

A Gentleman in Moscow Episode Guide

Episodes 001–005

Last episode aired Friday April 26, 2024





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This booklet was \LaTeX ed on April 29, 2024 by footstep11 with create_eps_guide v0.71

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Season One

A Master of Circumstance

Season 1
Episode Number: 1
Season Episode: 1

Originally aired:	Friday March 29, 2024
Writer:	Ben Vanstone
Director:	Sam Miller
Show Stars:	Ewan McGregor (Count Alexander Rostov), Mary Elizabeth Winstead (Anna Urbanova), Anastasia Hille (Olga), Björn Hlynur Haraldsson (Emily Zhukovsky), Fehinti Balogun (Mikhail "Mishka" Mindich), John Heffernan ("The Bishop" Leplevsky), Johnny Harris (Osip Glebnikov), Leah Harvey (Marina Samarova), Lyes Salem (Andrey Duras), Paul Ready (Prince Nikolai Petrov), Daniel Cerqueira (Vasily)
Guest Stars:	Emil Hostina (Vyshinsky), Steve Furst (Ignatov), Spike Leighton (Gleb), Anna Madeley (Narrator (voice)), Alexa Goodall (Nina Kulikova), Penny Downie (The Countess), Matilda Hunt (Young Helena), Lily Newmark (Helena), Sky Frances (Chef de Partie), Divian Ladwa (Yaroslav), Dee Ahluwalia (Audrius), Matthew Earley (Heavy Set Customer), Rob Jarvis (Halecki), Charley Palmer Rothwell (Pulonov), Mylo Rayne Pateman-Fannan (Yasha (4 Years)), Jamie Treacher (Red Soldier), Adam Bendall (Bolshevik), Alina Bychalova (Cloakroom Attendant), Ross Donnelly (Bar Patron), Michael Gabbitas (Bar Customer), Amy Graham (Bell Girl), Jean-Pascal Heynemand (Shalyapin Barman), Damian Rozanek (Bellboy), Rachel Walker (Hotel Guest)
Summary:	Stripped of aristocratic privilege, Count Alexander Rostov is sentenced to life imprisonment at the Metropol Hotel; contending with allies and foes alike, it's nine-year-old Nina and her unexpected friendship that changes his life.



The Russian Revolution in 1917 changed the face of Russia from an aristocracy to a communist country. Four years after the revolution, Rostov is brought in front of a Soviet tribunal deciding what to do with the remaining aristocrats. The worst possible outcome is death (as one man receives in the opening moments), however because of a poem Rostov wrote years ago that some believe helped spur the revolution, he is granted leniency — to live out his days at Moscow's Metropol Hotel. If he leaves the hotel though, he will be killed.

As Rostov is escorted back to the hotel, a voiceover of a woman says this was not the end of Rostov's life, but the beginning.

When Rostov returns to the hotel, a man is waiting for him. He doesn't reveal his name, but this is Osip Glebnikov, an intimidating member of the party, there to show Rostov to his new quarters — old servants' quarters in the annexes of the hotel. While Rostov continues to present himself as a gentleman, even making jokes, Glebnikov is not amused. He says Rostov may take a few personal items from his old suite, but everything else now belongs to the people; his money in the hotel safe has also been seized (though we see Rostov has a few gold coins stashed in a hidden compartment in his desk). Glebnikov says "life for your kind" is over in Moscow, and warns if Rostov leaves the hotel he'll be waiting.

Throughout the episode, Rostov has memories of his life, particularly of his grandmother and sister Alina. But he always returns to his new life in the hotel.

Rostov attempts to go about his life normally. He eats at the hotel's restaurant — where he impresses the maitre d' Andrey and chef Emily by correctly identifying the replacement ingredients in a dish — and keeps his regular appointment with hotel barber Yaroslav. While the staff is surprised he survived the tribunal, they still treat him with the respect of his previous position, referring to Rostov as "your excellency." This is Rostov's life for a month and a half, as he tries to make the best of things.

Things begin to change on day 47. First, a young girl calls out to him, complimenting Rostov on his fancy mustache. Then Rostov runs into his old friend, Prince Nikolai Petrov, though the prince is sure to clarify he is just Nikolai now. He too was allowed to live, but the party took over his house and his only work is playing violin at the hotel. Rostov invites Nikolai to have a drink after his performance and reminds him "they can't take away who you are."

Later, Rostov explains to Nikolai that though he was safely in Paris when the revolution began, he returned to ensure his grandmother was able to get out. However, Rostov's sister Alina was not so lucky, as it's inferred she is dead. Nikolai doesn't believe things will get better for them, and tells Rostov he can get them transit papers out of Russia. They'll have to don a disguise, likely shaving Rostov's signature mustache, which Rostov jokes is a bridge too far. Asking how he can joke about their circumstance, Rostov gives two answers: not giving them the satisfaction of seeing him upset at his situation and joking to avoid falling into a dark despair. While Nikolai once again urges Rostov to try and escape, Rostov claims Russia is still his country.

But he is reminded how different it is one afternoon at the barber. Arriving for his weekly standing appointment, he unknowingly skips another man who has been waiting. This infuriates the man, who grabs a pair of scissors and threatens Rostov with them. Thankfully, all he does is cut a bit of Rostov's mustache off before darting away.

Though he avoided the worst, Rostov is sad his mustache has been diminished. Adding on, a new waiter is curt and unengaging despite Rostov's best efforts. His meal gets better with the arrival of the girl who previously complimented his mustache. She asks where the rest of it went, but before Rostov can answer she has more questions: is he really a count? Did he know any princesses? Was it hard to be one? Yes. Yes. And terribly so since "our glorious revolution." The girl sits down at Rostov's table, and he is happy to have an engaging person to share his meal with.

