

## Document Citation

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# AELITA (1924)

Do NOT read:	READ:
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1	<b>AELITA</b>
2	From the film collection of the Gosfilmofond, the State Film Archive of the USSR
3	The history of the Soviet feature films: <b>THE SILENT FILM</b>
4	The Main Department Film Theater Development and Film Distribution and the All-Union State Film Archive present:
5	<b>AELITA</b>
6	The film was produced in 1924. It is loosely based on a novel of the same name written by Aleksei Tolstoi

7		This was one of the first screen adaptations in the history of Soviet silent film.
8		The artistic quality of the film is somewhat reduced because the script deviates from the novel.
9		A group of talented actors was cast for the film. Of special interest are the set design and the costumes

START OF THE ORIGINAL INTERTITLES:	
Do NOT read:	READ:

10		On December 4, 1922, at 18 hours and 27 minutes Central European Time, all radio stations of the Earth received a strange radio message.
11	[China]	"Anta... Odeli... Uta..."
12	[Africa]	"Anta... Odeli... Uta..."
13	[Russia]	" Anta... Odeli... Uta..."
14		Engineer Los (played by Nikolai Tsereteli) was temporarily in charge of the Moscow radio station.
15	[Los:]	- Submit it right away to our code breakers.
16		At the medical facility of the Kursky Railway Station.

17		Natasha, the wife of Engineer Los, worked at the station's medical facility (played by Valentina Kuindzhi).
18		Gusev, a Red Army soldier, (played by Nikolai Batalov) comes to Moscow straight from the front, in order to convalesce.
19		The specialists could not decode the mysterious radio message.
20	[A colleague:]	- Could this message be from Mars, to our inventors?
21		Engineer Spiridonov (also played by Nikolai Tsereteli), a colleague of Los, is his closest friend.
22	[Spiridonov:]	- Why not? What if they got worried out there on Mars, because of our work?..
23	[Spiridonov:]	- Come to the phone, you happy new husband!.. It's your wife again...
24	[Natasha:]	- I got off work earlier today. Can you come and meet me now?
25	[Messages in the radio station log	"Kozlov: The agrarian conference opened. "Tiflis: A storm passed over the city with torrential rain and hail

	radio station log book:]	"Tiflis: A storm passed over the city, with torrential rain and hail.  "Ante... Odeli... Uta... 6:27 p.m.  "Simbirsk: Three goods trains departed, carrying bread for the unemployed."
26		Los dedicated all of his mind and energy to the task of solving an unusual problem: the flight to Mars. He often dreamt of life over there...
27		Aelita, the Reigning Queen (played by Julia Solntseva)
28		Her favorite servant Ikhoshka (played by Aleksandra Peregonets)
29		Tuskub, the Ruler (played by Konstantin Eggert)
30		Gor, the Keeper of Planetary Energy (played by Yuri Zavadski)
31		Gor built a device which made it possible to witness events on other planets.
32	[Tuskub:]	- A great achievement! But it should be a secret... For everyone!..
33	[Aelita:]	- You must show me other worlds!.. No one will know...

34	[Gor:]	- All right... meet me tonight at the Tower of Radiant Energy.
35		That evening.
36	[Gor:]	- To you alone will I show life on the neighboring planet.
37	[Gor:]	- It's time to go. Tuskub might catch us.
38	[Aelita:]	- Touch my lips with yours... just like people on Earth do.
39		Spiridonov spent every evening at his friend's house where they were inventing an apparatus for a flight to Mars.
40	[Los:]	- If only we could find a source of energy to overcome Earth's gravity!
41		At the hospital, everyone liked Gusev, from the very first evening.
42		The nurse Masha (played by Vera Orlova)
43	[Gusev sings a ditty:]	- "Love me now or love me not!.." "Money's not what a soldier's got! "



	ditty:]	"Money's not what a soldier's got!.."
44		In 1921 railway companies could not complain of lack of passengers.
45		Comrade Erlikh <sup>1</sup> and his wife Elena (played by Pavel Polk and N. Tretiakova)
46	[Sign on the wall (top right):]	[No Cussing]
47	[Poster on the wall (at right):]	["Everyone, defend Petrograd!"]
48	[Natasha:]	- We do not provide rooms. Try the Women's Committee.
49	[Erlikh writes a note on his card:]	"You are so charming..."
50	[Natasha:]	- Leave at once! Such impudence!

