

Pagans

*“It rang and rang, and then a Russian man
picked it up and answered, identifying himself
as an agent of the Federal Security Service.”*

“A Playwright’s Voice, Silenced in a Flash of Terrorism in Moscow.”

Barry, Ellen, [*New York Times*](#), January 26, 2011.

It was the unwanted answer

the wrong voice

official

male

foreign

and a story that should never be heard.

Anna Mashutina, a young
Ukrainian playwright, was late
picking up the award for her play

“Pagans”

in Moscow.

Blue eyes shrouded

by the unclaimed award

fame's lament

yarn snipped

before the weaving was done

Whose names remain unspoken?

How many daughters fall asleep

without a mother's kiss

The master of ceremonies
told her husband
that he would keep it for her;

he kept calling her cell phone.

Those who knew her
would say how bashful
she was when receiving praise.

Her writing took off
after her daughter was born.

She hated flying
never wanting to be away
from her three-year old.

At least 35 people
were killed that day

at Domodedovo Airport

by a suicide bomber.

the cruelty of chance

While you are reading this

poem

160 people will die around the world.

Many more

while I was writing.

The echo is now lost

the air shallow

heart pounding for two

wet cheeks

where her lips brushed goodbye

Поки не побачу вас знову моя любов

till I see you again my love