The girl eventually moves on from princesses to ask about duels, including if Rostov has ever been in one? He says not exactly, but his godfather was in multiple. He mentions how in one instance the old manager of the Metropol was prepared for duels to break out by hiding two antique pistols behind a painting in his office (they're still there we learn). But despite all that, Rostov assures her duels are not as romantic as they are often made out to be. Another flashback shows what he means, as it appears Rostov did participate in a duel, potentially killing a man, which upset his sister Alina.

When the girl leaves, the waiter tells Rostov the hotel manager wants to speak to him. The manager explains there is displeasure about the staff still referring to Rostov as "your excellency." When Rostov asks who brought this up, the manager tells him party members are closely watching guests, making it a very dangerous place. Further emphasizing this, Glebnikov later has soldiers search Rostov's room for anything incriminating.

Rostov approaches the entrance of the Metropol multiple times in the episode but never gets too close. However, these latest actions convince him things have to change. While Nikolai plays one night, Rostov catches his eye and calls attention to his altered mustache, signaling he is ready to leave.

They discuss the plan (which Rostov imagines): Nikolai will steal two Red Army uniforms so they can blend in and get out of the hotel. A car will take them to the train station, after which they'll embark on a 200-mile walk to Minsk and freedom. Nikolai mentions they can't bring anything with them, which gives Rostov pause, particularly regarding a painting of his sister, but ultimately he decides to give Nikolai money to enact the plan.

It's day 65 when Rostov sees the girl again. He learns her name is Nina. She is usually alone because her father is always working and her mother is dead. Rostov laments with her, asking how they are going to survive stuck in the hotel? But Nina knows its secrets.

She has a master key that can open any door and takes Rostov through the hidden world of

the hotel — rooms behind rooms and doors behind doors. She shows him the boiler room (perfect for disposing secret messages or illicit love letters), an attic where they can spy on the ballroom and a window into the maid Marina's room, who Nina explains takes leftovers to feed her son. Nina also takes Rostov into a storage room with things left behind by guests, including many of Rostov's old possessions. During the tour, Rostov walks past an open back door. He pauses, knowing he could try and escape, but as Nina beckons him he continues to follow her.

The last place Nina shows him is a hallway where members of the party often work. Among their papers, Rostov finds a document with Nikolai's photo on it. When two party members come in, Rostov and Nina hide. He overhears they are arresting people and putting them on trial, even if no crime has been committed.

The next night Nikolai plays at the hotel, Rostov tells him what he found in the hallway, urging him to leave Russia immediately to avoid being captured. Nikolai pleads with Rostov to come with him, as he has the transit papers. Rostov cannot though, citing his guilt over Alina and questioning whether he deserves a new lease on life. Nikolai offers Rostov the papers anyway, in case he changes his mind, but Rostov won't accept them. As they talk, the curt waiter eyes their conversation and is suspicious.

Nikolai promises Rostov he will leave that night, but first he is going to play Rachmaninoff one last time on Russian soil. Rostov and Nina watch the performance, but soon soldiers enter the room and approach Nikolai. He defiantly keeps playing until they snatch his violin from him, smash it and then drag him out. Rostov follows to the entryway steps, again unable to risk the threat of going outside. But he hears the gunshot that kills his friend.

Glebnikov is there, explaining Nikolai did business with people they've been watching, noting they know he got two sets of transit papers. As he leaves, he hands Rostov Nikolai's bow.

Rostov sits on the lobby bench, silently grieving, as the woman's voiceover returns. She says if Rostov had left the hotel he would surely have been killed, and she would not be alive to tell his story.

An Invitation

Season 1
Episode Number: 2
Season Episode: 2

Originally aired:	Friday April 05, 2024
Writer:	Ben Vanstone
Director:	Sam Miller
Show Stars:	Ewan McGregor (Count Alexander Rostov), Mary Elizabeth Winstead (Anna Urbanova), Anastasia Hille (Olga), Björn Hlynur Haraldsson (Emily Zhukovsky), Fehinti Balogun (Mikhail "Mishka" Mindich), John Heffernan ("The Bishop" Leplevsky), Johnny Harris (Osip Glebnikov), Leah Harvey (Marina Samarova), Lyes Salem (Andrey Duras), Paul Ready (Prince Nikolai Petrov), Daniel Cerqueira (Vasily)
Guest Stars:	Joel Morris (Ivan Milovic), Alexa Goodall (Nina), Lily Newmark (Helena), Mylo Rayne Pateman-Fannan (Yasha (4 Years)), Jason Forbes (Alexei Nachevko), Dee Ahluwalia (Audrius), Penny Downie (The Countess), Charley Palmer Rothwell (Pulonov), Adam Bendall (Bolshevik), Alina Bychalova (Receptionist), Amy Graham (Bell Girl), Damian Rozanek (Piazza Waiter), Rachel Walker (Hotel Guest), Thom Williamson (Red Guard)
Summary:	The Count confronts his past when an old friend, Mishka, arrives at the hotel. He embarks on a passionate affair with Anna Urbanova. His friendship with Nina deepens, but their time together faces potential challenges.



It's a year since Rostov was put under house arrest at the Metropol, and the count is doing what he can to make the best of his situation. The key to that is his relationships — both new and old.

