

# BULGARIAN NATIONAL TELEVISION

TEMPTATIONS -2006

“I SPY”

## SYNOPSIS

This is a story about the temptation called curiosity. About that ticklish feeling typical of human beings, which makes them discover new worlds and phenomena, invent new emotions and an array of new things. It can be claimed, probably, that curiosity is the biggest temptation for almost all of us.

In our story, curiosity will lead the protagonist, Alex, to the discovery of a new friendship.

Alex is an ordinary nine-year old boy. He loves looking closer at everything that surrounds him, analyzing it, and making conclusions which he then writes down in a special diary of reflections, impressions and captured moments. Part of these observations he makes with binoculars – or rather, a telescope – while others, the most interesting ones, he photographs. He often drops in the photo studio underneath the residential block across the street.

One day Alex comes out of the studio. He makes a few steps when something draws his attention. He notices a colourful spot moving on one of the balconies. Alex turns around swiftly and sees a girl, Maria, arranging flowerpots along her balcony. The girl is so lit up by the sun and surrounded by such beautiful colours that Alex doesn't even notice how he lifts his camera and takes a picture of her. At first, the girl, absorbed in her work, doesn't see him, but as Alex is still standing there, staring at her, she smiles and waves at him. Embarrassed, he waves back, and then goes away. Together with Alex, we find out that Maria and her family have just moved in. This is where Alex's adventure begins as he now follows Maria everywhere, though from a distance, with his binoculars. Perhaps, these are the first indications that he likes the girl. He tries to surprise her on the way to school, in front of her block, and in all sorts of places. These are the typical friendly gestures of a young boy, with flowers, balloons, ice-cream, etc.

However, some kind of misunderstanding always occurs and somebody else steals the show, and receives the applause and her appreciative smile. And these are all occasions for a hearty laugh. Engulfed in his adventure, Alex runs into Maria's father several times. In the boy's eyes, he is a strange man. His clothes are peculiar, even artistic in a way. Sometimes he talks aloud in the street, uttering some strange declamations, gesticulating excitedly, whistling, etc.

Alex is alarmed by and suspicious about this man. Does Maria feel alright at home? Or is it just a delusion when he sees them together, and they seemingly have a lot of fun, demonstrating most ordinary relations? All Alex's observations are somewhat comical due to the boy's childish and naïve reactions.

One evening, when Alex is in his observation point, hidden behind a curtain, he sees in the window across the father's shadow. The father is moving back and forth, gesticulating abruptly. The boy's anxiety increases as he sees in the armchair opposite the father the silhouette of Maria, seated.

The father angrily waves his hands against the girl, approaches her, raises a hand to hit her, shakes her, and generally, behaves aggressively. Alex is very worried by what he has seen, and thinks how to help Maria. He decides to call the police but realizes that before doing so he needs evidence.

He takes a long fishing rod and puts a small recorder at one end. Then he quietly goes to the block across the street and raises the recorder to the level of the window. Alex waits for some time so that the sound can be recorded, then with his camera he photographs the shadows he sees through the window. He rushed back home to check the recording. However, all there is on the tape is just street noise. Next, he checks to see whether the pictures have come out properly, but due to the darkness, the images are vague. Confused, the boy takes another look at Maria's window. Nothing has changed there, the father now seems to act even more aggressively. So Alex takes a blanket and a long rope, and steals in Maria's block, resolved to help her. He quietly checks the doorknob, which turns out to be unlocked. The boy goes in. He can hear the father's angry speech. Through the glass-door, his shadow looks even more menacing. Alex quietly opens the door – from his position he can't see Maria sitting in the armchair. He sneaks behind the father's back and, taking him by surprise, throws the blanket over him. The man is baffled and gets entangled in the blanket. In the mean time, Alex ties him up with the rope and triumphantly rises to his feet. He glances at the armchair awaiting Maria's gratitude, but is terrified to see that instead of her, a huge doll is seated there. At this moment he hears her voice coming from the hallway: "End of Act One! Intermission!"

In a moment, Maria enters carrying a tray with cups of tea and sweets. She lets out a cry and drops the tray. The commotion continues but is only seen as shadows behind the door-screen. The siren is heard of a police car approaching. After a while, applause is heard and now we see that the screen with the shadows is located on the stage of a puppet theatre. In a minute, Maria's father comes out to bow. In the middle of the first row, Alex and Maria are sitting with a big bunch of flowers. They give it to the father and he embraces them with a smile. Click! And a photo is taken as a memento.