

Hapgood, by Tom Stoppard 1988, 1994

"If there's a central idea in the play, it is the proposition that in each of our characters is the working majority of a dual personality, part of which is always there in a submerged state." (Quoted in *Conversations with Tom Stoppard* by Mel Gussow, Grove Press, 1996.)

**Brief plot:**

*Act 1, Scene 1* – British intelligence have discovered some SDI secrets in Moscow and think they can trace it back to Kerner, their “Russian joe,” a double agent and physicist. Blair and Hapgood, both British intelligence, set a trap for Kerner at a Russian/British “meet” where they intercept his briefcase and give a duplicate briefcase to the Russians. However, Kerner’s briefcase has less, not more, information in it.

Twin Russian agents confuse the matter, and it is actually two Ridleys (another British intelligence guy) who remove info from the briefcase. Ridley also gives himself away, “You didn’t tell me it was twins” (494).

*Act 1, Scenes 2, 3* – Blair tells Kerner he is suspected and asks for help figuring out how the info disappeared. Hapgood and Blair realize there are two Ridleys.

*Act 1, Scene 4* – Since Hapgood was holding the briefcase when the bleep went dead, Wates suspects her. Overnight, he locates the bleep broadcasting from her office. However, he is proved wrong; it was Merryweather who drained the pool and recovered the bleep, which started broadcasting again. Kerner’s solution to Wates’ diagram suggests that one Ridley opens the briefcase to take out the films and bleep while the other walks around distractingly.

*Act 1, Scene 5* – Hapgood meets Ridley on shooting range, tells him they are both suspected. This is the first step in a plot to catch both Ridleys. Also discover that Kerner is Joe’s father and that Hapgood wants to marry him. Kerner is thinking of returning to Russia.

*Act 2, Scene 1* – The plot progresses. In a meeting with Blair, Hapgood (acting suspended), and Ridley, Kerner admits to passing secrets to Russia in exchange for Joe’s safety. Since the films were removed, the Russians didn’t get the secrets and will kidnap Joe. Blair refuses to trade the secrets for Joe, so Hapgood secretly collaborates with Ridley to get Joe back.

*Act 2, Scenes 2, 3* – Ridley meets Mrs. Newton, Hapgood’s “twin sister.” Ridley’s twin arrives. Kerner admits to Blair that he actually has been giving secrets to Russia but that he won’t betray Hapgood.

*Act 2, Scene 4* – Ridley and Mrs. Newton, pretending to be Hapgood, get a phone call from the kidnappers. Mrs. Newton gives Ridley a box supposedly containing the secrets, but it’s just a bleep.

*Act 2, Scene 5* – Ridley and Mrs. Newton waiting in motel. They make love.

*Act 2, Scene 6* – Back in men’s changing room, both Ridleys are present. One puts a fake disk under the appropriate cubicle and Mrs. Newton puts the “real” (bleeped) disk under the cubicle with the second Ridley in it. Joe is returned to her. Joe, Mrs. Newton and Ridley leave the changing room. Wates had been hiding in the first cubicle and arrests the second Ridley. Ridley returns and sees Blair picking up the fake disk and assumes it is a set-up for him and Mrs. Newton. When he discovers Mrs. Newton is Hapgood and tries to shoot her. She kills him first.

*Act 2, Scene 7* – Both Hapgood and Kerner have left the spy business. Kerner comes to say goodbye but is riveted by Joe’s rugby game.

**Some science terms:**

Schrödinger equation - an equation for calculating the matter waves (probability waves) for a system

Dirac equation - included Einstein’s relativity in the Schrödinger equation - predicted antimatter

Heisenberg uncertainty principle - it is impossible to know both the exact position and the exact momentum of a particle at the same time

electron double-slit experiment - showed electron interference and that electrons propagate (travel) like waves

Quantum physics was end of determinism and objective reality

**Interesting facts:**

Kerner always tells the truth. Others interpret that truth at they wish.  
Ridley is a double double agent; not just the prime suspect but "the product of twin roots" (572) as Kerner puts it.

**Puzzles and Questions:**

Bridges of Konigsberg: Is it possible to cross all the bridges without crossing any twice?

Euler's solution: No. By reducing path to vertices and segments, you can see that only diagrams with two or fewer vertices with an odd number of segments can be traversed. An odd vertex can only be the first or last node in the path because when you follow it's third (or fifth) segment to the node, there are no other paths away. <http://mathforum.org/isaac/problems/bridges1.html>

1. Hapgood's strategy for finding the key isn't "retrace your steps," its "retrace your time" What does it mean for confuse space and time like that? How does that relate to Heisenberg principle?

2. Whose side is Kerner on? *What does that say? Put together w/ Ridley, what logic beyond spy game?*

3. Why does it matter if the "anti-particle trap" secrets, or any other secrets, are given to the KGB? Why is there a well-run official channel for giving secrets away when they are trying to prevent the USSR from learning American and British secrets? Is the official channel better at giving secrets than individual spies?

4. When is Hapgood not playing a double game? *Can a multitasker ever be sincere? (Problem)* Her multitasking in the office, while shopping, as a twin, when she first turned Kerner, and even at the end when she is cheering on Joe while trying to keep Joseph.