On the latter, Rostov spies his friend Mishka speaking passionately about the struggles of the new Soviet regime and the need to continue the goals of the Russian revolution. This is not the first time we've seen Mishka, as he was in attendance at Rostov's trial in episode 1. But these two have a complicated past.

Rostov confronts Mishka in the lobby after the meeting. He's curt with Mishka for not visiting him and questioning what "yoke of tyranny" Mishka suffered under when Rostov treated him like a brother. Mishka remembers it differently, saying Rostov was ashamed of him.

Through Rostov's memories, we learn not only were the two of them close, but so was Mishka with Rostov's sister Alina. The two seemed like they were in love, but Rostov put an end to that, which was what led to their relationship deteriorating.

Someone else is curious about Rostov and Mishka's relationship, Glebnikov. He wants Rostov to provide information on what kind of man Mishka is, noting he has some influence in the party. Rostov does not offer anything of substance, saying he and Mishka have drifted apart because of their circumstances.

Rostov continues to spend time with Nina, teaching her lessons in etiquette and more. However, one afternoon their lunch is interrupted when two large dogs run into the dining room and cause a commotion. Their owner casually walks in after them, in no rush to stop them. This is Anna Urbanova, a Russian movie star, Nina informs Rostov.

Rostov intervenes, whistling so the dogs immediately come to him. Anna apologizes for their ill behavior, but Rostov says behavior is a matter of handling, inferring Anna is to blame. Despite this, the two have a flirty back-and-forth before Anna leaves.

In addition to a new face, Rostov finds some new space as well. He notices a light coming through his closet wall and discovers a bigger and abandoned room. With Nina's help, he gathers some of his old furniture still being held in the hotel's storage room and makes the space his secret sanctuary.

Rostov continues to learn there is plenty to discover in the hotel. One afternoon he hears pigeons cooing in the hallway outside his room. He follows the noise and finds it's coming from behind a door. However, unlike his closet, this door is locked and he is unable to find out what lies behind it.

Anna has lunch with a member of the Ministry of Culture, Alexei Nachevko, digging into rumors that Lenin is having health issues. Alexei denies them all, but he says if something were to happen to Lenin, the party would be led by someone who recognizes the importance of film, like Trotsky, not a "thug" like Stalin. Alexei then offers to set up meetings with Anna and some high-profile Russian directors, but she knows it comes with a cost. Alexei wants to have dinner and drinks.

Later, Mishka is sitting at the hotel bar when some other patrons are rudely demanding service. He tells them they can wait like everyone else, which causes a fight between him and the three men. Rostov arrives on the scene and helps Mishka, but they are still outnumbered. It's only when the hotel staff intervenes that everything is broken up.

After the fisticuffs, Rostov lets his true frustrations show for how his class has been treated, wondering what threat someone like Petrov was. Mishka says Rostov used to believe people deserved to become whatever they wanted, but Rostov calls it a childish dream. Either way, Mishka says it's time for them to look forward, not backward.

As they talked, Anna walked through the lobby and spotted Rostov. She then sends him a note, inviting him to dinner.

As Rostov goes to meet Anna, Nina interrupts and says they had a previous engagement. Rostov tells her he'll make it up to her and shoos her away, but she is persistent. As Rostov sits down with Anna at the bar, Nina sits down next to them. When Anna suggests they try a restaurant outside the hotel, Nina chimes in that Rostov will be shot if he leaves. Anna asks if Rostov knows Nina, to which he responds, "More than I would like." Anna gives Rostov her room number and tells him to meet her there in 20 minutes.

With his date gone for the moment, Rostov attempts to apologize to Nina, but she is angry and leaves in a huff.

Rostov goes to Anna's room, which is his old suite. After dinner is brought to them, Anna makes observations about Rostov. She says he was a man of means who never wanted for anything, at least not because of lack of money; and his status is inherited, not earned. He should be dead based on all of this, so she wonders why the party chose to imprison him instead.

Rather than answer, Rostov turns the tables. He guesses she is the only child of a fisherman based on how she cut up their dinner. However, when Rostov guesses she wanted to escape her village, she corrects him, calling it the happiest she's ever been. He questions if her father dying at an early age led her to leave? Now she refuses to answer.

They ask about spouses and children, which neither have, then each goes back to what the other won't answer: why Rostov is alive and why Anna left her village? But neither budes. To deal with this impasse, they go to bed together.

Afterward, Rostov tells Anna a legend about a tree with fruit as black as coal, which if eaten could start your life anew. She asks if he would eat it, but he says he wouldn't want to lose the memory of this night. Anna jokingly asks if he truly feels so fondly for a night with a "lowly actress?" Rostov jokes, "times have changed." Anna doesn't take this well, thinking Rostov means she previously would have been "beneath" him. He doesn't help himself when he says that wouldn't "necessarily" be true. She asks him to leave.

Rostov apologizes properly to Nina for cancelling their prior engagement and neglecting their friendship. But that's not the only reason Nina is upset. She reveals she is starting school after New Year's and will no longer be staying at the Metropol. She asks if he can teach her instead, but Rostov says she needs a proper education and the chance to make lasting friends.

Later, Glebnikov once again asks for Rostov to give info on Mishka. Rostov wonders why Mishka is so important to him, Glebnikov says that Mishka risked his standing in the party to save Rostov's life. Rostov calls Mishka loyal to a fault and the best humanity has to offer. So why did Rostov deem Mishka unworthy of Alina? Because he "wrongly" thought nobility was a birthright, but now he believes some men can become gentlemen despite where they come from. Glebnikov asks if Rostov believes he could become a gentleman, but he defers, saying he doesn't know Glebnikov.

