

FRATER

Screenplay By

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Gunshots. Flashing Lights. Bam!

We look upon a group of around four soldiers running through a dense forest, firing their deafening rifles in to the brush. A quick look at a soldiers arm reveals them to be a part of the Wehrmacht; the Nazi-German military.

Our attention is shifted to the leader of the squadron. Nothing is remarkable about the man, his stature is that of any average person. His nickname could be Mr. Average. But you couldn't tell that from his battle cry. His voice is commanding and forceful, yet soothing in a strange way. From his voice alone, you would follow him in to the ninth gate of hell. The commander is yelling orders to the other three soldiers.

COMMANDER

Warning shots! Warning shots!

Two soldiers stop firing

We get a look at what the squadron of Nazi soldiers are unloading their ammo at. Two young boys, frantically running as fast as they can through the dense green.

One boy looks to be slightly younger than the other. The younger looking boy named ASEN. The two boys are completely out of sight of the squadron.

COMMANDER

Halt fire! Halt Fire!

The entire squadron stops firing their rifles

We look upon the two boys, they look at each other briefly while still running as fast as their legs can take them

ASEN

It stopped?!

BOY

Don't stop. Don't stop running.

The boys escape, *for now*

We go back to the soldiers, who have now lowered their rifles and have stopped running. Half of the soldiers have their hands on their knees, panting.

We look upon three soldiers. Soldier 1 looks like the ideal Aryan. He has long blonde locks and blue eyes. This man could be the poster boy for the Nazi movement, Soldier 1 speaks with confidence and almost arrogance.

Soldier 2 looks like almost any average man, brown hair with boring brown eyes. Soldier 2 is quiet, whenever he speaks it sounds as if someone put a muffle on him.

Soldier 3 looks to be of southern European descent. Perhaps Greek or southern Italian. Soldier 3 has olive colored skin and is fairly tall in comparison to soldier 2.

SOLDIER 1

Lost sight of those fuckers round 10 minutes ago.

SOLDIER 3

I lost em around 5 minutes ago.

Soldier 2 looks at both soldier 1 and soldier 3 in disgust. The commander hears them, and walks over to the group of soldiers.

COMMANDER

Orders are to bring them back. Alive.
If you lost sight of them you should've stopped firing.

The commander turns away and looks in to the brush.

COMMANDER

Any of you halfway decent at tracking?

SOLDIER 2

I'm no master, but I think I can track two kids

Soldier 1 looks at Soldier 2

SOLDIER 1

Doesn't sound too hard. Those fucking roaches leave stains everywhere

SOLDIER 3

Kids?

SOLDIER 1

Eh, jews.

COMMANDER

Our best chance is at nightfall. Rest up, we'll head out in an hour to search for tracks.

Soldier 1 looks at the commander.

SOLDIER 1

Why? We have them. In ten minutes we can exterminate them

SOLDIER 2

Did you hear him? Orders are to bring them back, alive. He's said it twice.

The commander walks over to soldier 1 and invades his personal space.

COMMANDER

They're children, it's cold, they will start a fire. Use your god damned brain.

SOLDIER 1

I'm going to be honest, I don't think even I'm capable of setting a fire. How the hell are you so confident they will?

SOLDIER 3

"Even I'm?" Buddy.

Soldier 3 smiles, Soldier 1 walks off.

COMMANDER(CONT'D)

Rest up.

The commander goes back to looking in to the brush. Hoping that a peaceful resolve is incoming.

CUT TO:

2 EXT.FOREST PLAIN - AFTERNOON

2

Asen and the boy exit the lush forest, their eyes widen as they look at what is in front of them

In front of the boys is a plain in the middle of the forest, about a mile in total area.

Not just any plain, its a plain touched by war, a plain

touched by the worst humanity has to offer. Instead of lush green and blue skies, its beauty is tarnished by craters from mortar shells, ash, and nothing but smoke.

From the boys faces, you would expect this to be heaven. They look as though they are in a lush green paradise instead of the remains of a literal war zone.

The boys play, they throw ash at each other. The boys jump in to craters that are engulfed in ash and smoke, they play tag.

TITLE CARD: **FRATER**

The older boys smile quickly fades as he looks at his surroundings in greater detail. He looks at Asen, who is still filled with the innocence only a young child could have. War has shifted the older boy. It has taken his innocence.

BOY

We need to keep going.

The two boys walk along a row of craters, looking to the other side of the forest.

CUT TO:

3 EXT. FOREST - MIDDAY

3

Our focus now goes back to the squadron. Soldiers 1 and 2 are sitting with each other.

SOLDIER 1

It shouldn't be hard.

SOLDIER 2

What? Tracking?

SOLDIER 1

All you gotta do is what? Look for footprints?

Soldier 2 gets up and almost walks away

SOLDIER 2

You know, you're right. Tracking is totally all about just following footprints.

SOLDIER 2

People cover their tracks.

SOLDIER 1
Kids? Kids don't cover their tracks.

SOLDIER 2
They're... fucki. Nevermind.

The commander comes to the soldiers

Soldier 1 leaves

Soldier 2 begins to mumble and talk to himself

SOLDIER 2
(hushed)
You god damned idiot.
Underestimation..... Underestimation.
Biggest flaw to arroga-

The Commander comes closer to Soldier 2, he sits beside
Soldier 2.

COMMANDER
Can you do it? Do you think we can
safely find them?

SOLDIER 2
I, Uh. I think so.

COMMANDER
The whole fire at night thing, you
think it'll work?

SOLDIER 2
I don't.. I don't know. Maybe.

COMMANDER
Underestimation. Right?

SOLDIER 2
Yes sir. They escaped sir. They're far
more intelligent than that. They will
cover their tracks.

COMMANDER
Well, at least it gives us time to
rest

CUT TO:

4 EXT. FOREST - AFTERNOON

4

We see the two boys enter another part of the dense green forest. They look at each other, they look like they have finally escaped the touch of war.

The sun is barely peering through the top of the trees, giving way to a gorgeous light that makes the setting look as though its out of a fairy tale.

The boys are quickly reminded despite their gorgeous surrounding, they haven't escaped terror yet. The sound of high pitched screeching makes the two boys look at each other in horror.

The boys both immediately drop to the ground.

CUT TO: We look upon an OLD MAN, as innocent and sweet looking as any person could be, holding a knife stained with blood.

The old man is standing in front of a dead deer.