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<sup>1</sup> Erlikh is an ethnic German, his name means "honest" (German: "ehrlich").--Translator's Note.



51	[Elena:]	- Viktor, I have the address of my old acquaintance... Why don't we try him!
52		That day rations were distributed at the station hospital.
53	[Name on the card that stuck to the package:]	["Viktor Karlovich Erlikh"]
54	[Spiridonov:]	- I'm not angry anymore, Elena. Let bygones...
55	[Erlikh:]	- Tell him I'm your brother...
56	[Neighbor Lady:]	- It's white bread!
57	[Los discovers the note:]	["Viktor Karlovich Erlikh"]
58	[Los:]	- Who wrote this to you?
59	[The text of the note:]	"Your are so charming that I cannot believe you can be so cruel to me..."

	note:]	
60	[Natasha:]	- Are you jealous?
61		Erlikh brought enough food to have a wonderful feast, bringing back memories of the "beautiful past".
62	[Erlikh:]	- Dang! This wine turned to vinegar! And we used to have...
63	[Neighbor Lady:]	- Ah, people used to be so fine, so delicate...
64	[Neighbor Gentleman:]	- Yes, Sir! There used to be or-r-rder!
65		The days passed. Los doggedly continued with his experiments.
66		His experiments still went nowhere, and once again Los got lost in dreams.
67	[Head of the House Committee:]	- Excuse me! I'm in charge of this building, and I'm carrying out my duties.

68	[Head of the House Committee:]	- For the new lodger, you must vacate your lab.
69	[Erlikh:]	- We've met before. Do you remember?
70	[Natasha:]	- Please meet Citizen Erlikh. He is our new lodger.
71		At the station hospital, everybody was busy preparing a theater performance.
72	[Poster:]	"Today's Show: One With The Plow, Seven With The Spoon"
73	[Natasha:]	- Come join us...We're having a terribly good time.
74		Elena carried out her husband's instructions with success.
75		On the day of the show, Natasha went to the People's Food Commissariat to receive the community food rations.
76		Erlikh felt great in his new role of a Soviet official.

77	[Text of the Release Permit:]	Release Permit  Release one sack of sugar  to Citizen Pavlov,  Representative of the 9 <sup>th</sup> Reconnaissance Aviation Squadron
78	[Erlikh:]	- I've brought some sugar. We must hide it.. Hurry!..
79	[Elena:]	- Didn't I tell you that this goose is still good for something?
80		The inhabitants of the hospital were determined to outdo professional actors.
81	[Slogan:]	"All power to the Soviets. Peace to those who created them."
82	[Natasha:]	- This is Comrade Gusev, our Chief Assistant Director.
83	[Natasha:]	- Real chocolate!
84	[Sign on the wall:]	No Cussing
85	[Los:]	- I must return home, I have a lot of work.

86	[Sign on the wall:]	No Smoking
87		At the food distribution center they made an unpleasant discovery.
88		The manager of the food distribution center turned for help to the head of the Moscow Criminal Investigation Department.
89	[CID boss:]	- Investigate this, and, if necessary, carry out a search where Citizen Erlikh lives.
90	[Kravtsov: (played by Igor Il'ynski)]	- But I have a special talent! I swear to god. I'll prove it to you.
91	[CID boss:]	- Citizen Kravtsov, I will tell you once again: I will not hire you. In my opinion, you're unfit for our kind of work.
92		It was necessary to go to Spiridonov's to get China ink.
93	[Erlikh:]	- Tired, comrade? You have my sympathy
94	[Los:]	- I found it in the pocket of your overcoat. You've been lying to me!



95		After this quarrel, their first, the night dragged on and on.
96	[Erlikh:]	- Would you like to go to a ball tonight and spite all the "comrades"?
97	[The letter:]	"To Comrade Los  The Administration of the Volkhov <sup>2</sup> Hydroelectric Plant Construction  would like to congratulate you on successfully completing one year of work... "
98	[Natasha:]	- Are you leaving?
99	[Los moves his lips saying:]	["Yes!"]
100		Kravtsov decided to investigate the case of the missing sugar sacks.
101		The place where "serious people" meet...
102	[Erlikh:]	- All tickets were sold, so you'll earn a lot!

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<sup>2</sup> The first electrical plant completed by the Soviets. It is located north of Moscow, east of St. Petersburg, and south of Ladoga Lake.--Translator's Note.