It's New Year's Eve. Anna has dinner with Alexei and invites him to her room, even though she correctly guesses he is gay, saying rumors of a night with a famous actress could distract people from the truth. Rostov watches as they leave together before joining Nina for their planned dinner.

Rostov toasts their "unanticipated and truly wonderful friendship" and gifts her Alina's binoculars. Nina also has a gift for Rostov, but asks him not to open it until after midnight. She gives him a big hug goodbye.

Rostov spends the rest of New Year's at the hotel staff's party, celebrating with Andrey, Vasily, Marina and Mishka. Afterward, Mishka and Rostov share a drink in Rostov's room. Rostov wonders if Alina would still be alive if he hadn't stopped her and Mishka's relationship. He apologizes for what he did and thanks Mishka for lying that Rostov wrote the poem that saved his life. They promise to see each other again.

Rostov finally opens the present Nina gave him: her hotel master key. He immediately takes it to unlock the door from earlier. It leads to the roof of the hotel, where Rostov enjoys the morning air of the first day of the new year.

The Last Rostov

Season 1
Episode Number: 3
Season Episode: 3

Originally aired: Friday April 12, 2024
Writer: Ben Vanstone
Director: Sarah O’Gorman
Show Stars: Ewan McGregor (Count Alexander Rostov), Mary Elizabeth Winstead (Anna Urbanova), Anastasia Hille (Olga), Björn Hlynur Haraldsson (Emily Zhukovsky), Fehinti Balogun (Mikhail "Mishka" Mindich), John Heffernan ("The Bishop" Leplevsky), Johnny Harris (Osip Glebnikov), Leah Harvey (Marina Samarova), Lyes Salem (Andrey Duras), Paul Ready (Prince Nikolai Petrov), Daniel Cerqueira (Vasily)
Guest Stars: Dermot Crowley (Abram), Anna Madeley (Narrator (voice)), Leah Balmforth (Nina Kulikova), Jason Forbes (Alexei Nachevko), Dee Ahluwalia (Audrius), Penny Downie (The Countess), Matilda Hunt (Young Helena), Jordan Long (Konstantin), Elliot Mugume (Yasha (10 Years)), Rebecca Bolton (Lyubov), Emmanuel Akinkuolie (Damir), Rob Jarvis (Halecki), Lily Newmark (Helena), Adam Bendall (Bolshevik), Jean-Pascal Heynemann (Shalyapin Barman), Damian Rozanek (Bellboy), Rachel Walker (Hotel Guest)
Summary: As his old life crumbles, the Count receives devastating news.



After four and a half years of imprisonment at the Metropol, has Count Alexander Rostov finally been pushed to the edge? The opening images of *A Gentleman in Moscow* episode 3 would indicate yes, as the count stands on the hotel roof ready to plunge to his death. But why?

To find out, we go back about a month. It's a beautiful morning on the hotel roof when Rostov hears an explosion far off in the city. Abram, the caretaker of the hotel, appears, telling Rostov the party is demolishing old buildings.

Abram invites Rostov to share his honey, produced by the colony of bees Abram keeps on the roof. It makes Rostov remember the honey on his family estate, which had a taste of apple.

The narrator reveals Lenin has died in the years between episodes. Now Stalin and Trotsky are in a power struggle. However, life inside the hotel has remained relatively unchanged, with Rostov having settled into his own routine.

This includes catch-ups with an older Nina. But her and Rostov's conversations have changed from talk of princesses to communism's standings on the negatives of capitalism.

Another of Rostov's regular activities is trying to get the attention of Anna Urbanov, who has ignored him since their night together four years ago. As Anna returns yet again, Rostov sends her a bottle of champagne (a move he has tried many times before) with a note asking for a "third chance at a first impression." Before Rostov can find out if his latest attempt is successful, Mishka arrives with sad news.

Rostov's grandmother, the countess, has died. Rostov asks if she had a ceremony befitting her standing, but apparently just a small service at a crematorium. Rostov refuses to accept this, wanting to throw a celebration to honor her. He plans a feast for 20 guests, despite objections

from Mishka and the hotel staff that the party frowns upon such activities. But Rostov plows ahead with his plans.

Despite the narrator's earlier claims, change is now coming to the Metropol. Rostov is appalled when workers begin to paint over an old mural. But he has little time to worry about that, as he is summoned to speak with Glebnikov. Glebnikov wants Rostov to teach him how to better understand the privileged class that remains in Russia, saying educated families and individuals are dividing the party against Stalin.

Rostov and Nina observe more changes being made to the hotel, which reminds Rostov of the moths of Manchester. He explains the moths once had predominantly white wings with black speckles, blending them perfectly with the area's silver birch trees. However, as the industrial revolution occurred, they were exposed as soot covered everything. As a result, moths with black wings and white spots, once the minority, became the majority. He laments that such a change is happening now in Russia. Nina brings up Darwin's principle of adapt or die.

Later, Rostov overhears Anna ordering champagne to be delivered to her room, so he bribes the bartender to let him take it up to her. She lets him in and sends her assistant Olga away so the two of them can be alone. Rostov says he worried he offended her during their previous encounter, believing it's why it took so long for them to speak again. Anna denies that, saying she was satisfied with their encounter, revealing they could have reunited before if Rostov had sent himself rather than champagne, though whether she received him or not would've depended on her mood. Tonight she is in the mood.