The old man is skinny and frail. He has the face of your grandpa who smells of peppermint, he is wearing oversized clothes that probably haven't fit him in decades, maybe even centuries. But beyond all of that, there is something off about the man...

The old man shifts his attention away from the dead deer and turns his head to the side, he is listening to something.

OLD MAN

You think I can't hear you?

The old man speaks as soft as anyone you've heard, he sounds as if he has cotton in his mouth. The man is spacious with his words, he probably couldn't mutter any more than two words per minute.

ASEN immediately jumps from cover and runs toward the man. The older boy looks at ASEN in horror, and follows.

ASEN

He's just an old man!

The old man turns around and stands up, behind him is the bloody corpse of the dead deer. The two boys run toward him.

ASEN comes face to face with the old man, both of them smile at each other. The older boy makes it right next to ASEN, he still looks horrified.

ASEN breaks eye contact with the man, but the old man still looks at him. Still smiling.

BOY

We're sorry, to disturb you

OLD MAN

What are you doing all the way out here? Why are you amongst the animals?

ASEN and the boy look at each other, ASEN mumbles

BOY

We're uh, we're hiding from our parents. They, They, They were yelling each other and-

The old man looks to the side and smiles

OLD MAN

There's a labor camp close by, no villages though.

The boy looks down

BOY

Our parents work there, there at the camp. We uh, we look after the..

ASEN

The Jews, we look after the Jews.

The old man makes direct eye contact at the older boy, still smiling

OLD MAN

The soldiers and workers there get good pay, no? I haven't met any poor ones from there as of yet

ASEN

Yeah, I uh. I guess so.

OLD MAN

How about your clothes, they don't entail... good pay? Huh?

The boys look as though they've been living in a post-apocalyptic disaster film for years. Their clothes are torn and you could hardly tell what color they originally were.

ASEN

We uh

OLD MAN

And.. Your frame

The boys have obviously starved for months... their thin figure and hollow cheeks are haunting.

The two boys look panicked, ASEN looks at the older boy in confusion. As if he's expecting the older boy to make a decision on what their next move is

OLD MAN

You are Jews.

OLD MAN

You are escapees.

The two boys look as if they're about to run, their legs start to somewhat move

The old man looks down to his hand, in it, is still the long bloody knife. Drips of blood from the blade start to make its way down his hands as he holds the knife upwards.

The knife drops to the ground, his hands fall in to his pockets. A brief smile forms on the old mans face.

OLD MAN

Thats.. okay. I've been waiting for this day.

OLD MAN

I can lead you two, to safety.

ASEN calms down, the older boy still looks as panicked as anyone could be. He still looks as if he is frozen in place

BOY

I uh, I don't know about that

OLD MAN

Were you planning on going anywhere?

OLD MAN

Any idea on where escapees should be
if they desire to be safe?

BOY

I guess, I guess no.

The man puts down his knife and looks at his surroundings

OLD MAN

Nothing but wood for miles here, it
could be easier than you thought to
achieve safety

OLD MAN

I have a cabin about a days walk from
here, I could hide you there until you
know what to do

ASEN smiles, the boy still looks uncomfortable, but peace is
starting to seep through the boy. He can finally move

BOY

I uh, I guess so. If you know these
woods better than we do

ASEN

We do have an army following us.

OLD MAN

That will be fine. I can handle that

The old man turns away and walks toward the dead deer. The
two boys watch

ASEN

What are you doing out here?

BOY

Your house is a day away? Why so far?

We look upon the mans face in close detail, if you weren't
looking closely you wouldn't notice the hint of a smirk
forming on his face

The man starts to rip the knife in to the flesh of the deer

OLD MAN

Hunting.

OLD MAN

You might want to look away. You are children

The boys look away, the man continues to rip the knife in to the deer. We hear only the sound of the knife.

We start to move back, out of sight of the boys, but far in front of us still stands the old man and the dead deer.

We stop. Directly in front of us sits a fresh human hand, cut off at the wrist. We know nothing of who's hand that belonged to, who cut it off, and we never will. But in the distance, we still see the old man at work with the deer.

CUT TO:

5 EXT. FOREST PLAIN - AFTERNOON

5

We look upon the soldiers, they have just reached the start of the war torn plain. All of them with the exception of the Commander look in awe of the plain

We look directly in to the eyes of the Commander. To say he has a thousand yard stare would be an understatement.

6 EXT. GREY FIELD - COLD/FOGGY DUSK (PAST)

6

We still stare in to the eyes of the Commander, except.. it isn't in the war torn plain anymore.

As we look at our surroundings, we start to realize we are somewhere far worse than a war torn field. The sky is colorless, the rest of the background is grey. Behind the Commander is a large barbed wire fence, and behind that, a forest completely devoid of the color green.

You would think this was a black and white film, but the commander is wearing a pure red Nazi symbol on his chest.

We hear screams, we hear cries for help, we hear... gunshots. The gunshots are everlasting.. they never cease.

The Commander hasn't moved an inch, he's frozen in place. Staring forward.. to something we can't see.. something we should hope to never see.

Gunshots.. still being fired.

The commander begins to tremble, he begins to try to move. He looks to his side, strapped to his waist is a pistol.

Gunshots..

The Commander bites his lip and quickly retrieves the pistol from his waist. He aims the pistol forward..

A hand reaches forward toward the Commander.. its, dirty.. stained with dirt and blood.

All we get a look at is the persons arm, the persons shirt is ripped, bloody, dirty, and stained with a substance I can't even describe.

PRISONER (O.S)
Please. (trembling)

We still hear the sound of gunshots being fired.

The Commander looks to the side, then looks back at the prisoner. The pistol is now completely aimed forward, at the prisoner. We never see the full body of the prisoner.. just their arm.

The prisoner begins to cry.. and so does the Commander.

The Commanders breathing intensifies. The sweat in his face pours. The gunshots become louder. The cries for help are deafening....

The Commander shoots his pistol at the prisoner..

We hear the sound of the prisoners body collapse.

Gunshots are still heard, begs for help are becoming harder to hear...

The Commander drops the pistol to the ground, he walks away, crying.

We finally look to the side of the Commander as he walks away.. beside him standing was Soldier 2, watching, also in tears.

In the distance, we see an innocent person lying on the ground.. begging for a chance to live.. to breathe.

A Nazi soldier carrying a rifle runs toward the person on the ground.. the soldier stands atop him.