103	[Note in Erlikh's notebook:]	"Unauthorized meeting at Petrovski Boulevard, 6"
104	[Erlikh:]	- Some goose you've got there!.. All he lavished on you, over the whole week, is only this locket?...
105	[The words in the log book:]	"Anta... Odeli... Uta..."
106		Each time Los remembered the mysterious radio message, his imagination took off again.
107		It had been many days since Aelita could see the Earth and...
108	[Ikhoshka:]	- The Elders are meeting today. No one will see you go to the tower.
109	[Aelita:]	- How dare you conceal Gor's device from me?
110	[Tuskub:]	- You are the reigning queen, but we are the ones who rule. The tower will remain closed.
111	[Gor:]	- The Elders thus decree that one third of our manpower must go to the refrigeration units for storage.



		for storage.
112		None of the workers who were toiling for the Elders could leave their underground dwellings.
113	[A Guard:]	- The group goes into the fridges! The first third only!
114	[Gor:]	- Are you avoiding me, Aelita?- You think only of the man from Earth...
115	[Aelita:]	- Wait for me here. I'll come out to you.
116		The Martians are obviously no strangers to feelings like jealousy...
117	[Gor:]	- Are you in love with the man from Earth? You'll never see him again
118	[Los:]	- I will leave all drawings of my Interplanetary Vehicle with you. Keep them safe. This is my life's work.
119	[Spiridonov:]	- Are you going alone? What about Natasha?
120		Natasha impatiently awaited her husband...

121	[Erlikh:]	- Come with me to the ball. The best people will be there. Your husband won't be against it
122	[Erlikh:]	- Let's go just to spite him Let's have a good time!
123		The unauthorized ball <sup>3</sup> of the "best people".
124		The ball organizers persuade Natasha to have supper with them.
125	[Spiridonov:]	- I thought you were at the railway station, seeing your husband off
126	[Erlikh:]	- My enchantress, my darling! Stay some more... for half an hour, even a quarter of an hour
127	[Los' note:]	"I had to leave tonight. I regret not saying goodbye. My business trip may be long . Your L.
128		Los felt happy only when participating in the task of building a new Russia.
129		Slowly but steadily, life returned to normal. There was less work - at the station hospital...
130	[Masha:]	- May I go see that dolt off?

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<sup>3</sup> At that time, a gathering , even if it was for dancing had to be permitted by the authorities.--Translator's Note.

131	[Natasha:]	- Go, Masha, go. I'll manage alone.
132	[Natasha's letter:]	"March 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 1922. It's been three months since you left. You've sent me only three postcards. I don't know if this is the end..."
133	[Sign:]	"The Soviet of the Red Presnya District"
134	[Sign:]	"Registry Office"
135		After the station hospital closed down, Natasha was appointed Orphanage Manager.
136		Engineer Los' business trip was coming to its end.
137	[Official paper:]	"To: Engineer M.S. Los  The Administration of the Volkhov Construction site would like to thank you for your good work during the last six months."
138	[A letter from Spiridonov:]	"Dear friend,  It's been two months since I left Russia... for good. I am ashamed to admit that habits of the past turned out to be stronger than I am. I hid your drawings in your room, under the

		mantelpiece..."
139		And Los succumbed to his daydreams once again.
140		In his dreams, Los disguises himself as Spiridonov.
141	[A Mourner:]	- How strange... He wouldn't show his face for two months and suddenly he's here out of the blue, as if he fell from the moon...
142		The new crime could mean new laurels for Kravtsov.
143	[Kravtsov:]	- This guy looks suspicious! I must find out who he is.
144		One of the outlying suburbs of Moscow.
145		Kravtsov at work.
146	[Kravtsov:]	- Don't touch it! This glove will help me track down the criminal.
147		With no more battles to fight, Gusev was unhappy with his enforced inactivity.



148	[Gusev:]	- I can't live without real work! I created four republics, and now I'm stagnating here with you...
149		Hot on the trail.
150	[Kravtsov:]	- I arrest you on charges of...
151	[Los:]	- Do you have a warrant?
152	[Gusev:]	- It's about the flight... I'm all for it, with pleasure...
153	[Los:]	- You should think twice, Comrade. It's a lot of risk for very little gain.
154	[Gusev:]	- Now, that's what ambition means Tomorrow I'm flying to Mars!
155		On the eve of his departure, Los paid all of his workers.
156		Next morning, a special revolutionary holiday Was celebrated in Moscow.
157		Where a good detective is not allowed to drive through, he'll find a way to walk.