After their tryst, Rostov comments she lied about her father and her upbringing when they last met, as she recently said something different in an interview. Anna changes her life story to best fit what people want to hear, even creating another story of her father being a famous matador on the spot for Rostov. He compares her to the moths of Manchester. When Rostov leaves, he asks "until the next time?" Anna only says perhaps, but with a smile on her face.

Rostov meets with Abram again on the roof. The caretaker is upset as the queen bee of his colony has died, believing the hive turned on her because the construction in the city has destroyed the trees and gardens they used for pollination. Rostov offers hope they may still return.

That is not the only thing that has disappeared from the hotel. While having dinner with Nina, Rostov gets into an argument with the waiter he dislikes, Leplevsky. Rostov tries to order a specific bottle of wine, but Leplevsky explains they now only offer two choices for wine: white or red.

Rostov goes down to the cellar with Andrey to discover that all the wine labels have been removed, with the Soviet Food Commission declaring wine varieties counter the ideas of the revolution. Rostov calls it cultural vandalism, wanting to know who complained. It was Leplevsky, after an earlier instance where Rostov corrected his wine recommendation to other guests. As Andrey points out, Leplevsky has friends in influential positions in the party.

This is the first bad omen for Rostov's celebration for his grandmother. The second is that the lobby is being redecorated with communist paraphernalia, as Stalin is expected to attend a reception for Anna's latest movie at the hotel. Rostov spots Nina among the people helping to set up the banners.

At the celebration, only Mishka and, eventually, Nina attend. Mishka tells Rostov the other guests would have been nervous even before Stalin was rumored to be coming to the hotel, but Rostov remains steadfast that people will show up to honor his grandmother. This leads to him exploding at Andrey when he asks what to do with the food, with Rostov demanding that they wait.

Rostov laments once again about the wine bottles, to which Nina says it's only wine. Rostov argues wine captures a moment in history, telling a story of place and time. But Nina agrees with the party that wine is a "monument to privilege" and getting rid of these old ways is good for Russia to progress. Rostov is shocked, asking what has happened to her? Before he can apologize, Nina leaves.

Realizing the night is a failure, Rostov asks Mishka to go as well, as he wants to be alone. He then throws the food and dishes on the ground in anger, only stopping when Glebnikov comes in. Glebnikov reveals all of Rostov's guests are now living in squalor and dreaming of the old ways, hinting they are still monitored, proving Mishka's point of the danger that could have come from them attending. Glebnikov also reminds Rostov he is still a prisoner in the hotel.

All of this leads to Rostov preparing to take his own life. He leaves a note for Nina and then heads to the roof. As he inches toward the edge, Abram appears, telling him the bees have returned and asks him to come see. He hands Rostov a piece of bread with the new batch of honey; it has the taste of apple, like the honey from Rostov's family estate. Abram says the bees must have come back from Rostov's home, calling it a sign they want Rostov to look after them. Abram tells Rostov he has much more to give, begging him not to waste it.

Rostov returns to the hotel bar, where Anna is also commiserating after Stalin opted not to attend the reception after apparently not liking the movie, signaling that Anna's career may be over. Rostov makes a toast to them, a confederacy of the humbled. Together they head up to Anna's room, with her lovingly holding his hand when they are in the elevator.

Good Times

Season 1
Episode Number: 4
Season Episode: 4

Originally aired:	Friday April 19, 2024
Writer:	Ben Vanstone
Director:	Sarah O’Gorman
Show Stars:	Ewan McGregor (Count Alexander Rostov), Mary Elizabeth Winstead (Anna Urbanova), Anastasia Hille (Olga), Björn Hlynur Haraldsson (Emily Zhukovsky), Fehinti Balogun (Mikhail "Mishka" Mindich), John Heffernan ("The Bishop" Leplevsky), Johnny Harris (Osip Glebnikov), Leah Harvey (Marina Samarova), Lyes Salem (Andrey Duras), Paul Ready (Prince Nikolai Petrov), Daniel Cerqueira (Vasily)
Guest Stars:	Anna Madeley (Narrator (voice)), Jason Forbes (Alexei Nachevko), Matthew Wynn (General Belsky), Camilla Beeput (Freya), Gabriel Robinson (Yasha), Josh Weller (Demetri), Adam Fidusiewicz (Vladimir), Dee Ahluwalia (Audrius), Leah Balmforth (Nina Kulikova), Lily Newmark (Helena), Charley Palmer Rothwell (Pulonov), Maddie Evans (Alina), Pauline Turner (Maria), Jonny Lavelle (Army Officer), Sayyid El Alami (Ilya), Billie Gadsdon (Sofia)
Summary:	The Count is forced to undertake a dangerous mission, one that will lead to a battle for his soul. Meanwhile, Anna’s professional relationships are beset by political complications, as Mishka grows increasingly disenchanted with the Party.



Rostov has been under house arrest at the Metropol for more than 10 years when *A Gentleman in Moscow* episode 4 begins, but the former aristocrat has found peace in his new life. He now works as a waiter at the hotel’s restaurant, a symbol of a burgeoning Russia, with foreign dignitaries dining there and even wine labels back in fashion.

Things are going well for Rostov’s love life as well, as he and Anna continue their tryst. He even plays matchmaker for chef Emily and Marina. But not everything is

as idyllic as it appears, as Rostov learns the hard way.

In addition to being a waiter, Rostov is also the personal etiquette tutor for Glebnikov. Glebnikov notes how Rostov has made the Metropol his own kind of fiefdom, but reminds him who is in charge when he tasks him to spy on Alexei Nachevko, the minister of culture, as there are rumors he is a traitor. Rostov protests, but Glebnikov reminds him he has no other choice.