The soldier fires. That was the last gunshot. There are no more screams for help.

7 EXT. FOREST PLAIN - AFTERNOON 7

We go back the present.. where the Soldiers are all on the move, and still in awe of the war torn field.

The Commander stops looking off in to the distance, he moves forward.

Our attention moves to Soldier 2 and Soldier 1, who are walking side by side.

SOLDIER 2
Humans are terrifying

SOLDIER 1
Humans are glorious..

Soldier 2 looks at Soldier 1

SOLDIER 1
No other species could make something
this beautiful, no other species could
paint this gorgeous picture

SOLDIER 2
Destruction isn't beautiful

SOLDIER 3
I think I'd prefer a warm and sandy
beach or a..

SOLDIER 2
or a marketplace full of fresh food

SOLDIER 2
Nothing gorgeous comes from
terraforming a lush green forest,
destruction is destruction.

The soldiers make their way through the war torn field, constantly looking around them. Constantly observing the destruction

CUT TO:

8 EXT. FOREST - AFTERNOON 8

The boys and the older man walk through the forest, the older

man quietly leads the two boys to wherever safety they think he's taking them to. His head never moves, it only looks forward.

The two boys look at each other, not exactly knowing how to feel, the older boy doesn't know if he can still trust the old man

ASEN

You hunt without a rifle?

Beat

The old man doesn't turn his head, doesn't even mutter a word

Beat

BOY

You uh, how long have you lived out here?

The old man still doesn't make a sound

BOY

Did you fight in the great war?

We now look at the old mans face, his natural expression shifts slightly

The old man stops walking, and looks around for a second

OLD MAN

We, we uh.

Beat

OLD MAN

Daylight will be gone soon, we should stop somewhere. To. To rest.

OLD MAN

You two must be hungry, no?

The two boys look at each other and smile

ASEN

Yes. Yes.

BOY

We haven't eaten in days, sir.

The old man continues walking, looking for a place to set up camp for the night to come

OLD MAN

The soldiers are following us, it's best we stay out of their path.

OLD MAN

I will go hunt, you two stay quiet. Don't start a fire until I get back

The old man leads the two boys to a diminutive clearing. From the look of it, it couldn't hold more than four or five people

OLD MAN

Do not be seen.

The old man urgently leaves the two boys in the small clearing, the boys sit. They look at each other. Both of them smile, and for once, the older boys smile doesn't dim quickly, his smile stays

The sun starts to fall, the sky starts to shift. The war and the suffering its caused will see another day, but for tonight, the boys will forget it all.

BOY

Why didn't he just take the meat from the deer? Why must he hunt now?

ASEN shrugs his shoulders

BOY

He's old I guess. Can't carry an entire deer

CUT TO:

9 EXT. FOREST PLAIN - DUSK

9

The commander stoically leads the squadron across the grey field. From their position, you can just see the sun escape the sky atop the trees.

Soldier 2 continues the search for the footprints of the two boys.

SOLDIER 3

This somehow smells worse than the camp. Somehow

Soldier 1 walks alongside soldier 3, both are following the lead of the Commander and soldier 2.

Soldier 1 smiles, this could only mean the worst

SOLDIER 1

Scent of death is... musky

SOLDIER 1

Almost as bad as Italians or Greeks smell, huh?

Soldier 3 quickly glances at soldier 1, but just looks forward.

SOLDIER 3

You know, you can try and piss me off me as much as you want.

The Commander looks back at the two soldiers, for just a second, but then continues to walk forward.

SOLDIER 3

Italians can be Aryan too..

SOLDIER 1

The best Southern Mediterraneans have done is what, Rome?

Soldier 3 looks directly at Soldier 1

SOLDIER 1

An empire that's biggest innovation was fucking crucifying someone?

SOLDIER 3

Again man, you can try and piss me off.

SOLDIER 3

Great thing about southern Europeans is that we have some thick fucking skin. I'm gonna need that with you.

Soldier 2 smiles and almost looks back at both soldier 1 and 3, but he hesitates.

Soldier 1 is visibly agitated, his face starts to quiver and it looks as if the man will never blink for the duration of his life ever again.

SOLDIER 1
Fuck your dirty skin. Fuck you. Go
back south where your olive colored
ass belongs

SOLDIER 1
We don't need you.

The commander looks back at both Soldier 1 and Soldier 3.

COMMANDER
You are both fighting for the same
cause. You are both here.

The commander stops walking and stands in front of Soldier 1, the commander slowly starts to invade Soldier 1's personal space.

COMMANDER
You are both expected to succeed in
the same mission.

COMMANDER
Right now. No one here is better than
anyone.

COMMANDER
Now shut the fuck up.

Soldier 1 doesn't break eye contact with the commander, but is visibly shaken. Soldier 1 backs away by just a little

Soldier 2 smiles, and then continues to walk.

The squadron reaches the end of the field, in front of them sits the forest.

COMMANDER
This will be difficult, I'm not going
to lie to you.

The Squadron stops

COMMANDER
Footprints will be impossible to track
in the dark, and the children might be
smart enough to not light a fire.

The soldiers all look at each other. Soldier 1 sighs

SOLDIER 1
(muffles)
Nice fucking plan

SOLDIER 2
But. There, There has to be something.

COMMANDER
This here is base camp for the night.
Most of us will station here.

COMMANDER
Those of you who want to venture out
and find them, go ahead. Don't go out
past five miles. Search for prints
starts as soon as the sun rises
tomorrow morning

Soldier 1 and Soldier 2 don't even sit to rest. Without hesitation, the two soldiers walk in to the black void of the forest.

CUT TO:

10 EXT. SMALL FOREST CLEARING - NIGHT

10

The two boys sit in almost pitch black, the only light we see is the reflection of the pale moon on their faces. The boys are both smiling, laughing.

BOY
Do you remember the really old house
we used to live in?

Asen looks kind of confused

ASEN
The red brick one? Or the one in the
city?

BOY
No... No. The one that was literally
on the railroad tracks. We couldn't go
a night without almost thinking a bomb
went off

ASEN laughs

ASEN

That's the one where I almost got
murdered by a billion birds

The boy looks at ASEN in confusion

ASEN starts to laugh even more

ASEN

I was.. I was walking down the road,
just doin my thing when I saw this
cute baby bird on the ground just
looking at me.