158		Five minutes to takeoff.
159	[Los:]	- We're going up! We're flying!
160	[Kravtsov:]	- Engineer Spiridonov, you are under arrest for unauthorized entry into the Russian Federation and for killing the wife of Engineer Los.
161	[Los:]	- Some Pinkerton you are! How come you didn't notice my false beard and wig?
162	[Kravtsov:]	- In this case, Engineer Los... you are arrested... for living under an assumed image...
163	[Tuskub:]	- This projectile is on a straight course from Earth!
164	[Tuskub:]	- The observatory will determine where and when the projectile will land. The Earth people must be liquidated.
165	[Aelita:]	- You should not harm these people from Earth.
166	[Tuskub:]	- We will destroy them. We will not allow the virus of their rebellions to spread around Mars!

167	[Astronomer:]	- I know where and when the projectile will fall.
168		The Elders would not leave. They were awaiting the final report from the observatory.
169	[Aelita:]	- Hurry and bring the guests from Earth to me.
170		The moment indicated by the Astronomer is drawing near.
171	[Kravtsov:]	- Comrades, are you perchance from the police? Would you help me arrest a certain person.
172	[Gusev:]	- Permit me to present myself: Brigade Commander Gusev from Budyonny's Red Cavalry.
173	[Elders:]	- Tuskub! Tuskub! He is from Earth...
174	[Kravtsov:]	- Comrade Tuskubov! I request your permission to arrest, criminal Los who has arrived on your territory.
175	[Aelita:]	- Touch my lips with yours, just like you do on Earth.
176	[Gor:]	- Do you recognize this necklace, Tuskub?



177	[Gusev sings:]	- "Love me now or love me not"  "Money's not what a soldier's got!"
178	[Aelita:]	- You're mine! We will rule over all of them together.
179	[Los:]	- I will never forgive myself for raising my hand against you!
180	[Tuskub:]	- The Elders order this man from Earth arrested, Aelita.
181		The free word of the free people has vanquished thousands of years of the Elders' rule.
182	[Gusev:]	- Comrades! Only you can help yourselves. We started just like you did. It all started with...
183	[Blazing sign:]	"October 25, 1917 <sup>4</sup> "
184	[Gusev:]	- Follow our example, comrades! Create a united family of the working people in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics of Mars!

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<sup>4</sup> The date of the October Revolution engineered by the Bolsheviks in St. Petersburg--it is in the "old style", the new style being 13 days later: November 7, 1917.--Translator's Note.

185	[Aelita:]	- I'm with you, too! I will lead you myself!
186	[Gusev:]	- Oh, I don't believe it... It's not proper for the masters to organize revolutions.
187	[Aelita:]	- Now the power is yours! You can lay down your arms. They will never ever be used on Mars.
188	[Los:]	- Victory! The army is on our side!
189	[Aelita:]	- Open fire on the rebels! Throw them back into their underground quarters!
190	[Aelita:]	- Now I alone can both reign and rule!
191	[Sign:]	"Anta Odeli Uta"
192	[The full text of an advertisement poster:]	"Buy only tires by Anta Odeli Uta, 239 135 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, New York "
193	[The sign fills the screen:]	"Buy only our brand of tires: Anta Odeli Uta!! Now we can reveal it: the mysterious radio message was about our new brand of tires. NewYoRussar Company. Rubber Industries"

	screen:]	message was about our new brand of tires. NewYoRussar Company, Rubber Industries"
194	[Gusev:]	- We're off to the Far Eastern front. Our train leaves in an hour.
195	[Los:]	- I'm daydreaming again... I killed my wife, half an hour ago... But I won't run away, no... I'll go back to her...
196	[Gusev:]	- We can't just leave him like that. What if he needs help?
197	[Los:]	- I was insane when I shot at you... and all my life I'll thank my stars that I missed.
198	[Natasha:]	- You still don't trust me?
199	[Los:]	- No, I believe you, I do... Please forgive me.
200	[Policeman:]	- Under Investigation Department orders, you are under arrest.
201	[Los:]	- Enough dreaming! A different, a real work awaits us.
202		THE END