Rostov does as he is told, watching Nachevko as he sits and chats with General Belsky. He notices an envelope discreetly passed between them. His observation is disrupted by an American reporter staying at the hotel, Freya, who wants to tell Rostov’s story. He declines and then cuts her off when he spots Nina in the lobby with others.

They’re reunion is a bit awkward, and Nina tells him she is going to the countryside as part of a project that Stalin has developed. Rostov invites her to stay for a drink, but she has to go. They shake hands and she leaves with her friends.

Rostov’s observation of Nachevko continues, as he eyes Anna having lunch with him. Mishka draws his attention back to their own dealings when he brings up a new assignment: censoring

the famous playwright Anton Chekov's letters that compliment Germany's bread, as saying any other food is better than Russian food is forbidden. Mishka believes the assignment is ridiculous and told his superiors as much, which has led to him having a meeting on it later that week. Rostov advises him to be wise. Mishka will do his best, but believes words matter and plans to defend his stance against unnecessary censorship.

Rostov is surprised when Nina returns to the hotel to see him. She explains the awkwardness as it has been so long since they've seen each other, but they quickly settle into their old ways.

They go to the roof, where Nina takes out the binoculars that Rostov gave her years ago to look at the city, saying she always has them with her. Rostov apologizes for how he acted and the loss of their friendship, but Nina corrects him; it was never lost, just misplaced. He invites her to stay for dinner, but her train to the country leaves that night, excited for the important work she is going to do. Rostov hopes she finds time for her own life.

As the kitchen preps dinner, an associate of Glebnikov enters and takes one of the chefs away for an apparent affront to the party. The kitchen is shaken as they know he is unlikely to ever return. The question of who may be next lingers over them all.

With this in mind, Rostov rushes to Anna's room to warn her about being close to Nachevko. However, she is dining with Nachevko at the very moment. Rostov is able to play it off, but Anna is upset with him once Nachevko leaves, as Nachevko is helping her get another movie role. Rostov was only looking out for her, but Anna and her assistant Olga have long taken care of each other without anyone else's help.

After dinner, Rostov returns to his room to find Mishka, beaten. He did not stay calm during his meeting with his superiors. Mishka reveals what is really happening in Russia — people in the country (including where Nina is going) are starving as farmers are being kicked off their land and crops are dying, with things likely to get worse. The stash of food at the Metropol, Mishka explains, is to keep up appearances to foreigners to make it seem that Russia is thriving as the US is going through the Great Depression. Mishka is now ashamed of his part in the revolution.

Mishka's actions put him in grave danger, so Rostov takes it upon himself to try and save his friend, getting a message to Glebnikov.

After an awkward birthday dinner for his daughter at the Metropol, Glebnikov talks with Rostov in his room; Mishka hides in the secret room, listening in. Rostov makes the case for Mishka's life, but Glebnikov insists there is no way back for him unless Rostov is able to give Glebnikov information on Nachevko. Rostov says he found nothing of note about Nachevko. Glebnikov believes Nachevko and Belsky are plotting to overthrow Stalin and he needs what Rostov can give him to make his case irrefutable. He wonders why Rostov refuses to do this to protect Mishka when he has done other horrible things to protect his loved ones in the past.

This refers to Rostov killing a suitor of his sister Alina who treated her dishonorably. That relationship began after Rostov ended things between Mishka and Alina.

Mishka warns Rostov that passing along info to Glebnikov would condemn Nachevko and Belsky to death. If he does so, it will dishonor them both and be the end of their friendship.

Still, when Rostov has the chance, he goes to search Belsky's room for anything he can find to save Mishka. He finds the note he saw passed between the two men in the bar hidden in a notebook. However, it is not secret plans to overthrow Stalin, but a hand drawing of Belsky done by Nachevko, revealing to Rostov the two are in love. Knowing the pain he caused previously by ruining two people's love, he puts the drawing back.

Unfortunately, even if Rostov had found anything, Mishka ensured his own demise. Getting drunk in the hotel bar, he causes a scene, proclaiming people are dying. Glebnikov, who has been watching all of this from a balcony, signals to have Mishka taken.

Rostov meets with Glebnikov and refuses to give information on Nachevko and Belsky, pleading with him to do the honorable thing and save Mishka and build his case against Nachevko legitimately. The old world and honor are gone though, Glebnikov claims. He tells Rostov he will never see Mishka again. Meanwhile, he simply arrests Belsky and, as the narrator explains, "applied pressure" until he broke.

Rostov rushes to Freya, telling her about Mishka and the famine in the country, saying she could use that for her story. But she stops him and says "there is no famine," not willing to risk her life by telling the truth. She advises Rostov to do the same.

Six years pass when one night Nina returns to the hotel. But she is not alone, her young daughter, Sofia, is with her. She is flustered as she tells Rostov that her husband has been

sentenced to five years in a corrective labor camp and his train leaves that night. She intends to follow him and she needs Rostov to look over Sofia until she returns, as she has no one else who can help. He says of course. Nina hands him Sofia's things and a picture of Nina and her husband, then tells him she should have stayed at the hotel all those years ago. They hug and she departs.