ASEN

I looked at the thing for like two
minutes and it didn't move, so I was
like "I guess you're mine now"

ASEN

I pick the thing up and it starts
chirping really loud

ASEN

I was still holding it in my hands and
I was just like, huh?

ASEN

If you're going to be my pet you can't
talk that loud

ASEN

I start to touch the things head to
try and make it stop and it just got
louder and louder

ASEN

All of a sudden I hear a thousand
chirping birds, like really big birds
just flying towards me and I book it

ASEN

I remember you walking like five
houses down the street in our driveway
just looking at me screaming holding a
baby bird while a thousand giant ones
try to eat me

The boy starts laughing really hard

BOY
I remember that!

BOY
I remember you all the way down there,
like this little figure a mile away
and this huge white blob following you

BOY
I kept screaming, "PUT THE BIRD DOWN,
PUT THE BIRD DOW!"

Both of the boys start to laugh

The boys look at each other

BOY
God. We lived in a lot of places.

Our attention is now shifted towards the man, he stands
behind a tree with a small dead rabbit in his arms. The man
studies both of the boys

The boys continue to laugh, but the man immediately stops
this by intentionally snapping a branch.

The man walks into the clearing with the dead rabbit in hand

OLD MAN
I hope you two were.. quiet.

The two boys smile

A SEN
Um. Sir. Why didn't you just take the
meat from the deer?

The boy looks at A SEN in almost a state of panic

The old man throws the rabbit on the ground and starts to
gather twigs

OLD MAN
I hunt for sport, son. Don't always
use what I hunt.

A SEN
Isn't that kind of wasteful?

The old man laughs

BOY
(whispers)
stop.

OLD MAN
Depends. We're better than they are.

The old man walks back to the two boys, with a large amount of twigs and branches in his arms.

OLD MAN
I have a question

The man starts to dig a small little hole, he starts putting the branches into shape for a small fire.

The boys look at each other

BOY
Um, okay

The man pulls a box of matches from his jacket, the man strikes the match and sets fire to the wood.

The eerie dark of the black forest is gone, there is now a small fire barely giving light to the three people.

OLD MAN
Why are you two always, smiling?

The old man picks up the rabbit and starts to skin it

OLD MAN
Surely, the dread of war has touched
both of you by now

The two boys look at each other and smile

BOY
We lost each other.

The boy sits down, ASEN follows

BOY
We lost each other for a very long
time.

BOY
I guess, I guess when we're together..
Everything is how it used to be.

BOY

It doesn't feel like we're running
from death, it feels like I'm home

ASENS smile goes away

The old man has finished skinning the rabbit, he starts to
cook pieces of meat.

OLD MAN

The rest of your family is gone,
aren't they?

The boy looks down

BOY

I don't know.

ASEN

We were all together in the Ghetto.

ASEN

They marched us from our village to
the Ghetto, we were at least all
together. That's what my Mom said.

BOY

After that, we all got sent to
different labor camps. I somehow got
sent to the same one Asen went to. We
never saw each other, they separated
us in to different groups.

The old man turns his head

OLD MAN

How did you two escape?

BOY

I was there for what felt like years,
but it was only a couple of months. I
met this officer who gave me a
passport and set me out, but I
couldn't. I just couldn't leave Asen
in there. I had to go back and break
him out.

BOY

Lets just say it's easier to set
someone free when you're on the
outside instead of the inside.

The old man looks at ASEN

BOY

The funny thing is we used to almost hate each other. We used to blame each other for every mistake either of us made. We've almost seriously murdered each other at some points..

BOY

That all changes when you're separated. All of that goes away.

BOY

When ASEN was ripped away, it felt like I was being mutilated.

BOY

He's the only family I have left, the only reminder of a time from when the world used to be easy.

A long silence falls upon the group of three. The old man looks in to the dark, the two boys look at each other

ASEN

Do.. Do you have a family?

The old man doesn't answer

ASEN

A wife?

The old man looks at ASEN

OLD MAN

Divorced.

OLD MAN

A long time ago. Women are....

OLD MAN

I don't want another.

OLD MAN

I never had kids.. I'm far too old to still have my mother and father. I said goodbye to family a long time ago.

The man gives the boys cooked meat. The boys immediately tear in to the food.

ASEN
 (mouth full of food)
 So you're just by yourself, you live alone?

OLD MAN
 Yes.

ASEN
 I'm sorry.

The old man starts to grin by a little

OLD MAN
 For what? I quite like myself.

OLD MAN
 I'm funny. I can make myself laugh from time to time.

The boys easily finish the meat, the old man gives them more

ASEN
 So what do you do for fun? Do you play?

OLD MAN
 Hunting

ASEN
 How?

The boy nudges ASEN

The old man hands ASEN another piece of meat

OLD MAN
 Put this in your mouth so you can be quiet.

The two boys finish their first meal in days. The old man stares at them

ASEN
 Don't you want any?

OLD MAN
 I.. no.

The boy lays down, ASEN follows. They both immediately close their eyes. An overwhelming feeling of peace overcomes the two of them

OLD MAN

We leave at daylight. I expect you two up then.

OLD MAN

I will keep watch. Sleep boys.

Despite the sky being hardly visible due to the trees, the older boy tries to look for stars. As soon as he finds one, he closes his eyes. The boys peacefully dream away.

CUT TO:

11 EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

11

Soldier 1 and Soldier 2 with eyes wide open, walk through the forest at the pace a turtle could pass.

The two soldiers are the only ones to have ventured out in search of the boys, the rest remain at base camp.

SOLDIER 2

Maybe we can just say they're.. dead or something?

SOLDIER 1

What? What the fuck are you saying?

SOLDIER 2

Maybe.. Maybe we let them go.

SOLDIER 1

How god damned stupid are you? Letting Jews run rampant?

Soldier 2 almost walks in to a tree

SOLDIER 2

I'm just saying.. they're probably long gone.

SOLDIER 2

Even if we find them, they'll just die. You really think bringing them back to camp will save them?

SOLDIER 1
Do I look like I care?

SOLDIER 2
Okay.. I'm sorry.

SOLDIER 2
They're just.. prisoners of war.
They're still human I guess. Letting
them breathe isn't a bad thing I
suppose.

SOLDIER 1
They're animals. All of them.

SOLDIER 2
But.. they just aren't.

Soldier 1 stops walking, Soldier 2 copies his move

SOLDIER 2
They think, they love, they're capable
of more than what beasts are.

