

YFEL

EPISODE 1

'Let me count the ways'

Rob Kearney

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Rob Kearney  
T: 07361 813 858  
E: Robbkearney@yahoo.co.uk

INT. BARRACK 3- NIGHT

A rhythmic rasp of laboured breathing feels oppressive in the BARRACK, lit only by few waning candles and a failing oil lamp which casts grotesque elongated shadows.

Rows of skeletal men occupy tiered wooden bunks, some lay with their eyes wide, staring into the darkness, each a testament of unimaginable suffering.

On adjacent lower bunks, KARL (20's, his youthful looks sharpened by hunger) lay on his side facing ELIAS (30's, face weary) laying on his back, studying the rough, pitted planks of wood above.

ELIAS  
(a low murmur)  
Another five from block 3. Gone

KARL is silent.

KARL  
Work detail, it must be

ELIAS  
(short)  
Work? of course not, What job could be  
so important for this time of the  
night?

KARL moves his arm close to ELIAS.

**BEAT.**

His fingers brush against ELIAS's calloused hand. ELIAS reacts subtly, no emotion, just recognition, his finger ever so slightly grasping KARL's.

They both stare to the ceiling.

KARL  
What happens after here, do you ever  
think about it?

ELIAS  
After here? sometimes, but what good  
can that do? when you're working with  
these odds?

KARL  
I do

ELIAS  
I'm happy you can

KARL  
(whispers)  
What was your favourite colour?

ELIAS  
Where did that come from?

KARL  
Just trying to make you feel a little  
better, your mind seems troubled

ELIAS furrows his brow, the significance and absurdity of the  
question isn't lost on him.

ELIAS  
What was yours?

KARL  
But I asked you first

ELIAS in thought.

ELIAS  
Mmm...Yellow

KARL  
(excited/louder)  
That's mine

The BARRACK stirs. ELIAS sharply nudges KARL, signalling him  
to be quiet.

ELIAS  
Not so loud

KARL  
(whispers)  
Why yellow?

ELIAS  
I don't know, I've never really  
thought about it. Why do you like it?

KARL

Back home, I remember a farmer at the end of the village used to grow Sunflowers in the summer. He let all the children help him cut them, then bash the heads to get the seeds out. I remember thinking that we were doing something bad, all they wanted to do was grow and smile at the sun for a few weeks of the year, but we came to cut them down, so I took some seeds and with my mother we grew them- only a few, but I remember their bright yellow petals, almost like feathers.

KARL looks embarrassed.

ELIAS

That's beautiful

A silence sits between them. ELIAS, now more deliberately strokes KARL's palm.

A harsh SHOUT echos from outside, shocking them. Hands separate, terror engulfs the BARRACKS.

GUARD (O.S.)

All of you out! Now!

The BARRACK begins to stir, groans signal the start to another day of horror and hardship, the magic is broken.

EXT. WORK DETAIL (LARS QUARRY)- DAY

Wind and sleet bring an unbearable chill to the already frigid quarry. Low moans echo. Out of sync hammer strikes fill the air along with guttural moans. KARL, exhausted, leans helplessly against a jagged rock, ELIAS stands beside him, aware of danger, offering warmth.

HANS (20's, swollen, aged before his years) walks over leisurely, boots like black mirrors crunching over the frozen mud. He surveys the scene with contempt, focuses on ELIAS and KARL.

HANS

(mocking)

Giving up little bird?

ELIAS glares cautiously at HANS.

ELIAS  
(pleads)  
He needs help...

HANS laugh maniacally.

HANS  
(laughter turns to menace)  
Help? Here? the only help you'll get  
from me is to pass you a shovel to dig  
your own grave fucker, and that's more  
effort than you're worth

He pokes KARL with the tip of his boot, a look of disgust on  
his face.

KARL groans softly.

HANS (CONT'D)  
Such tenacity. It's almost... amusing.  
You people cling to each other like  
rats waiting to drown

KARL slides to his knees. HANS squats to meet him, his face  
close to KARL's, a cruel smile spreads across his lips.

HANS (CONT'D)  
(to Elias)  
How it must feel for you to watch  
this? your faggot friend wasting away  
in front of you

**BEAT.**

HANS rises slowly, a look of menace in his eyes. He looks at  
ELIAS and with utter disdain.

HANS (CONT'D)  
This sentimentality... it weakens you,  
it makes you pathetic. Look at him-

He gestures to KARL with a whip-like-flick of his riding  
crop.

HANS (CONT'D)  
A mess... I almost want you to take  
him back to see how this plays out

**BEAT.**

HANS contemplates the offer made.

He straightens himself out, looks around at the other prisoners.

HANS (CONT'D)  
Back to work

He spits on the ground where KARL sways on his knees, turns his back, his chuckling echos through the quarry, cutting through the bitter cold.

HANS(O.S.)  
(amused)  
You band of merry men, get to smashing  
those rocks, or heads will roll-

**BEAT.**

ELIAS scurries behind the large rock, pulls KARL round with him, sits him down. ELIAS strokes his face, worry consumes him.

KARL'S eyes open slowly.

KARL  
You're still here?...

ELIAS  
(voice breaks)  
Always

KARL  
You can't be! get back to work,  
they'll string you up

ELIAS remains silent, tears well in his eyes, he clings to KARL.

A STEAM WHISTLE blows loudly through the Quarry.

HANS (O.S.)  
Move it! Now!

The crowd of workers filter past as hurried as they can. ELIAS lift KARL to his feet, his groans worsening on each movement. The workers crowd around the two of them.

INT. BARRACK 3- NIGHT

The air in the BARRACK is thick with the stench of unwashed bodies. The candles have been changed, bringing brightness. A low chorus of coughs and splutters vibrates the space.

KARL lies on his side, his breathing uneven, each exhale seeming to require more effort. His thin frame trembles beneath the threadbare blanket, and his face is flushed, beads of sweat clinging to his brow. ELIAS sits beside him, his own exhaustion a dull ache, his gaze fixed on KARL. He gently uses a scrap of damp cloth on KARL's forehead, his touch feather-light.

ELIAS  
(soft/barely audible)  
Rest, that's all you need

KARL's eyes flutter open, his gaze unfocused.

KARL  
It feels like I am flying

ELIAS  
Shush, go back to sleep, you need your  
energy... I'm here

ELIAS pulls the blanket further up to KARL's neck.

ELIAS's gaze sweeps across the BARRACK. Most of the men are lost in their own suffering. In the shadows near the latrine buckets is JANOS (50's, hunched).

ELIAS leans down and presses a tender kiss to KARL's burning forehead.

He moves cautiously towards JANOS, his footsteps barely disturbing the silence.

ELIAS (CONT'D)  
Janos. Please, I need you, you can get  
things, I've seen you do it. I don't  
know what's wrong with him

JANOS slowly lifts his head, his eyes sharp, assessing ELIAS's plea. He remains silent for a moment.

JANOS  
Exhaustion, It's obvious

ELIAS

Can you do anything, what do you need?

JANOS

Help is currency in here young man...  
a rare one. Medicine is a myth for  
people like us unless you have  
something to trade, something of  
value. I risk my life to trade with  
the guards, it's not something that  
comes cheap

ELIAS has nothing the guards would want. His possessions  
stripped from him upon arrival. His fingers instinctively  
seek out a jagged white stone in his pocket, a tangible  
reminder of a life before, given to him by his father.

ELIAS holds his hand out, opens it showing JANOS the stone.

ELIAS

I don't know what it is, but I know  
it's something. My father gave it to  
me the night before I was deported.  
Something to help, he said.

JANOS takes the stone examines it closely, bites it,  
scratches it against the concrete floor.

**BEAT.**

JANOS

(curious)

He was wise?

