?

GIRL. I don't know. It was a present.

VASYA. What's that round your neck?  

Yes