SOLDIER 1
They're inferior. Every one of them.
What makes them animals is their
inability to understand that. An ant
isn't aware of how easily I could step
on it, how easily I could take its
light out. A rat isn't aware of how
easily I could flush it out of my
house.

SOLDIER 1(CONT'D)
That's why they're animals. Through
all of this, how much we've taken from
them, how much we've done to them.
They still think they can escape us.
Those two boys still think they can be
free. They aren't aware of how easily
we can take them away.

SOLDIER 2
Wouldn't we all do the same? If it
meant not only our lives were being
taken but the lives of our loved ones,
wouldn't we still carry hope
throughout the troubles?

SOLDIER 2

After the Great War, should we have just given up? If we had, we wouldn't be on the brink of empire. We wouldn't be great.

SOLDIER 1

You're comparing us to them?

SOLDIER 2

The same things you say against the Jews are the things that make us all great. It's what made us the dominant species.

Soldier 1 leaves, for once he is entirely speechless and isn't able to form a hate filled response. It looks as if Soldier 2 has beaten him; this time.

Soldier 1 notices something. He stops his steady pace and goes off in to the darkness.

SOLDIER 1

Prisoners of war don't do shit like this.

Soldier 2 walks towards soldier 1

Soldier 2 gets a look at what Soldier 1 is talking about, in front of the soldiers lies a skinned deer.

SOLDIER 2

Maybe they needed food?

Soldier 1 inspects the carcass

SOLDIER 1

The body is still in tact... it's just skinned.

SOLDIER 2

What the fuck.

SOLDIER 1

You know who does shit like this?

SOLDIER 1

Monsters.

SOLDIER 2
They're kids. They just.. They don't
know better. They're scared.

Soldier 1 walks up to Soldier 2

SOLDIER 1
I don't mutilate animals when I get
scared.

SOLDIER 2
Listen. We need to show the commander.
He needs to know

Soldier 1 goes back to the skinned deer

SOLDIER 1
Fuck no. I'm on to them, I can find
them

SOLDIER 2
All you'll do is disturb the
footprints.

SOLDIER 2
Just.. come back with me. Let's tell
the commander.

SOLDIER 1
Fuck. Alright.

The soldiers both make their way back to camp, both narrowly avoiding trees and stumbling around in the blackness of the night.

12 EXT. SMALL FOREST PLAIN - EARLY MORNING

12

The darkness escapes the sky. We're now given a front row seat to nature's best; a gorgeous sunset that gives way to a beauty this forest hasn't seen in centuries.

The man looks at the boys and coughs, most likely trying to wake them up. The boys don't move a muscle.

The man gets closer to the boys, and coughs. Again, his attempt fails.

The man bends down to the boys and shakes both of them, he immediately moves back to where he was standing. Almost like he's terrified of human contact.

OLD MAN
Get up. We need to move.

The boy and Asen jolt awake

BOY
(barely audible)
Okay, okay, okay.

The boy has to physically make Asen stand up.

OLD MAN
I um, I have food. For you two.

The man hands the boys two pieces of meat.

The man immediately starts walking into the forest.

The two boys look at each other and run towards the man.

13 EXT. FOREST - MORNING

13

The group of soldiers are all standing, they have completed packing up base camp and are awaiting orders from their commander.

The Commander walks up to Soldier 2 who is standing alone.

COMMANDER
What do you think? What's the next move?

Soldier 2 speaks clearly for the first time, but he still speaks with a hushed voice.

SOLDIER 2
I'm not paid to make these decisions, thank god.

COMMANDER
Come on. You think they're dangerous? At all?

SOLDIER 2
I just think you should see it.

SOLDIER 2
You'll know what to do from there.

SOLDIER 2
I trust you.

The commander walks to the center of the group of soldiers

COMMANDER

Alright. We're still after them. We found some clues last night and we're going to take a look. Hopefully we'll know what to do from there.

The Commander looks at both soldier 1 and soldier 2

COMMANDER

You two lead the way.

Soldier 1 starts walking off, no sarcastic or hate filled comment. He just silently walks off in to the brush. He's on the hunt.

The group of soldiers slowly follow

SOLDIER 3

We're getting our asses kicked by kids

CUT TO:

Soldier 1 stands and looks at what is most likely the skinned deer. The camera does not follow his eyes, the camera stays directly on his face. He doesn't show any emotion, not anger, not glee, just pure nothingness engulfs his face.

The group of soldiers all catch up to Soldier 1, who is still standing directly in front of the deer. They all immediately put anything they can find over their nose/hats, jackets, anything.

The Commander slowly walks up to Soldier 1, we look directly on his face too. He finally sees it. Unlike Soldier 1, the commanders face slowly shifts from nothingness to horror. The camera still shows nothing of the deer, leaving our minds to assume pure terror.

The Commander doesn't say anything. He just stares.

Soldier 2 walks to the commander

SOLDIER 2

Maybe.. Maybe they're just scared.

The commander doesn't make a reply.

COMMANDER

The plan doesn't change.

COMMANDER

The plan DOES NOT change. No lethal force... we still do this peacefully.

Soldier 1 still stands, almost as if hes allergic to movement.

COMMANDER

We're no longer in the plain. It'll be easier to track for prints, right?

SOLDIER 2

Yeah, not just prints, broken twigs and stuff like that, yeah. It'll be easier to track.

COMMANDER

Let's get moving.

All of the soldiers with the exception of Soldier 1 move out. When everyone clears, he throws a tantrum. He throws his rifle at a tree and hurls his canteen in to the air.

After his child-like outburst, he moves off in to the brush.

14 EXT. FOREST TRAIL - MORNING

14

The group of three, the boy, Asen, and the old man all walk along a skinny trail. The old man continues to take the boys to a destination that is utterly unknown to them.

The man leads the way, the two boys walk side by side. Constantly looking at each other.

ASEN grows weary of the beyond awkward silence, he looks at the boy.

ASEN

Whoever spots a black bird first wins

The boy smiles for a second, but then looks at the man.

BOY

Um, okay.

ASEN

Ready. Set.

ASEN

Go!

While still following the old man, the two boys turn their attention away from escaping death.

They study trees, they peer at the skies, in search of some sign of a black bird.

BOY

Well, you lose.

ASEN

Huh?

The boy points to the skies, a brown bird soars around in circles.