ELIAS

Yes

JANOS

He has given you something like this  
to trade. A diamond.

ELIAS

Diamond?

JANOS

Quite a brilliant one. Not that I know  
a lot about them, but I know what  
people in here want

**BEAT.**



JANOS (CONT'D)

Meet me at the Latrines... bring it with you before roll call, don't keep me waiting.

ELIAS

What time?

JANOS

(short)

Are you stupid boy, I just told you before Roll Call, you've been here long enough to know when that is!

JANOS looks over to KARL.

JANOS (CONT'D)

Most of us have no-one in here, we lose hope. You have something to hope for, that can be a powerful thing

ELIAS

(hopeful)

Hope comes in small increments

JANOS laughs quietly, it amuses him.

ELIAS begins to walk back to the bunk. JANOS disappears into his.

Sitting on the bunk he takes the cloth again, wipes KARL's brow.

He takes KARL's icy hand, laying next to him now he snuggles up to him, providing heat, love.

EXT. LATRINES- DAY

The LATRINES are crude, open trenches, dimly visible in the dawn light.

ELIAS stands huddled in the shadows, his body trembling with cold. He clutches the DIAMOND in his hand, his knuckles white. He scans the area nervously.

A figure emerges. It's SCHMIDT (40s, a cruel, bored face). He's adjusting his uniform as he approaches. JANOS stands a few feet away from ELIAS.

SCHMIDT  
(emotionless)  
Show it to me

Elias steps forward, heart pounding in his chest. He holds out the DIAMOND.

SCHMIDT examines the DIAMOND, looks to JANOS.

SCHMIDT (CONT'D)  
(to Janos)  
You can vouch for this?

JANOS  
Yes Sir, an example of pure quality

SCHMIDT puts the DIAMOND in his pocket and walks closer to JANOS.

SCHMIDT  
(whispers)  
Make sure he understands what is  
expected of him

SCHMIDT walks away into the gloom of the camp.

ELIAS looks to JANOS whose gaze is steely.

ELIAS  
(confused)  
This was a straight trade?

JANOS  
(annoyed/sharp)  
There's no such thing! you want the  
medicine? you have to do what he  
wants... that's how it is. With people  
like him they rarely care for the  
material objects

ELIAS  
(confused)  
What does he want?

JANOS

Be by the Administration building  
after morning roll call. He'll make  
excuses for you, and the other one to  
your work commander. Back to the  
barracks

ELIAS starts the short walk back to the BARRACKS, his  
confusion growing, questions circling.

**FLASHBACK STARTS:**

EXT. HARBOUR- DAY (5 YEARS AGO)

Sunlight bounces off the water of the HARBOUR. Seagulls cry  
overhead. Young ELIAS stands on the pier, laughing as a young  
woman, LENA (20's, bright and full of life), playfully  
splashes him with water.

LENA

(shouting joyfully)

Loosen up old man!

ELIAS wipes water from his face.

LENA (CONT'D)

You're not scared of a bit of water  
are you?

ELIAS takes his top off quickly, jumps in the water, he  
frantically splashes LENA over and over again.

LENA (CONT'D)

Stop it!

ELIAS

Aw... scared of a little bit of water  
Lena? come on old woman

LENA

OK, OK... truce?

ELIAS

You give up too easily

LENA

You take it too far

Both get out of the water, lay in the deck looking to a clear blue sky.

LENA (CONT'D)

Father's worried about you. He wont say anything but I can tell

ELIAS

(sarcasm)

Oh can you? you're telepathic now?  
I've known that man a long time and  
can tell you categorically, he has  
never been worried about me

LENA

I'm serious Elias. He can see what's  
going on, he knows you're at risk.  
Those from Elmore road were taken last  
week

ELIAS

Who from Elmore road?

LENA

You know the ones, they have a son...  
like you?

ELIAS

How was he like me?

LENA sits up, slaps ELIAS on the arm.

LENA

(angry)

Stop! you might not have a care about  
what happens to you, but I have! so  
stop being so casual about it

ELIAS sits to meet LENA's eyes.

ELIAS

I'm not stupid Lena, nor under any  
illusion about what's going on, but  
thinking about it 24/7 isn't going to  
help, what good would that do?

LENA

(calmer)

Speak to father, for his peace of mind

ELIAS  
(content)  
OK

LENA  
You mean it?

ELIAS  
I mean it. If it stops you from being  
so frantic, i'll speak with him

LENA lays back down. ELIAS stays sitting up.

**BEAT.**

ELIAS (CONT'D)  
They really took them from Elmore?

LENA stays silent.

**FLASHBACK ENDS.**

ELIAS stands outside the BARRACK, face pale, wobbling on his feet.

INT. BARRACK 3- LATER

By KARL's side ELIAS gently touches his forehead. He sees KARL stirring.

KARL  
(drowsy)  
You're back

ELIAS  
(cheekily)  
I'm back. How do you feel?

KARL  
Here and there

KARL attempts to sit up, falters. ELIAS helps him, stabilizes him.

KARL (CONT'D)  
Are you OK? you've been spending so  
much time looking after me-

ELIAS  
(interrupts)  
Don't worry about me, worry about  
getting better

ELIAS stares into space.

ELIAS (CONT'D)  
I think I've found someone to help  
with medicine

KARL  
Who?

KARL is puzzled.

KARL (CONT'D)  
Have you traded something?

ELIAS  
You're not to worry one bit about it,  
do you hear me?

KARL  
You can't...

ELIAS  
(interrupts)  
If this was reversed you'd sell your  
whatever you had to get me better, so  
no more about it, please

KARL drifts back to sleep. ELIAS holds a small canteen of  
water to his lips, KARL takes small sips.

A harsh shout rumbles from outside the BARRACK.

GUARD (O.S.)  
Outside!

ELIAS looks to KARL with panic. Shakes him frantically.

ELIAS  
Karl, you need to get up now! I'm  
getting you out of work detail, but  
you need to get to Roll Call

**BEAT.**

KARL rouses, with some divine energy he gets to his feet.  
ELIAS holds him up, he looks to a YOUNG MAN who props him up

on the other side.

YOUNG MAN

(concerned)

I can't do this for long, when we're  
out there he's on his own

ELIAS nods in agreement.

EXT. ROLL CALL AREA- DAY

The ROLL CALL area is a vast, muddy expanse, now teeming with hundreds of gaunt prisoners standing in uneven rows.

ELIAS stands near the back, his eyes fixed on KARL who is wedged between him and the YOUNG MAN. KARL looks more alert, but weak.

The head count begins, the monotonous drone of numbers starts. ELIAS tries to focus, appear inconspicuous. The imposing structure looming at the edge of the roll call area is the ADMINISTRATION BUILDING. JANOS's instructions are clear: *after roll call*.

The count seems to take an eternity. Each passing moment increasing ELIAS's anxiety.

The count ends. Gruff commands are barked, prisoners begin to disperse, heading towards their work details or back to the BARRACK.

ELIAS turns to the YOUNG MAN beside him.

ELIAS

Can you take him back, please

YOUNG MAN

(annoyed)

To his bed and that's it, I can't  
babysit him

ELIAS

To his bed is all I ask

The YOUNG MAN grunts in agreement. A favour is worth a lot in this place.

JANOS appears behind him.

JANOS  
He'll be expecting you

JANOS grins uncomfortably.

**BEAT.**

JANOS (CONT'D)  
Be compliant

ELIAS takes a deep breath. His steps heavy toward his destination.

He approaches the ADMINISTRATION BUILDING. SCHMIDT stands near the entrance, talking to another guard, his gaze flicks towards ELIAS, cold, knowing.

**FLASHBACK STARTS:**

EXT. CAMP ENTRANCE - DAY

Disoriented and terrified people are being are shoved out by guards wielding rifles, shouting orders. Screams the dominant sound.