5. What is the exact relationship between Blair and Hapgood? Ridley and Hapgood? Kerner and Hapgood? *Sell*

6. Moral and scientific uncertainty principle -- can anything be yes/no or black/white in the real world? Or *Phone* is it only in a microcosm, like the relationship between two people, where intention and position are ambiguous? *Sincerely*

7. What does Wates add to the plot, besides alternative linguistics.

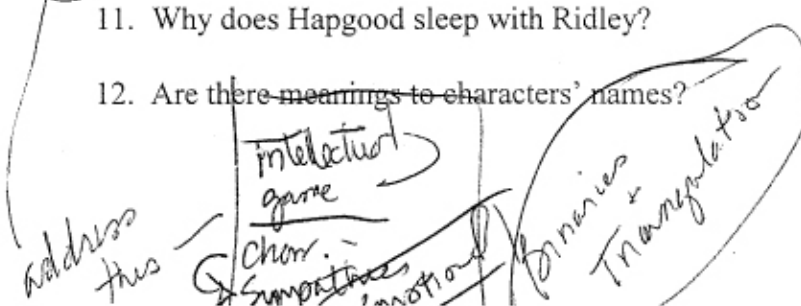
8. Do you like Hapgood? What would make you like her better? *What mean to*

9. How do the linguistic slips prevent people from probing in discussion? Ex: cycleclip (572), honeypot (547). *PAY ATTENTION?*

10. Kerner says, "I don't understand this mania for surprises. If the author knows, it's rude not to tell. In science this is understood: what is interesting is to know what is happening.... We don't save up all the puzzles to make a triumph for the author" (543). How soon do we discover the surprises? How much of the interest in the story is the surprise factor and how much is in the double dealing when we know what is going on? *Share w/ another*

11. Why does Hapgood sleep with Ridley?

12. Are there meanings to characters' names? *V. pay = attempt?*



*Why alone w/ multiple events?*  
*Social v. [single person]*  
*Goals*

*with  
Happgood*

Do you know Kaliningrad?

You probably know very little about Kaliningrad and the Kaliningrad region. Maybe you know that it is situated on the Baltic Sea coast. If so, you know much more than average Russian or even Russian Parliament deputy, who was really surprised to discover one day, that the Kaliningrad region is separated from the main land of Russia.

If you look on the map, you will find the tiny territory on the Southern coast between Poland and Lithuania called "the Western Russian enclave" and Special Economic Zone "Yantar" (Amber).

This land is really beautiful and especial - and very different from any region of Russia. It even doesn't look like Russia as Russians say. Why? The answer goes back to history.

Prehistory of Kaliningrad is Koenigsberg

In the 13th century the native Kursian and Prussian tribes were conquered by the Teutonic Order knights came here to help Conrad Mazovetsky, one of the Polish kings who liked to baptize barbarians and to enlarge his own territory. What a mistake! The knights settled down here and later established the first Protestant state in the world called Prussia, while the native tribes and their culture disappeared during the fight...

Koenigsberg, the proud name of Hansa Union city and the capital of the East Prussia, founded in 1255 is the former name of city of Kaliningrad. The newcomers who became inhabitants of the East Prussia were mainly religious refugees from different European

countries, such as Holland, Austria, France, Belgium, Germany, Lithuania, Russia, etc. That is how the land had started its historical task to be United European nations state. From the 14th century people learned how to be tolerant and to live together. This tradition became a real particular feature of the country, especially the religious tolerance.

Some historical monuments and memories are left since that times.

### History of Kaliningrad

The Kaliningrad region occupies one third of the territory of the former East Prussia according to the post 2nd World War agreement. It is interesting to learn the history coming in circles. A lot of people who had lost their homes during the war moved here. But this time they were former inhabitants of the former Soviet Union - different republic and nations - who came here having lost their homes. They came here with hate by the Stalin's order to turn this territory into New Russia. It is not a surprise that they were trying to ruin down as much as possible in the post-war years. A lot of monuments of culture were crashed down because "we don't need signs of German culture in the new Russian land".

That is why the Koenigsberg Castle being historical museum for 200 years was ruined down in spite of active protest of a certain circles of society in 70-s. A lot was destroyed during those years following orders of ruling Communist Party, some were happened to be saved.

But there was similar situation of newcomers who had to stand different habits, religion and traditions of each other.

### Kaliningrad nowadays

As a result we have especial national situation in the Kaliningrad region. You better consider it as a small country than a part of Russia. It is, but it is United State of Russia now. We have got plenty of newcomers from different parts of the former Soviet Union. As the Soviet Union had been a multinational state, some of newcomers were certainly not Russians, having their own habits and traditions. Migrant waves came one after another. To some extent the region is very attractive by the same reason as USA is: everybody are strangers here.

From the other hand we have "real citizens" who feel their Kaliningrad identity. Major part of them are those who have lived here for a long time and fell themselves to be strangers in Russia... Isn't it really strange?

So it is very difficult to read Kaliningraders, because the modern history is only 50 years old and it is still painful for people, whose families lost at least one member during the 2nd World War. Kaliningraders are VERY different. So it's better to consider the region as a tiny multinational country.

### How to come at Kaliningrad?

By plane. Nowadays there is only one regular International flight to Kaliningrad from Warsaw, Poland. Please visit the website of Polish Airlines [www.lot.com](http://www.lot.com) to see the schedule and book your ticket. You can also take a flight via Moscow, Sankt-Petersburg, Murmansk or another Russian city connected with Kaliningrad by domestic airlines. The nearest international airport in Palanga, Lithuania, is recommended as well. It's only 170 km from Kaliningrad and our car will pick you up there. The comfortable trip takes about 4 hours; the price of this taxi service is Euro 160.

By train. The railway connects Kaliningrad with Russia via Lithuania and Belorussia. The direct train from Gdynia, Poland, also can be used.

By bus. A net of regular bus lines connects Kaliningrad with Germany, Baltic States, Belorussia and Poland. You can find this info easily.

By ship. Ferry lines to Klaipeda, Lithuania, are recommended. Our car will pick you up and take you to Kaliningrad and back, if it's necessary. The price for a car trip is \$90. The lines to Gdansk or Gdynia, Poland, also can be used, but in this case we could recommend you to take a regular bus to reach Kaliningrad - see below.