ASEN

That's brown. You lose! I already found two.

ASEN

I just wanted you to try to win first

Asen points to two black birds nesting in the trees.

Asen and the boy laugh.

Asen looks at the old man, he walks alongside him.

The old man looks down on him, we can't tell if he gives the boy the look of disgust, disdain, or just lack of interest.

ASEN

You get to take on the winner!

OLD MAN

Not now boy.

ASEN

You don't want to be world champion?

The boy looks at Asen, with a worried look, as always.

OLD MAN

Listen, boy. Not right now.

ASEN

Come on, Come on. Please.

The old man puffs his lips, looks around his surroundings for under a second, then turns his head back forward.

OLD MAN

You lose. Now go back to silence.

ASEN

What?

The old man points to a skyscraper of a tree, from a quick glance you couldn't see it, but if you look hard enough there is a bird crouched on the highest branch.

Asen goes back alongside the boy. His attempt at levity has failed, the dread of eerie silence falls upon the group...yet again.

15 EXT. FOREST - NOON

15

Soldier 2 leads the entire squadron through the forest on their 'hunt'. The commander is close behind soldier 2, but Soldier 1 and Soldier 3 both hang fairly far from the front.

We see soldier 2's methodical pace. He may have lied about his skills, he seems to be an expert tracker. Picking up on signs and patterns no normal human could possibly see.

Soldier 2 finds barely broken twigs, crumpled up leaves, and slowly follows the trail of breadcrumbs.

The commander looks at soldier 2 in awe, obviously admiring the level of skill

COMMANDER

I think you may have lied to me about your skill level.

COMMANDER

You made it seem like you have the skill of an amateur.

COMMANDER

You're like Von Braun pretending he can barely craft bottle rockets

Soldier 2 doesn't break his attention away from the ground, his eyes wonder from almost every leaf laid on the forest floor.

SOLDIER 2

Patterns are easy to pick up if you know what to look for

SOLDIER 2
That's really all it is, patterns.

SOLDIER 2
Not to say this is easy, those kids
are kicking my ass here.

Soldier 2 stumbles upon what could be a pot of gold in his eyes, soldier 2 smiles and almost lets out a "HELL YES".
Soldier 2 discovers completely in tact footprints.

SOLDIER 2
Got em.

But something worries him, his smile quickly fades

SOLDIER 2
Good prints, but that goes against
everything those boys have done.

SOLDIER 2
Up until here they seem to have tried
to cover their tracks, they've been
smart.

The group of soldiers stop, the commander scratches his head.
Obviously he's trying to let Soldier 2 think this one
through, this is an area the commander has zero expertise in.

SOLDIER 3
Maybe they think we've given up?

SOLDIER 3
I mean, they could think they've lost
us. It's been MILES.

Soldier 2 gets down and inspects the prints.

SOLDIER 2
I.. I guess.

Soldier 1 wades in the back of the squadron, he's looking
straight at both the prints and soldier 2.

COMMANDER
Alright, lets let him do his thing.
Don't disturb any of the prints in
case we have to go back to them.

The squadron goes back to searching for the prints, but with their discovery, their pace isn't slow anymore.

We now look at the geography of the forest, the soldiers are almost in shouting distance of the boys, they're on the brink of catching the boys.

All of the soldiers with the exception of Soldier 2 and the commander raise their rifles.

The soldiers are on the hunt.

16 EXT. TRAIL - NOON

16

The eerily silent train continues on their path to what seems to be freedom. The look of relief and peace glow from both Asen and the boy. The last day has been hard for them, but nothing compared to what they've been through.

In their heads, they begin to think this is the beginning. The beginning of a grand restart. They'll finally be able to craft their own lives, even in their youth. They'll finally be able to smile.

The boy embraces the forced silence, he's absolutely fine walking miles without muttering a single word.

Asen doesn't.

ASEN

Are we in a different country yet?

No reply from either the boy or the old man, the forced silence continues.

Asen looks in wonder, in his mind, life isn't livable without a joke.

ASEN

How many trees do you think there are?

ASEN

In the world? Like in their entire world?

ASEN

You think there are more trees planted in the ground than there are stars in the sky?

The boy smiles at Asen, he almost opens his mouth-

OLD MAN
What did I say boy?

The old man doesn't even look back at the boys

OLD MAN
I won the game, I wish for silence.

And... we're forced back in to silence. Asens smile doesn't fade though, he still looks in awe of his environment.

The silence begins to hurt. There isn't any sound of wind, of birds, of...

Beat

The distant sound of muttering is heard, without the silence we wouldn't be able to BARELY tell what it is.

The group stops. The old man looks to the sky, he doesn't move a single muscle.

The muttering is heard again, it grows closer.

The old man looks at the boys, he signals to continue walking forward.

OLD MAN
(whispers)
as long as, as long as we're quiet we
can make it.

The group of three hunch down, their pace has dropped significantly.

The muttering becomes louder.

The boy starts becoming agitated, the sense of dread on his face forces him to sweat.

The boy puts his arm around Asen.

Birds begin to chirp.

Words can now be heard. We hear Soldier 1's voice, barely forming words.

The Old Man drops to the ground, the two boys quickly follow.

Beat.

Asen and the boy lay completely stationary. The sense of peace that was once barely creeping up on the boy has completely escaped his body and his mind. For now, its life or death. Fight or flight.

The boy presses his face on the ground, hoping. Hoping circumstance and the fate of the universe somehow don't end up taking away the only thing he loves, his little brother.

Faint talking. Not distinct, we can't tell who it is... but the noise is coming from human voices.

The old man starts to look behind him, the source of the weirdest conversation known to man.

A shadowy black figure is now directly behind the group.

The old man gets up, he signals the two boys to follow.

The black figure now becomes two, now three, now four...

The group of three immediately run forward, the boys could run faster, but they're at the mercy of the old mans pace.

The boy looks back, there are no more shadowy figures. The figures morph to the fully formed squadron. Guns and all. He turns his head forward and continues sprinting, his life depends on his speed.

17 EXT. TRAIL - NOON

17

The soldiers walk, and walk, and walk.

Soldier 2 isn't looking forward, the soldiers don't look forward, all attention is on soldier 2's hunt for prints.

But Soldier 2 hears something, slight pattering.

Soldier 2 looks forward. He sees the group of three, absolutely running for their lives.