ELIAS falls to the ground, exhausted. Most of what he has spills from his pockets.

A DIAMOND tumbles to the foot of KARL.

KARL reaches his hand out to ELIAS, he calmly pockets the DIAMOND.

KARL  
(matter of fact)  
Up. Quickly

ELIAS stands upright.

ELIAS  
Where is it?

KARL opens his palm.

KARL  
This?

ELIAS looks to the DIAMOND in KARL's hand.

A whistle blows, they have been pushed together. To the left, others march toward a destination unknown.



KARL (CONT'D)

Stay close. Don't get out of this line

ELIAS

Why?

KARL

(cryptic)

I don't know. The old folk on the train were telling stories, they talked about people being taken to giant store rooms, god knows what happened after that, I don't care to. They said people in the biggest group would always be marched off first, through the camp. So stay with me

ELIAS

Gossip, I'm sure?

KARL

They may well be, I don't want to find out for myself, neither should you

ELIAS stays close to KARL.

KARL (CONT'D)

Stay with me little bird... you'll be safe with me.

### **FLASHBACK ENDS.**

ELIAS a few feet from SCHMIDT, handles the DIAMOND. He looks to his left.

An ELDERLY MAN, leaning heavily on a cane is being mocked by 3 guards, he is being pushed, kicked, mud all over him. ELIAS is powerless.

INT. BARRACK 3- DAY

The BARRACK is eerily quiet. KARL lies on his bunk, he's weak but stable. He watches the empty doorway.

JANOS sits on the edge of the bunk opposite KARL, stoic.

KARL

I haven't thanked you

JANOS

Thanked me? for what?

KARL  
The medicine

JANOS  
You haven't got it yet. Anyhow, no  
need to thank me, if business comes my  
way I'm in no position to refuse it

They both absorb the silence.

KARL  
He's been gone a while

JANOS  
(cutting)  
You boy, need to learn to be more  
grateful, he's there for you, no  
matter how long he takes, just be glad  
you have someone to stand for you here

JANOS realises his tone.

JANOS (CONT'D)  
He's not a stupid man, I don't do  
business with stupid men

KARL  
How have you got the guards to trust  
you?

JANOS laughs out of his nose.

JANOS  
Trust me? they despise me, as they  
despise the rest of the men in here. I  
am tolerated because I can get things  
for them, enrich them. Like a  
dragon... bath it in gold and it will  
bask in it, it will leave you be,  
until it wants more, which it  
inevitably will!

KARL  
How?-

JANOS  
Has anybody told you that you ask to  
many questions? It's not a good trait  
to have

KARL  
Some people

JANOS slowly moves away back to his area of the BARRACK.

EXT. CAMP- LATER

ELIAS clutches a small vial in his hand, his face relays what he has been through, shock, disbelief.

Walking back to the BARRACK he sees an old man, face down shrouded in mud, a cane lay by his side.

Each step an effort against the crushing weight of his shame. He longs to wash himself clean.

He steps into the BARRACK, his eyes wide, searching for KARL.

INT. BARRACK 3- NIGHT

JANOS approaches ELIAS's bunk.

JANOS  
It looks to be working

ELIAS  
He's more peaceful, not stirring as much

JANOS  
Good. that's... good

JANOS winces.

JANOS (CONT'D)  
He's a good man. A naive one, but nonetheless, good. I'm sure you could teach him a few things

ELIAS  
(interrupts)  
I've been here as long as he has. What can I teach him?

JANOS  
To toughen up. He still lives in the fantasy that he'll leave this place, not that he's said it, but the way he acts, it has an arrogance

ELIAS  
He's fine as he is

JANOS  
(menacing)  
You know, he wont stop with today.  
Schmidt. He owns you now. Whenever he  
want you, he'll send for you, I've  
seen it before-

KARL stirs.

ELIAS  
(whispers)  
I paid for what I wanted and he-

JANOS  
(Interrupts/quieter)  
You paid... for that day! You'll pay  
now, whenever he wants you to

ELIAS looks furious, jumps off the bunk and ushers JANOS to a  
corner of the bunk.

ELIAS  
(angry/quietly)  
You said nothing about this

JANOS  
(unfazed)  
You agreed to the terms. Where do you  
think you are? this place isn't giving  
you a guarantee, it's dog eat dog,  
make peace with it!

ELIAS  
You made me think-

JANOS  
(interrupts)  
I made you think nothing boy! you  
accepted the terms as I set them out  
to you. If you didn't want to do the  
deal, you wouldn't have

ELIAS, filled with anger, tears well.

ELIAS  
Do you know what he did to me. Do you  
want me to tell you Janos?

JANOS turns his cheek, sees people staring.

JANOS

(stern)

I know what he did to you, just like I know what happened to the half dozen that traded before you. I make my own peace with that, I suggest you make yours and get on with it. Nothing will change, make peace with what you have to do. You made a deal in Hell and the devil has power over you now!

ELIAS grabs JANOS's arm forcefully, teeth gritted, says nothing, lets it go with a shove. He walks back to his bunk.

JANOS's eyes follow ELIAS all the way to his bunk, shook, he starts a slow walk back to his bunk.

#### **FLASHBACK STARTS:**

INT. SHEWITZ COBBLERS- DAY (YEARS AGO)

JANOS (40's) sits on a low stool, meticulously working on a leather shoe. He wears a leather apron, hands calloused but nimble as he hammers a small nail into the heel.

A young BOY (8, his face bright, curious) watches him intently, perched on an overturned crate.

BOY

How do you make the Leather so soft  
Papa?

JANOS smiles, takes his hand, traces the BOY's fingers over the leather.

JANOS

Patience boy. Every piece is  
different, just like every person.  
Touch the skin on your arm

The BOY does.

JANOS (CONT'D)

See, soft. We take care of the leather  
and it becomes soft. With patience, it  
takes time, like all things do

JANOS picks up a piece of untreated leather.

JANOS (CONT'D)

Whats the difference? What do you feel?

BOY

It's bumpy. I like the other one better, it's softer

JANOS

(nasal chuckle)

Yes my boy, it's bumpy. It has character, it tells a story

BOY

(naive)

So you are taking the story away?

JANOS

No. We are perfecting something, making it more appealing to the people who want to buy it. We don't want to be selling people shoes that are bumpy do we? they'll be tripping up all over the place. We don't take the story away, we just take the story in another direction

BOY

(childish laugh)

Some of the story's mumma read to me go differently, in a way I didn't see coming

JANOS

Just like that lad

**BEAT.**

BOY

Can I help Papa?

JANOS

You have to work a long time to perfect the skills to work with this material my love

JANOS takes a finished shoe from the Form, holds it up to catch the sunlight spilling through the window.

The BOY looks stunned by the glistening shoe.

**FLASHBACK ENDS:**

JANOS with tears streaming down both cheeks, holds a tatty shoe close to him, strokes it with his thumb.

INT. BARRACK 3- DAY

ELIAS sits on the edge of the bunk, KARL blinks, then looks at ELIAS.

KARL  
I feel different

ELIAS  
Good different?

KARL  
More energy, I dunno... weird but better

ELIAS  
There you are... you came back to me

KARL  
You look like shit

ELIAS  
I don't feel much better than that

KARL  
You need to sleep

ELIAS  
Work starts in half and hour, no chance

KARL sits up, wraps his arms around ELIAS.

KARL  
You've done enough

ELIAS smiles, a tired smile.

A WHISTLE shrieks through the BARRACK, both jump instinctively. ELIAS claps his hands to his ears.

ELIAS

Shit! they never blow the whistle  
early

KARL

What is it?

ELIAS

Get ready, we need to go

Both get ready, KARL, not as steady or quick but doing his  
best. They join the line to leave the BARRACK. Walking  
through they see JANOS facing the wall, still.