An Arrival

Season 1
Episode Number: 5
Season Episode: 5

Originally aired:	Friday April 26, 2024
Writer:	Ben Vanstone
Director:	Sarah O’Gorman
Show Stars:	Ewan McGregor (Count Alexander Rostov), Mary Elizabeth Winstead (Anna Urbanova), Anastasia Hille (Olga), Björn Hlynur Haraldsson (Emily Zhukovsky), Fehinti Balogun (Mikhail "Mishka" Mindich), John Heffernan ("The Bishop" Leplevsky), Johnny Harris (Osip Glebnikov), Leah Harvey (Marina Samarova), Lyes Salem (Andrey Duras), Paul Ready (Prince Nikolai Petrov), Daniel Cerqueira (Vasily)
Guest Stars:	Billie Gadsdon (Sofia), Alexa Goodall (Nina Kulikova (Young)), Rob Jarvis (Halecki), Gabriel Robinson (Yasha), Sayyid El Alami (Ilya), Jason Forbes (Alexei Nachevko), Ines Pires Tavares (Mila Federova), Jenna Boyd (Madam Stravinsky), Anna Madeley (Narrator (voice)), Leah Balmforth (Nina Kulikova), Sofia Price (Hotel Guest)
Summary:	The Count’s world is turned upside down when an unexpected arrival is placed in his care.



The episode opens just as episode 4 ended, with Rostov standing bewildered in the lobby with Nina’s daughter Sofia, as Nina has left in search of her husband. Rostov makes every effort to carry on and act appropriately, but little does he know what this will do to his life.

Immediately, Sofia takes up residence in Rostov’s bed. Though she is not malicious or spoiled, when a note is slipped under the door for Rostov, she doesn’t open it or wake him, instead putting it in his jacket pocket. Still, she is silent un-

til Rostov asks about her doll. But pleasantries is one thing Rostov has always been good at, brushing a young girl’s hair is a whole other matter.

Sofia’s presence quickly becomes common knowledge in the hotel. Unfortunately, not everyone is thrilled by it. Leplevsky, now deputy manager of the hotel, is ready to put Sofia in a party-run orphanage, but Rostov pleads for time to find a better solution, and hotel manager Halecki agrees to give him a month.

Eventually, Rostov finds the note Sofia put in his pocket. It’s from Anna, inviting him to her room at 1 pm. Already late for their rendezvous, he dashes off. Undressing as he enters the room, he is surprised to find Anna’s assistant Olga in the tub, who is having her own secret affair with concierge Vasily.

When Anna does arrive, she tells Rostov her plans have changed, she must now get ready for a dinner with a director about her next leading role before leaving for a few days. She does have Rostov fill her in on who Sofia is and offers a tip on hair brushing. Rostov then asks if he can have a favor, which Anna immediately rejects, believing he is going to ask her to be a surrogate mother. However, he just needs to borrow her suitcases.

Rostov uses them to grab things from the hotel storage room to make his small room more accommodating for Sofia and him. Despite building a makeshift bed meant for her, Sofia takes

the big bed again. Sofia asks when her mother is coming back? Rostov tells her it may be a little while.

Rostov is still getting used to having Sofia ever present, though he does his best to be considerate of her. However, when he needs to read a book, he gets flustered and makes her cry. He instantly apologizes and decides they should play a game.

He hides a thimble in his secret room and she has to try to find it. He believes this is going to occupy her so he can read his book, but she immediately finds the thimble as Rostov didn't take much time to hide it. He assumes that's the end of that, but she insists now it's his turn. In the other room, he hears her moving chairs about and believes he'll instantly be able to find the thimble as well. However, when the time comes, he is stumped. Sofia reveals she hid it in his jacket, saying it was in the room when they started his turn so it was fair; her moving the chair was misdirection. Rostov is impressed. When she asks to play again he can't help but agree.

The only problem is the book Sofia prevented him from reading was the latest book he and Glebnikov were reading for their recurring dinners. Glebnikov quickly spots Rostov didn't read the book, but is also aware that Sofia is the reason why. He is sympathetic to Rostov's situation and allows him to return to take care of Sofia, but the next time they meet Rostov must have read the book.

As Rostov tucks Sofia in for bed, she calls him Uncle Alexander and gives him a kiss on the cheek. They have quickly come to care for one another.

One day, Rostov and Sofia overhear an argument taking place at the front desk between Olga and Leplevsky. Olga is upset that the suite Anna has always stayed in has been given to a rising actress named Mila, who Leplevsky points out is well thought of by Stalin. Instead of getting angry, Anna plays it cool and goes to wish Mila good luck. Though Mila is an admirer of Anna, she reveals she is taking the part Anna thought she was getting. Making it worse, she suggests Anna could play the character's mother.

While this is happening, Rostov and Sofia rush to join Olga in the elevator up to the hotel room. Olga can't help but notice Sofia hasn't had a proper bath and reluctantly agrees to give her one.

Rostov and Anna talk while Sofia is getting her bath. He says he can't offer what Sofia truly needs, a mother. This again riles Anna up. She reveals Mila took her role and that she hates the idea that all she can be now is a mother. Rostov apologizes and says he was not asking that of her. Still, Sofia will need someone who can give her a life outside the walls of the hotel. But Anna says what she truly needs is love and believes Rostov is the best thing Sofia has. Rostov just worries he's not enough.

Sofia has been living at the hotel for a month now, and Leplevsky is eager to remove her. He goes above Halecki's head and plans to have Sofia placed in an orphanage that night. Rostov protests, but Halecki says with Rostov not being Sofia's family, there's nothing he can do.

Defeated, Rostov packs Sofia's things. He tells her she's going to a place where she can play with other children and have someone who knows how to brush her hair, but she doesn't care, she wants to be with Rostov. She asks teary-eyed, "don't you love me," to which he says of course, so she wonders why can't she stay.