Soldier 2 is now left in a situation he never wanted to be in, the ONLY thing standing between the boys escape or their death.

Soldier 2 raises his rifle, his arms begin to furiously shake. He aims the rifle, the only thing left to do is pull the trigger.

Beat.

His finger hovers, his finger even begins to shake.

The soldiers now become aware to what is happening.

They all begin to run to soldier 2.

The group of three escape in to the woods, circumstance is in their favor.

Soldier 2 drops the rifle, he tries to catch his breath

SOLDIER 1

You can't even make a warning shot?

The commander looks at soldier 2 in worry.

COMMANDER

We're on the right path. Steady.
Steady and smooth.

Soldier 2 catches his breath, he picks up the rifle

SOLDIER 2

There's... There's fucking.. There's
three of them. There's fucking three
of them.

COMMANDER

What?

SOLDIER 2

There's another person with the boys.
They have someone else.

The soldiers look at soldier 2 as if he's just had a stroke

COMMANDER

Who?

SOLDIER 2

From this distance? I don't fucking
know.

18 EXT. FOREST - NOON

18

Despite going through this for what feels like eternity, the sense of dread will always feel foreign to the boy. Every time feels like the first time, there is no escape from true terror.

The three are all ducking and weaving through the forest, going as far as their legs will take them. The boy looks to Asen in a state we've almost never seen him in before, his eyes start to water. The boy tucks Asen under his arm and continues to sprint.

OLD MAN
Isn't.. much farther

OLD MAN
Just ahead.

A clearing ahead of the three can just be seen, at their pace, it becomes ever closer.

OLD MAN
We have made it.

Beyond the forest we start to see a small building, a house?
The image starts to become clearer.

The three make it to the edge of the forest, in front of them sits the old mans 'house'.

It's hideous to put it kindly, it wouldn't be fair to even call it a cabin. The 'house' looks like its survived a zombie apocalypse or two, honestly maybe three.

It's made of wood, but covered in paint that looks to have mostly chipped off decades ago. Most of the wood is almost colored black, with slight brownish-red paint chips scattered across the exterior.

Are you sure we aren't in an evil dead movie?

The old man walks toward his house, leading the two boys to what they *think* is safety.

Asen, still tucked under the boys arm, smiles. He almost begins to laugh.

ASEN
We're.. we're done..

ASEN
Right?

The boy thinks for a second, trying to think of a way to kindly word whats coming next. Trying to lessen the impact of whatever honest truth comes next.

BOY
Not even close, not yet.

BOY
The hard part? It's done though. I think.

BOY
There's still passports, money, we have to find a country that will let in two orphans, a....

ASEN
But. We can just live here. With him.

The old man locks his jaw, he almost says something.

BOY
No. We can't. He's done enough for us.

BOY
The best we can do is leave, we've given him enough trouble.

The old man looks back

OLD MAN
(-A.... -I....)

The man gives up on speech, whatever he was going to say never comes out.

OLD MAN
This.. This way. I'll show you the house.

19 EXT. FOREST TRAIL - NOON

19

The commander and Soldier 2 stand side by side, thinking about what the next course of action is.

SOLDIER 2
If there's someone else with them, that changes everything. Right?

The Commander looks down

COMMANDER
It does.

The commander faces the rest of the squadron, he makes it seem as if what he's about to say is heavy. He takes his time on forming speech.

COMMANDER

Lethal force will be necessary if we keep doing this.

COMMANDER

If they keep escaping.. If we keep losing.. We can't let them go.

Soldier 2 shows a troubled face.

Soldier 1 shows the opposite..

Soldier 1 looks straight to his rifle, he can't seem to keep his eyes off of it after the commanders announcement.

Soldier 1 shows the faintest smile.

COMMANDER

Only as a last resort. ONLY.. as a last resort. If all hope is lost, then we take the lives of two boys.

The soldiers move on, at a slow pace. The news is heavy for most of the soldiers, even including Soldier 3.

20 EXT.CABIN - AFTERNOON

20

The two boys steadily walk behind the old man, in front of them stands the horrid cabin. Looking at it from this close doesn't bode well for its appearance, it still looks like its color of paint is called 'death'.

On the side of the cabin sits a rusted old pickup truck.

The three make it right to the door. They stand on a small porch of sorts with an overhang. The boys eagerly await for the man to open the door... but he doesn't.

OLD MAN

I'm.. I'm going to need you boys to sit right here. For.. For just a second.

The man enters his deathly cabin.. the boys try to peek inside, curiosity is killing them. All we see is pure blackness, blackness engulfs the old man, he then shuts the door. The darkness is gone.

The boys turn around, their faces shine with the look of relief.

Behind the boys, we see the door to the cabin open. Slowly. Meticulously.

The sound of the door cracking is heard, faintly. It isn't loud enough to make the boys look towards the door.

The man creeps out of the house, carrying something in his hand.

We look upon the boys faces, their gaze lies to the forest, scanning for any noticeable sign of the soldiers. Their eyes constantly move, the peace in their faces don't escape.... until.

The sound of whipping is heard, and before the boy can turn his head, Asen is knocked unconscious and is lying on the ground.

The old man stands beside Asen, smiling.

The boys face turns to rage. The boy won't let anything come between him and his brother, not anymore. His arms move up, his legs start to tighten, the boy starts to charge toward the man.

The old man doesn't budge. He reveals a gun resting in his palm, the man immediately aims the gun at the boy.

The boy doesn't falter, the boy starts running at the man. Aiming to do as much damage as any human being could do to another. The rage exists even with certain death in mind, all to save his brother.

The old man gets nervous, he begins to quiver... he quickly stops aiming the gun at the boy. His aim shifts.. towards the unconscious Asen.

The boy falls to the ground. The boy stops his charge.

The evil fiend that is the old man starts to speak, his voice grows harsher.

OLD MAN

Get here.

The boy, still lying on the ground, looks over to Asen.

BOY
 (crying)
 Please, please don't hurt him.

The old man now stands completely above the unconscious Asen.

OLD MAN
 Below my feet. Get here. Now.

The boy slowly rises.. Tears streaming down the poor boys face. The boy walks slowly towards his brother, towards the monster that is the old man.

The old man is satisfied. Satisfied with his natural dominance of both the boy and Asen. A quiet smile forms on the man.

We hear the sound of the boy slowly scraping his body across the ground, trying to make his way towards the man. For some reason, movement is impossible. The boy is frozen.