KARL stops for a moment, even as prisoner push past. He pulls  
ELIAS to a halt.

KARL

Thank you

ELIAS

For what?

KARL

For keeping me

ELIAS

Keeping you?

KARL

Keeping me, that's it. Keeping me  
safe, keeping me from going crazy,  
keeping me from all of it, you know

ELIAS

It...

KARL

(interrupts)

I promised to keep you safe. I told  
you to stick with me, it seems that's  
brought you nothing but grief

ELIAS smiles, moves his forehead and rests it on KARL's.

ELIAS

You gave me something to live for



ELIAS places KARL's hand to his heart.

ELIAS (CONT'D)

You kept it going. Every beat

Another sharp WHISTLE sounds, more urgent, PRISONERS rush past them, they join them, hands clasped until they leave the BARRACKS.

EXT. ROLL CALL AREA- DAY

Three rows of men stand perfectly still. The sounds of the camp around them, distant screams from the guards.

SCHMIDT walks in between the men, randomly nudging them with his shoulder. He steps to the front on a wooden platform, HANS stands by his side, clipboard in hand.

SCHMIDT

(with malice)

You have a lesson in discipline this morning. One of you has stolen something from this camp. When you steal from the camp, you steal from me directly

He smooths his hair.

SCHMIDT (CONT'D)

(ominously calm)

I don't take kindly to being stolen from... because of one selfish person you will all suffer. The actions of one person in this camp have directly contributed to your suffering... think about that... think about the consequences before the idea of insubordinate behaviour entertains you.

The men look around to each other.

SCHMIDT slams a loaf of bread on a barrel beside him. The PRISONERS react immediately, all turn their heads to the front.

SCHMIDT (CONT'D)

(puzzled)

All for this? This insignificant loaf of bread, this is why we are standing out in the cold, this is why we are wasting valuable work time? why I have had to come out to this fucking sewer!

He looks to HAN's.

SCHMIDT (CONT'D)

(shouts)

412! get to the front!

The crowd instinctively moves aside to reveal an OLD MAN (70's) weak, emaciated.

SCHMIDT (CONT'D)

(kindly)

Come now. Help him to the front

The OLD MAN makes his way up to the front slowly, helped by two men.

SCHMIDT (CONT'D)

Sit down. You're tired old man

The OLD MAN sits on the edge of the stage, groaning from the effort.

SCHMIDT (CONT'D)

Maybe something to eat? to drink?

OLD MAN

(cautious)

No, thank you sir

SCHMIDT

Oh... maybe you're full?

OLD MAN

I didn't eat the bread sir

SCHMIDT

I know. You see, I have the loaf of bread here, the loaf you would have eaten if my officer hadn't found it on you

OLD MAN

I was...

SCHMIDT

You were?...stealing, for your own gain. Do you have no respect for your brothers? no concern for their need? I'm sure you would say that you would have shared it with them, you would tell these men this lie, but me and you... we know better!

SCHMIDT grabs the bread and throws it, it lands a few feet away.

SCHMIDT squats and shouts loudly in his ear.

SCHMIDT (CONT'D)

(shouting)

Bring it back here!

The OLD MAN rises with pain, moves slowly to bread, the other men watching him. He bends over with a yelp, returns the bread to SCHMIDT.

OLD MAN

Sir.

SCHMIDT

Good.

In an instant SCHMIDT takes his GUN from his side, presses the barrel to the OLD MAN's head and fires without a second's thought. The OLD MAN falls instantly, blood spilling voluminosly from his head.

SCHMIDT holsters his weapon, wipes his brow with a handkerchief.

SCHMIDT (CONT'D)

(serious/loud)

This man has been shown mercy. He's been spared unimaginable torture. This mercy will not be shown to you, you will face a swift justice. Do you understand?

CROWD OF MEN

Yes, Sir!

SCHMIDT

(magnanimous)

I'm a merciful man. If you come to me and plead your case, I'll listen

SCHMIDT whispers something to HANS, walks away.

HANS  
(continuous shouting)  
Out of it! now! 5 minutes, boots on  
the ground

INT. BARRACK 3- DAY

The men scramble to get ready for work, changing drab green  
clothes for drab grey ones.

ELIAS sits on the edge of his bunk holding his head.

KARL  
Elias?

ELIAS  
Shit! can you hear that?

KARL  
Hear what?

ELIAS  
Buzzing, that high pitched screaming

KARL  
No...

Suddenly ELIAS sits up.

ELIAS  
It's gone

KARL  
You've got a couple of minutes, get  
ready

ELIAS  
Sorry

KARL  
I lost you. where did you go?

ELIAS  
I.. I'm probably going crazy

KARL  
You haven't slept properly, what do  
you expect?

ELIAS

Maybe-

EXT. OUTSIDE BARRACK 3- DAY

The men all filter out into their work lines, a well rehearsed routine.

The men walk out as quick as they can, some pause, some kiss totems they have nailed under their bunks

**BEAT.**

HANS

(shouts)

874, 921! to me now!

ELIAS and KARL are in shock to hear their numbers called. They move quickly to HANS.

HANS (CONT'D)

It appears you have been granted a reprieve. Report to the kitchens immediately

KARL

(meek)

May I ask...

HANS

(short)

No you may not. Do you want to make this an issue?

HANS turns to a JUNIOR OFFICER to his left.

HANS (CONT'D)

Escort them.

JUNIOR OFFICER

(attentive)

Yes sir

The JUNIOR OFFICER walks between ELIAS and KARL, all eyes to the front as they walk past grey, run down buildings.

ELIAS turns to his right. In the distance, SCHMIDT holds court, smoking a cigarette outside a building, a group of men hanging on his every word. A maniacal, familiar laugh echoes. Again, a sharp buzz passes through ELIAS. He cups his ears.

ELIAS stops.

JUNIOR OFFICER (CONT'D)  
What are you doing? walk

KARL  
Sir-

With a harsh swipe, The JUNIOR OFFICER smacks KARL around the face.

ELIAS  
What's happened?

JUNIOR OFFICER  
I'll show you what'll happen, if you  
don't move your arse in the next 3  
seconds

ELIAS  
OK... OK, I'm OK

JUNIOR OFFICER  
I don't give a fuck if you're OK.  
Start walking

KARL holds the side of his face, ELIAS looks at him, guilty. The walk continues. ELIAS looks again to the building, all the men are staring.

JUNIOR OFFICER (CONT'D)  
(scowling)  
Look what you fuckers have done,  
making me look a fool. Look at my  
fucking hand

The JUNIOR OFFICER caressed a small cut on his hand. Pushes both on the back making them stumble slightly.

### **FLASHBACK BEGINS:**

INT. ADMINISTRATION BUILDING- A FEW DAYS EARLIER

OFFICER SCHMIDT sits slouched in a chair, legs spread. ELIAS is hog tied on a bed opposite, BALL GAG in his mouth. SCHMIDT stares intently, like a hunter stalking it's prey.

ELIAS has visible whip marks on his back, bloody, raw.

A BLACK PHONE rings next to SCHMIDT.

SCHMIDT  
(whispering)  
Quiet little one... don't make a sound

ELIAS's eyes widen, tears roll from the pain. SCHMIDT picks up the phone.

SCHMIDT (CONT'D)  
(short)  
What?

SCHMIDT (CONT'D)  
Now?... you want him right now? I've not even started-

SCHMIDT (CONT'D)  
(angry)  
Will I get him back?

SCHMIDT (CONT'D)  
5 minutes

SCHMIDT slams the phone down. Gets up lazily, walks to ELIAS.

SCHMIDT (CONT'D)  
You're in demand little one. Looks like we need to cut this short, but we have all the time in the world to pick up

He smiles with all of his teeth, discoloured.