Rostov goes to Anna for one last attempt to keep Sofia with him. Like Rostov, it seems Anna can't say no to Sofia.

Anna returns to the bar and orders two drinks for her and Mila. She apologizes for how she acted and now wants to give her some wisdom on how to survive in the Russian film industry. She reveals she has a secret code with Audrius, the bartender, to use water in her drink so she can stay sharp and walk the dangerous tightrope as the powerful men who want to use her get drunker and drunker.

Nachevko compliments Anna's generous guidance for Mila. He tries to assure Anna there will be other parts for her, but Anna knows her film career is over, which she is actually OK with, as it will give her a chance to return to the theater. Nachevko then thanks her for her discretion on his orientation. She says she will continue to keep that secret, but she does have a favor to ask of him.

Rostov and Sofia come to the lobby, where they are met by Leplevsky. However, Rostov says "his niece" will be staying with him, reminding Halecki he said if Sofia were family she could stay and as the manager of the hotel it's ultimately his decision. With Nachevko nodding his support

as a ranking party member (his favor for Anna), Halecki says of course Sofia can stay. Leplevsky is furious and says people will find out about what Halecki has done, but he doesn't care.

Back in their room, Rostov puts Sofia to bed. Sofia asks if her mother will return. For the first time, Rostov admits he doesn't know, but he promises he will look after her for as long as it takes, even if it's forever.

The narrator, an older Sofia, reveals Nina would never return, with no record of what happened to her, just that she disappeared in the Russian East. However, we see Nina's body dumped into a mass grave, one of the countless people lost under the Soviet regime.

Actor Appearances

A

Dee Ahluwalia	4
0101 (Audrius); 0102 (Audrius); 0103 (Audrius); 0104 (Audrius)	
Emmanuel Akinkuolie	1
0103 (Damir)	
Sayyid El Alami	2
0104 (Ilya); 0105 (Ilya)	

B

Leah Balmforth	3
0103 (Nina Kulikova); 0104 (Nina Kulikova); 0105 (Nina Kulikova)	
Camilla Beeput	1
0104 (Freya)	
Adam Bendall	3
0101 (Bolshevik); 0102 (Bolshevik); 0103 (Bolshe- vik)	
Rebecca Bolton	1
0103 (Lyubov)	
Jenna Boyd	1
0105 (Madam Stravinsky)	
Alina Bychalova	2
0101 (Cloakroom Attendant); 0102 (Receptionist)	

C

Dermot Crowley	1
0103 (Abram)	

D

Ross Donnelly	1
0101 (Bar Patron)	
Penny Downie	3
0101 (The Countess); 0102 (The Countess); 0103 (The Countess)	

E

Matthew Earley	1
0101 (Heavy Set Customer)	
Maddie Evans	1
0104 (Alina)	

F

Adam Fidusiewicz	1
0104 (Vladimir)	
Jason Forbes	4
0102 (Alexei Nachevko); 0103 (Alexei Nachevko); 0104 (Alexei Nachevko); 0105 (Alexei Nachevko)	
Sky Frances	1

0101 (Chef de Partie)

Steve Furst	1
0101 (Ignatov)	

G

Michael Gabbitas	1
0101 (Bar Customer)	
Billie Gadsdon	2
0104 (Sofia); 0105 (Sofia)	
Alexa Goodall	3
0101 (Nina Kulikova); 0102 (Nina); 0105 (Nina Ku- likova (Young))	
Amy Graham	2
0101 (Bell Girl); 0102 (Bell Girl)	

H

Jean-Pascal Heynemand	2
0101 (Shalyapin Barman); 0103 (Shalyapin Bar- man)	
Emil Hostina	1
0101 (Vyshinsky)	
Matilda Hunt	2
0101 (Young Helena); 0103 (Young Helena)	

J

Rob Jarvis	3
0101 (Halecki); 0103 (Halecki); 0105 (Halecki)	

L

Divian Ladwa	1
0101 (Yaroslav)	
Jonny Lavelle	1
0104 (Army Officer)	
Spike Leighton	1
0101 (Gleb)	
Jordan Long	1
0103 (Konstantin)	

M

Anna Madeley	4
0101 (Narrator (voice)); 0103 (Narrator (voice)); 0104 (Narrator (voice)); 0105 (Narrator (voice))	
Joel Morris	1
0102 (Ivan Milovic)	
Elliot Mugume	1
0103 (Yasha (10 Years))	

N

Lily Newmark	4
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0101 (Helena); 0102 (Helena); 0103 (Helena); 0104 (Helena)

P

Mylo Rayne Pateman-Fannan 2
0101 (Yasha (4 Years)); 0102 (Yasha (4 Years))
Sofia Price 1
0105 (Hotel Guest)

R

Gabriel Robinson 2
0104 (Yasha); 0105 (Yasha)
Charley Palmer Rothwell 3
0101 (Pulonov); 0102 (Pulonov); 0104 (Pulonov)
Damian Rozanek 3
0101 (Bellboy); 0102 (Piazza Waiter); 0103 (Bellboy)

T

Ines Pires Tavares 1
0105 (Mila Federova)
Jamie Treacher 1
0101 (Red Soldier)
Pauline Turner 1
0104 (Maria)

W

Rachel Walker 3
0101 (Hotel Guest); 0102 (Hotel Guest); 0103 (Hotel Guest)
Josh Weller 1
0104 (Demetri)
Thom Williamson 1
0102 (Red Guard)
Matthew Wynn 1
0104 (General Belsky)