SCHMIDT (CONT'D)  
(mocking)  
You're going to have a chat with a few of my friends in the research lab. You'll have fun with them

SCHMIDT buttons his shirt to the top, leaves the room quickly, slams the door.

ELIAS lies on the bed, bindings still in place.

5 minutes go by, he hears wheels going over tiles moving closer.

ALAIN (50's kind eyes) and TRUDLE (50's world weary) walk through the door with a wheelchair.

ALAIN  
(concern)  
What have they done to you!

TRUDLE  
You know what they're like, they do  
what they want, nothing we haven't  
seen before

ALAIN  
(interrupts)  
Leave it. I'm sure he doesn't want to  
hear that, not right now

TRUDLE  
You can't shield people from the truth

ALAIN  
We can do our best

ALAIN furrows his brow, smiles to ELIAS.

TRUDLE  
Let's get all this off

They proceed to remove the tape, ropes and BALL GAG. ALAIN  
takes a cotton swab from his pocket, adds alcohol and tends  
to the wounds. ELIAS grimaces in pain.

TRUDLE (CONT'D)  
Name?

No answer.

TRUDLE (CONT'D)  
Name? I'm talking to you

ELIAS  
(confused)  
Sorry. I didn't...

ALAIN  
Don't worry about that old queen,  
you're confused

TRUDLE sneers loudly.

ALAIN (CONT'D)  
What's your name lad



ELIAS

Elias

ALAIN

This is your first time?

ELIAS

Yes

TRUDLE

Let's not mince words, it won't be  
your last

ALAIN

He's right. A bitch, but right all the  
same

ELIAS cracks his stiff neck.

ELIAS

You both work here?

ALAIN

About 6 months, I think? We get no  
special treatment here though, we  
still live out there just like you,  
not so much hard labour

TRUDLE

Not physically anyway

ELIAS

I can imagine

TRUDLE

(annoyed)

No, you cant

Silence draws in on the room, both the prisoners clear the  
room, all bindings going in bags, they give ELIAS a set of  
clothes.

ALAIN

Put these on and we'll get going

ELIAS

To research?

The prisoners look at each other, just for a second.

ELIAS (CONT'D)

What happens there?

ALAIN

I honestly couldn't tell you. We take you there and move to the next job.

TRUDLE

We're basically porters, we know nothing, we move people to where they need to be... simple

ELIAS puts the clothes on quickly.

ALAIN

Your chariot awaits

ELIAS

Thank you, for being kind, it's rare

ALAIN

It costs nothing. I know what happens in rooms like this, I'd like for someone to be kind to me if I was... here

TRUDLE

One piece of advice. Don't struggle, they like that, any type of resistance

**BEAT.**

ELIAS sits in the chair, they leave the room, a long clinical hallway in front of them, harsh light. RESEARCH DEPARTMENT signs to the right.

**FLASHBACK ENDS:**

INT. KITCHEN BLOCK- DAY

ELIAS and KARL are pushed into a SMALL ROOM to the right of the MAIN KITCHEN. The room is filled with white linens, stacked neatly on shelves.

JUNIOR OFFICER pushes both of them to sit on an overturned crate.

JUNIOR OFFICER

Sit here and wait. Can I trust you to do that?

Both nod in agreement. JUNIOR OFFICER gives them both a dubious look, slams the door behind him as he exits.

ELIAS

Are you OK?

KARL

It's nothing

ELIAS

Your eye, it's bloodshot

KARL

(with levity)

It's better than the alternative, I suppose

ELIAS

I'd hug you if I weren't sure he'd be back just as I did

KARL

That would be just our luck huh?

KARL looks around the room, confused.

KARL (CONT'D)

Where are we? do you recognise this place?

ELIAS

I don't think so

KARL

Janos said you went somewhere to get the medicine for me, was this not the place?

ELIAS

You spoke to Janos?

KARL

Not much. He isn't a master of conversation, at least not with me

ELIAS

I wouldn't take much stock of what that man says to you Karl, best you stay away from him

ELIAS looks around the room too.

ELIAS (CONT'D)  
But no. I didn't come here

Footsteps are heard in the hallway, the door opens quickly.

JUNIOR OFFICER  
(impatient)  
Come on! follow me

They all leave the SMALL ROOM, turn the corner to enter the KITCHEN. Women, dressed in clean, white, perfectly crisp garments.

JUNIOR OFFICER (CONT'D)  
(contempt)  
Lucky boys to be placed here- god knows why but, who am I to question it. You'll be put under the authority of Rumer.

JUNIOR OFFICER whistles and flicks his fingers, signalling RUMER to him. RUMER (40's, clean, matronly) walks over to him slowly.

RUMER  
These are the two?

JUNIOR OFFICER  
The two new ladies for your Kitchen?  
yes indeed they are

JUNIOR OFFICER sniggers.

JUNIOR OFFICER (CONT'D)  
You'll find they're broken in adequately, they wont mess up your well oiled machine

RUMER  
(jokingly disapproves)  
Is there any need for silliness like that? They arent the first men I've come across

JUNIOR OFFICER

(smutty)

I'd bet that... maybe you can find  
some time to train a young handsome  
officer in your kitchens? I'll take a  
private lesson

RUMER

(tolerating)

Find me one and I'll be happy to.

JUNIOR OFFICER eyes her up and down, ravenous.

JUNIOR OFFICER

Cheeky girl... I'll keep my eye on  
you, and if you're lucky not just my  
eye

He licks his lips. RUMER grimaces. She addresses ELIAS and  
KARL.

RUMER

Come on, you can't prepare food  
looking like that. Officer, thank you.

JUNIOR OFFICER stares at ELIAS and KARL, right through them.

JUNIOR OFFICER

Any reports of misconduct and you'll  
be in the stew. Understood?

Eyes down, they nod. JUNIOR OFFICER leaves the kitchen, RUMER  
remains still until she hears the slam of the main block  
door.

RUMER

(kindly/firm)

Alright, boys. Leave his threats out  
here. While you're under my roof,  
you're safe. First, we get you looking  
less like death warmed over. Shower  
room's just there. Take your time.  
Clean whites will be waiting.

The kindness is welcome but unsettling.

ELIAS

(unsure)

Who do you want to go first?

RUMER  
First? I got the impression you were a couple?

KARL  
(confused)  
We are

RUMER  
Seems wasteful for two showers, when one will do, no?

RUMER gives them a knowing wink. They walk toward the shower room, the other women in the kitchen start to giggle.

RUMER (CONT'D)  
(knowing)  
Take your time. Get all that grime off before coming into my kitchen

INT. KITCHEN BLOCK- SHOWER ROOM- DAY

ELIAS and KARL stand facing each other, naked, just staring, this is the first time. It's an awkward, something they hadn't thought about.

ELIAS runs the shower, the steam fills the room, eyes lock, go in for a kiss. Passionate, all they had imagined.

They start to wash each other, hands explore each other nervously.

ELIAS  
I don't think I can

**BEAT.**

KARL  
Can what?

ELIAS  
Do anything. I don't think I can physically do it, not now, It feels like something's broken, inside

KARL smiles at him, kisses him again.

KARL

There's a lifetime to do that sort of thing. It's a blip on the radar that maps us out Elias. Hold me, that's all I want

ELIAS holds KARL tightly, water pools and falls from their bodies.

**BEAT.**

They share a moment. A moment of joy.

Two of them perfectly still, serene in this moment, this one perfect moment from the hell-scape outside.

INT. KITCHEN BLOCK- DAY

MARY (20's, angelic) stands at the KITCHEN sink peeling potatoes, hums a song to herself, daydreaming. LENA (20's) pulls up behind her with a trolley full of vegetables.

LENA

Where's Rumer?

MARY

Who?

LENA

(jovial)

Rumer... Jesus, you're oblivious sometimes woman!

MARY

Oh, she's... I don't actually know. She was talking to two men about 10 minutes ago, I think, not sure about now... she must have sent them to the shower, she usually does.

RUMER weaves between the women preparing dishes on the other side. LENA catches her eye.

LENA

Don't worry... found her

Walks to RUMER.

LENA (CONT'D)

(manic)

Thank god! they've asked me to get all of these prepared for later, i've been given the silver wear to do, the placements to lay, the brass to polish.. you'd think they'd imprisoned an octopus with the amount of crap they give me!

RUMER

Calm it... take a breath... 3... 2... 1... now tell me how many people you need, i'll be fine in here, i've got an extra couple of staff

LENA

They assigned more people in here? and Mary said they were men

RUMER

Who knows why, it's not my job to understand the whims of these men, probably some sort of dick measuring contest they have, see who's man is going to break first

LENA giggles.

RUMER (CONT'D)

Sit on that stool... and before you say no... I'll write you up if you don't! relax and wait for them to finish getting ready, then you can choose if you want them or two of the ladies. OK?

LENA

Alright, if I must

LENA sits hunched on the stool, she hears RUMER in the background.

RUMER (O.S.)

Good. Come with me

RUMER's footsteps move closer. LENA's chin in the air with her eyes closed.



RUMER

Both of your first lesson, not to be like this one, when a superior walks up to you, you acknowledge her-

LENA opens her eyes slowly, looks to RUMER.

LENA

Superi...

LENA's face drops, drains of colour as she see's ELIAS standing behind RUMER.

ELIAS looks stunned. Tears well in his eye's, he does all he can but to run to her.

LENA falls from her seat, gets up quickly and runs to embrace him.

LENA (CONT'D)

How?

ELIAS

What are you doing here, you fool, you fucking fool-

RUMER

(sarcasm)

Something tells me you know each other, just an observation, call it women's intuition

LENA shakes ELIAS off, grips his hand close.

LENA

(to Rumer)

Rumer, it's him. My Elias

RUMER holds her hand to her chest, some of the others in the kitchen look over, confused.

ELIAS

If I knew you were here I would have found a way... there would have been a way for me to find you

LENA

You silly man!

LENA looks to KARL.

LENA (CONT'D)  
And you, I don't know you but I want  
to give you a big hug

She does.

RUMER  
We need to get to it, Lena, take these  
two with you...

RUMER claps her hands loudly.

RUMER (CONT'D)  
Ladies, let's go!

The KITCHEN moves into regimented order. RUMER ushers KARL, ELIAS and LENA out of the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN BLOCK- HALLWAY- DAY

LENA leads KARL and ELIAS quickly down the hall, silent, no guards, no activity whatsoever.

LENA  
I feel i'm going to wake up any minute  
and find out this is a dream

ELIAS  
Shall I punch you, to wake you?

LENA  
Right now, I'd let you!

ELIAS pulls KARL forward and stops in the hallway.

ELIAS  
Lena! stop rushing... this is Karl, my  
Karl

LENA  
I'm being so rude

LENA pulls KARL in holding him tightly.

LENA (CONT'D)  
(sarcasm)  
I always wanted another brother, a  
better one

KARL laughs.

LENA (CONT'D)

The stories we've heard, I can't bear to think you've had to go through any of that, I could have done something if I knew you were there, I feel so stupid

ELIAS

What could you have done? even if you knew I was here? Come out charging with your fish knife and a silver cloche? you would have been killed

LENA

I would have tried to do something

KARL

You're alive, and stayed alive for him, you did what you could

LENA

(jovial)

Elias, this one. He's too smart for you!

ELIAS and KARL share a smile, they hear a door slam.

LENA (CONT'D)

Quickly

INT. KITCHEN BLOCK- BANQUETING SUITE- DAY

The BANQUETING room is an attack on the senses, ornate statues dripping in gold beads, imposing portraits crowd the walls, red and purple velvet chairs sit around the tables in perfect symmetry, a large Romanesque vase at dead centre of the room, fresh red roses lining it.

In the corner of the vast space sits a table draped in white. silverware and beautifully painted plates upon it.

LENA leads ELIAS and KARL to the table, hands them both a pair of white gloves and a cloth.

LENA  
(serious)  
Watch me

LENA polishes the silverware delicately, showing the others as she does.

ELIAS  
Where are the guards? I haven't seen any, even the guard that brought us in here seemed reluctant to stick around

LENA  
They don't like to stay here, it took time to get them out but they left us alone in the end

KARL  
They don't like to?

LENA  
Four, maybe 5 months ago? some of the guards got a little too hands on, with the women in the kitchen. An officer, one of the senior ones got wind of what was happening and took them out

ELIAS  
Took them out?

LENA  
Out of the block. I don't know what happened to them, but i don't think it was anything good because we've been left alone since. The new ones try their luck now and again but they soon learn

ELIAS  
Did they try it with you?

LENA  
(matter of fact)  
No. my friends. Not me. I had a guardian angel

KARL  
A guard?

LENA

(proud)

An officer. One of the good ones, he helped us all and, for that I am truly grateful

ELIAS

One of the good one? are you being serious Lena?

LENA

I've been in this job for months Elias, help comes rarely, so when it does, you hold on to it

KARL looks to ELIAS narrowing his eyes, telling him silently to drop it.

ELIAS

(confused)

Why are you here? what reason would they have to take you?

**BEAT.**

LENA

You were all I had, all I knew. I had no idea if you were still alive, but I needed to try and find you. I joined one of the protests, hoping they would take me. It sounds stupid saying it out loud, but to think of my life without you in it was to give up completely.

**FLASHBACK STARTS:**

EXT. RUSHY BUS STATION- NIGHT (SOME MONTHS EARLIER)

Women huddle together in the run down, abandoned BUS STATION. The sounds of BUSES pulling up and opening their doors is constant, women are crying, some of them screaming, silenced by the thuds of punches landing on them by guards.

LENA is broken into a group with 2 others. RUMER and RACHEL (30's, run down, pale), a GUARD sits close

RUMER

It's close- I remember coming by here, years ago but it looks the same

LENA  
They might have moved it

RUMER  
(whispers)  
These people haven't got half a brain  
between them, they couldn't organise  
something that quickly... they're  
using the old barracks

RACHEL  
(whispers)  
There's one sitting over there

RUMER  
Don't worry about him, he's smitten,  
he wont bother us

RACHEL  
Smitten with who?

RUMER  
This one? he's eyeing her up like a  
meal

Nods to LENA.

LENA  
(annoyed)  
Don't be foolish, he's here to watch  
us, of course he's looking over

RUMER  
A bit to much in your direction

The GUARD sees the interaction and walks over slowly, a  
swagger in his gait.

We see more of the GUARD edging forward into the light.  
Officer SCHMIDT.

SCHMIDT  
(smarmy)  
A mothers meeting?

RUMER  
No officer, a chat. Keeping warm

SCHMIDT

There are other things I can think of  
that are much more fun to keep you  
warm... what do you think?

RUMER

Just chatting will do us for now Sir

SCHMIDT

And you?

He looks to LENA who keeps her head down.

LENA

(careful)

Talking seems to be doing the trick  
sir

SCHMIDT

(sharp)

Names, all of you

RUMER

Rumer, Achilison

RACHEL

Rachel, Gorchock

LENA pauses.

LENA

Lena, Warchoz

SCHMIDT looks down to a list on his Clipboard.

SCHMIDT

Oh dear. You seem to be on a transport  
to the southern coast... You do know  
what happens to ladies like you down  
there don't you?

RUMER

I can't say we do, Sir

SCHMIDT

You haven't seen the pictures? tut-  
tut, you need to keep up on these  
things, especially in your position.  
Let me describe

He leans in to the group.

SCHMIDT (CONT'D)

A magnificent sight. They first hoist the woman, who by the way is tied to a ten foot pole, place the pole in the ground near a cliffs edge, then let the buzzards out. They keep buzzards and all kinds of scavenger birds up there especially for those occasions. Ladies, you have not been truly humbled until you have seen the flesh stripped from a human body over days, whilst the person is still alive. The screams reaching out over the sea, screams going nowhere, dissipating

He looks to the women, their faces, drained.

SCHMIDT (CONT'D)

That's a place for really bad girls

A manic look crosses his face.

SCHMIDT (CONT'D)

(excitedly)

I know!... how would you girls like to come and work for me. My kitchens could do with a two sharp ladies to lead them

RUMER

Sir, there are three of us here

SCHMIDT

So there are... 1...2...3. Mmm... that is a puzzler, well, I have you-

Points to RUMER.

SCHMIDT (CONT'D)

And I have you. That's two. Yes that's perfect

Points to LENA.

LENA

Sir, if I could-

SCHMIDT

It sounds like you are about to talk  
(MORE)



SCHMIDT (CONT'D)  
yourself out of a good thing here, do  
you want to continue?

LENA stays quiet.

SCHMIDT (CONT'D)  
And you... Rumer, do you have anything  
to say

RUMER stays quiet.

SCHMIDT (CONT'D)  
(maniacally)  
Oh, that seems to have wrapped that up  
in a nice little bow for us

RACHEL  
(desperate)  
Sir, I've worked in service my whole  
adult life, I could be useful

RUMER  
(pleads)  
She's been a great help in feeding us  
all through the journey, she's a good  
worker and would certainly help

SCHMIDT moves closer to RACHEL. Ignores RUMER.

SCHMIDT  
Understand, some people cook the birds  
and, well... some people feed them.

SCHMIDT stands upright. Signals GUARD 1 who runs over  
attentively.

SCHMIDT (CONT'D)  
These two, on my transport

GUARD 1 ushers RUMER and LENA toward the BUS waiting, they  
look behind quickly but are turned.

GUARD 1  
And this one?

Pointing at RACHEL.

SCHMIDT  
This one is flying to the south, get  
her there safely

As LENA and RUMER are put on the bus, RACHEL is heard struggling, fighting. A gunshot **BLASTS**, neither of them dare to turn.

**FLASHBACK ENDS:**

INT. KITCHEN BLOCK- BANQUETING SUITE- DAY

LENA sits in a daydream as they all polish the silver mechanically. ELIAS and KARL are none the wiser about LENA's trials.

LENA

He found me, where I shouldn't have found anyone, but I did. And now I can keep you safe. I've kept my ladies safe

ELIAS

Whatever feeling you have for this person aren't real Lena, you've been put into a situation where you think it is

KARL

Elias, don't

ELIAS

Don't what?

LENA

I know my mind

ELIAS

No you don't, you might think you do and you might have been conditioned into thinking you do-

LENA

You've survived the way you have Elias, and I'm happy you did, I really am, but i've had to survive my way, whatever that might mean. I let myself think that you were lost and put all my energy into getting my ladies out, it's all i could do to stop myself from going crazy

ELIAS

(interrupts)

OK...

An awkward silence. each rub of the silver audible.

KARL

What do they use this place for?

LENA

(timidly)

Dinners, about 3 times a month, I suspect that's why they brought the two of you in

KARL

(to Karl)

Imagine a place such as this in the middle of everything going on out there, it makes no sense

ELIAS looks up from his work.

ELIAS.

(serious)

It makes sense. They're going through hell with all the beatings and murders they have to do... they need a place to decompress, a place they can imagine themselves as kings

LENA

(timid)

You...

ELIAS

(sarcasm/jovial)

Oh, it speaks!

LENA

Funny

**BEAT.**

ELIAS

(serious)

You don't have to listen to me Lena, just remember what i've said, I say it because i care. You've done what you needed to do, I get it

LENA

I've had to grow up and protect myself, trust me to make the right decision for me

ELIAS touches her hand tenderly.

EXT. ADMINISTRATION BUILDING-RICHEE'S OFFICE- DAY

SCHMIDT marches through the front door to a SMALL OFFICE, manned by RICHEE (20's skinny, gaunt). The anger on his red face is visible, his teeth showing, gritted.

RICHEE is going through a stack of papers. SCHMIDT pushes him to the floor, stands over him, seething.

SCHMIDT

(furious)

Who assigned the kitchen this morning?

RICHEE

(hesitant/petrified)

I... I did sir, I was told by Captain Rae to assign 2 men from the barracks, I chose the two who seemed more suited to it

SCHMIDT

What did I say to you when you came into this office?

RICHEE

(Nervous)

All assignments are to go through you, sir

SCHMIDT

So why are two men, one of which I expressly forbid from being assigned to anything, in that kitchen block now?

RICHEE

I thought-

SCHMIDT

(interrupts)

That's the problem, you didn't think. You didn't think about the consequences this might have, not only for the camp but for yourself

RICHEE half laying on the floor cowers.

SCHMIDT (CONT'D)

What did he trade you for it?

RICHEE  
Trade, sir?

SCHMIDT  
Don't play around with me boy, you're  
likely a less severe punishment if you  
tell me the truth now, whilst i'm  
asking you without your fucking  
fingers in a vice

RICHEE looks defeated by the question.

SCHMIDT (CONT'D)  
(knowing)  
What did Janos, trade you for getting  
them in the kitchen? make sure I  
believe your answer

RICHEE takes a gold ring with a SMALL DIAMOND in the centre  
from his pocket, trembles with fear.

SCHMIDT (CONT'D)  
Good. You've done well...

In an instant SCHMIDT pulls RICHEE roughly to his feet, holds  
his hand on the table and brings out a LARGE HUNTING KNIFE  
from his belt.

SCHMIDT (CONT'D)  
I have no need for people who lie to  
me, who go behind my back and disobey  
my direct orders... I said I would  
give you a less severe punishment and  
I'm a man of my word, so i'll only  
collect 4 of your fingers

RICHEE squirms, struggles.

SCHMIDT (CONT'D)  
Stay still

From RICHEE's left hand, SCHMIDT slowly cuts into 4 fingers,  
taking time to savour the process. RICHEE's guttural screams  
fill the room, blood covers the desk, soaking the papers.

Once done SCHMIDT collects the fingers in a SMALL FABRIC BAG,  
blood seeps through it slowly.

RICHEE sits in the chair, cradles his now finger-less hand,  
crying but, no sound.

SCHMIDT (CONT'D)  
You're lucky today. But your friend,  
well... he wont be as fortunate

SCHMIDT wipes his hands on RICHEE's shirt.

SCHMIDT (CONT'D)  
Get to the infirmary

RICHEE  
Thank you, Sir!

RICHEE runs through the door, nodding, almost in appreciation to SCHMIDT. SCHMIDT smiles broadly, straightens out, throws the bag of fingers in the air, placing them in his pocket.

INT. KITCHEN BLOCK- LATER THAT DAY

The light fades, the KITCHEN STAFF are run around the kitchen, plates and serving dishes line the back wall, food is constantly being added to the table, cold dishes to start.

RUMER (O.S.)  
(loud/authoritative)  
Change into your formal dining  
uniforms. Have your serving utensils  
clean and at hand, the trolley goes  
out in 5 minutes. Got it?

KITCHEN STAFF  
(in unison)  
Got it!

KARL walks through to the KITCHEN, ELIAS follows with LENA clinging to his arm.

LENA  
I don't want you to go, I've got so  
much more to tell you, so much to ask  
you

ELIAS  
Will they bring us back?

LENA  
Sometimes they do. We've had a couple  
stay with us for a few weeks, most of  
them stay 1, maybe 2 days

KARL  
Where did they go?

LENA  
(unsure)  
We assumed they went back to the camp

ELIAS  
(worried)  
Let's hope I see you again tomorrow  
then

LENA  
I'll be praying for it, and of course  
for you to come back Karl

KARL and ELIAS cover LENA in a hug. RUMER walks up to them,  
sweat beads clinging to her forehead.

RUMER  
As beautiful as this is, I need your  
sister now, we've got a couple of  
minutes to get all this ready. Thank  
you for your help gentlemen, I'll be  
sure to give you a good recommendation  
to the officer, if that helps

ELIAS  
Thank you

KARL  
Thank you. for your kindness

RUMER  
Go now. back into the room across  
there, he'll be here to pick you up  
shortly, you'll need to change into  
the clothes you came here in, leave  
the ones you have on in that room

The two walk toward the room they came from this morning,  
looking back, they see the bustle of the kitchen continue,  
LENA slots into her role perfectly.

INT. KITCHEN BLOCK- SMALL ROOM- NIGHT

In the room off the KITCHEN, only a small amount of light  
comes through the panel of glass on the door. ELIAS and KARL  
now wearing their familiar uniforms sit, waiting.

KARL  
Are you happy?

ELIAS  
As happy as I can be

KARL  
I mean, seeing your sister

ELIAS  
I'm not happy she's here, but seeing  
her again... I'm relieved

KARL  
She seems lovely

ELIAS  
Sometimes too lovely for her own good.  
You heard what she was saying earlier.

KARL is silent.

ELIAS (CONT'D)  
I'm sorry if you felt uncomfortable.  
She's impulsive, sometimes she needs  
someone to talk straight to her

KARL  
It appears she's got this kitchen job  
figured out

ELIAS  
By hanging on to a guard?

KARL cradles the back of ELIAS's head, playing with his hair.

KARL  
(teasing)  
It was interesting seeing you like  
that, such a butch man

ELIAS  
(nasal laugh)  
That's a first

KARL  
You know what I mean



The main block doors slam shut, JUNIOR OFFICER's silhouette can be seen through the window, inaudible mutters between him and one of the kitchen girls. His shadow moves closer to the door. The door opens with a gust.

JUNIOR OFFICER  
(enthusiastic)  
You're both in for a surprise

He gestures for them to get up, hands waving erratically.

HANS  
You had a good time in this kitchen  
today?

Neither answer.

They all move down the hall, a woman from the KITCHEN stands in the doorway, half a smile on her face.

EXT. ROLL CALL AREA- NIGHT

Flaming torches light the ROLL CALL area on all sides, leading to the BARRACKS. All of the PRISONERS stand outside in the square, eyes on the floor.

ELIAS and KARL are led through the PRISONERS, weaving in and out, some eyes flash up for just a second.

The front doors to the BARRACKS are closed, in front of them, leaning against the outer wall stands SCHMIDT. JUNIOR OFFICER pushes ELIAS and KARL closer to him.

SCHMIDT  
(calm)  
Collusion... in the attempt for you to  
get preferential treatment in the  
Kitchen, sounded like a good plan  
didn't it

ELIAS and KARL stare at him looking confused.

SCHMIDT (CONT'D)  
Fortunately, you have a commanding  
officer who is wise. I know you people  
want to make life easier, to get an  
easier ride maybe? You people deserve  
nothing better than what we are giving  
you right now

SCHMIDT strands straight.

SCHMIDT (CONT'D)

(louder)

For you, dirt is too good. How dare  
you try to go behind my back. You...  
all of you have a sickness, a sickness  
that I aim to cure you of-

SCHMIDT holds onto the double doors of the BARRACKS, opens  
them swiftly.

SCHMIDT (CONT'D)

And this is your cure

At the end of the BARRACKS, JANOS hangs from a beam,  
disembowelled, eyes removed, blood, puddled below him.

SCHMIDT (CONT'D)

(Shouts)

Turn, all of you!

All turn quickly, gasps echo in the crowd.

SCHMIDT (CONT'D)

The two standing before you thought  
they could dodge their work  
assignments, take an easy route while  
the rest of you suffered out in the  
quarry. Whilst you ate stale bread,  
they feasted.

SCHMIDT turns to JANOS's lifeless body.

SCHMIDT (CONT'D)

(to Janos)

And this man. He facilitated it by  
bribing one of my own guards... This  
is the price he paid for disobedience,  
by me, by my own hand... this is my  
gift to you, but these two, you have  
the right to judge them

SCHMIDT leaves, signals his men to leave. ELIAS and KARL turn  
to the men, anger in some eyes, weariness in others. MARTO  
(30's, dark eyes) speaks up.

MARTO

You caused this... why shouldn't you  
suffer the same as Janos, he was  
always good to us

ARTIR (20's, thick set) speaks next.

ARTIR  
We don't know this is true, he's  
trying to divide us, isn't it obvious?

MARTO  
(angry)  
Obvious to who? not me!

Others attempt to talk but are cut off.

MARTO (CONT'D)  
(to Karl and Elias)  
What have you got to say?

KARL  
(confident)  
We're as confused as all of you,  
disgusted... I spoke to Janos once and  
that was hardly a heart to heart-

ELIAS  
(interrupts)  
He helped us. All of you must remember  
when Karl was ill. We needed him, he  
helped us, at no other point did we  
ask him for anything else, we had no  
reason to

MARTO  
You had...

ARTIR  
(interrupts)  
Let them finish!

MARTO  
Don't fucking tell me when I can and  
cannot speak

ARTIR gives MARTO a targeted stare.

**BEAT.**

ELIAS  
I gave him all I had for a vial of  
medicine, that's all

ARTIR

Why would he do that? why get you  
traded to the kitchen?

ELIAS pauses. He can't say what he needs to.

KARL

I don't know. Maybe he saw me and  
thought I deserved a break? I can't  
tell you why, and neither can he now,  
so lets stop arguing about it and show  
the man some respect

ELIAS point over to JANOS hanging in the BARRACK.

ELIAS

He deserves better than hanging up  
there, we're going to give him that  
respect, me and Karl, if you want to  
watch us do that and feel like you're  
getting some retribution... then feel  
free, but if you want to help come  
with us-

The crowd looks around, some join straight away, the crowd  
thins until all, even the reluctant follow into the BARRACKS.

KARL

(to Marto)

And you?

MARTO

For him. That's why I'll help. Neither  
of you deserve help. Do you even  
remember why you're here?

ELIAS

What do you mean?

MARTO

(amused)

They did a number on you didn't they.  
How many people are going to end up  
like Janos for you to learn?

KARL  
(confused)  
Learn what?

MARTO walks to the BARRACK, smiles as he walks past them.  
ELIAS and KARL absorb what they have been told, unsure.

A few meters away in the shadows, SCHMIDT lights a cigarette,  
he chuckles to himself, smiles broadly.

INT. KITCHEN BLOCK BARRACKS- NIGHT

In a vast room stand rows of bunks, all is dark but for a few  
candles lit sporadically. One of the candles sits on a LENA's  
side-table.

LENA puts a crumpled picture of herself and ELIAS next to it,  
strokes his face in the picture.

LENA  
(whispering)  
I prayed for you, for so long I  
prayed, and you came to me... may he  
keep you safe in his love, may he keep  
you close to me-

RUMER, in the next bunk sits up.

RUMER  
You know why they have to be here  
don't you? the same as we know the  
reason we do

LENA  
I don't have to accept it

RUMER  
But you will Lena

**BEAT.**

LENA blows out the candle.

**FADE TO BLACK**