The old mans quiet smile doesn't fade.. his dominance over Asen is still there. He still stands over his body.

The boy finally makes his way to the old man. He tries to form words.

BOY
 I'm be-

The old man punches the boy as hard as he can. We hear the sound of a giant crack.

The boy immediately goes limp. The boy is now unconscious.

An eerie silence sets.

We look at the boys limp body.

The screen fades. The screen goes to black.

21 EXT. FOREST - AFTERNOON

21

Soldier 2 leads the rest of the soldiers, all have their rifles armed. Fingers on the trigger. Ready to unload their bullets in to what ever monster they think the boys are.

Soldier 1's gaze doesn't move from the forest. He constantly observes his surroundings, looking for any sign of the boys.. and the old man.

Soldier 3 notices this. He stares at Soldier 1 with a look of worry. He wants to say something, he wishes he could form the right words. He doesn't. Soldier 3 continues.. he continues the hunt.

The commander follows closely behind Soldier 2. Observing every movement he makes.

Soldier 2 follows the footprints.. They're easy to track now, far too easy.

22 EXT. CABIN - AFTERNOON

22

The screen is black. We hear the faint sound... of? We can't quite place what is is... scratching?

No.

Banging?

It becomes clear. Far too clear. We hear the screams of a child...the screams of Asen.

We seen the boy awake.. it isn't peaceful. To say it was a jolt would be an understatement.

The boy automatically registers what he's hearing. The sounds of his brother in a state of torture. The feeling of dread drowns his face.

We now look fully at the boy. He is tied to the side of the Cabin. Movement does nothing.

Despite multiple failures at breaking the chains keeping him tied to the cabin, he continues to shake... furiously.

The boy lets out a scream that could deafen anyone in close range... the boy doesn't form words, he can't.

The cries of Asen stop, we now hear wimpering... and footsteps... and eventually...

The front door creaks open.

Out walks the old man with blood stained fingers..the old man looks at the boy.

The old man reaches the boy, and slowly gets down on his knees.

The two stare at each other.. the old mans eyes pierce the boys soul, they frighten him. But you couldn't tell that from the boys exterior, his eyes fight back. The boys face doesn't falter.

The silence grows.. but it isn't eerie to either of them.

OLD MAN

Best thing about this country? About my countrymen?

The boys eyes don't move away from the man

OLD MAN

They'll thank me for this. Two escaped Jews? I could be a hero..

OLD MAN

Those soldiers? I could get an award.

The boys face still doesn't falter

BOY

Is that why you're doing this? To be liked? To be respected? You have no respect...not from God.

BOY

You don't have to do this. The war will be over.

BOY

Ideology changes.

The old man lets out his first visible full on smile

OLD MAN

Boy.. I'm not doing this for respect, or because I hate your kind..

OLD MAN

I've killed. I've killed. Killing is the only thing I've ever done.

OLD MAN

Torture though? Never done that.

The boy looks lost

OLD MAN

When you spend years of your life
killing for your country.. at first,
you fear killing. You fear to have to
make that life altering choice. You've
seen your best pals lose their minds
over their first kills..

OLD MAN

I feared death. I armed my rifle in
tears.. I never wanted to lose my
mind. I never wanted to kill.

OLD MAN

Until I actually did it. It had an
effect on me, but the exact opposite
of what is supposed to happen.

OLD MAN

War didn't make me.. War didn't change
me. It made me realize who I was. I'm
a killer. And I haven't killed in
decades.

OLD MAN

I've longed to kill. I've missed it.
I've also longed to know what torture
did to someone ever since I made my
first kill.

OLD MAN

What will they do? What will they say?
What... What does true desperation
look like?

OLD MAN

What's more more effective... physical
torture?

The old man looks to the house

He now looks straight back at the boy

OLD MAN

Or emotional.

The boys face is in horror.

OLD MAN

Funnily enough, I've come to...
like... you two. I began to forget
life isn't supposed to be lived in
silence.

OLD MAN

This isn't personal.. you're the only
two Jews I've come across.

OLD MAN

Thank God for the Nazis.

The boy doesn't form tears, he doesn't move. The boy is
utterly speechless.

BOY

What man can't be reasoned with?

BOY

I've finally discovered your mystery.
Behind your eyes.... nothing but
blackness.

The old man smiles.

The boy starts screaming... shrieking.

BOY

HELP.... WE... WE NEED HELP!

The old man, with his piercing black eyes, laughs..

OLD MAN

The only people in shouting distance
want to put a bullet through your tiny
skull. Good luck with that.

The man stands... still staring at the boy. He slowly walks
to the door and enters the house.

OLD MAN (O.S)

Let's hope they put you out of your
misery.

The boy still shrieks. There is no alternative. No grand
escape.. The only thing standing in the way of his brothers
murder are a group of soldiers tasked with bringing the boys
to death

23 EXT. FOREST - AFTERNOON

23

The soldiers continue their hunt.. but.. the faint sound of the boys yelling barely makes it way to the soldiers..

The only sound we hear is the snapping of twigs, the occasional chirp from birds in the skies, and some heavy breathing.

The soldiers all follow Soldier 2 as he follows prints.. They're so fresh and undisturbed that even we could probably follow them..

All of the soldiers have their rifles armed and ready, they aren't taking any precautions.

We finally hear it.. the faint cries of a helpless boy.

Slowly but surely the Commander hears it.

COMMANDER

Everyone stop. Stop. Quiet.

All of the soldiers stop. Soldier 2 looks to the commander.

SOLDIER 2

Its one of the children.

SOLDIER 1

Are you fucking psychic too?

SOLDIER 3

Who else would it be? You think that's a bird?

The commander moves closer to the cries for help

COMMANDER

I said shut up.

The group quiets.

COMMANDER

We have our position. Rifles up, we have absolutely no idea what is going on...

Soldier 1 looks at the Commander

SOLDIER 1

Could this be a trap? This sounds like a trap?

COMMANDER

It does.

The soldiers move through the forest.. following the cries of the helpless boy. The forest is eerily silent, we can't even hear the sound of the soldiers footsteps. The only sound comes from the boys helpless cry.

The Commander gains sight of the ghastly cabin. The Commander stops..

The Commander doesn't make a noise, he looks to the Soldiers and makes a motion with his hand.

All of the Soldiers know exactly what he is implying. Everyone separates.

Soldier 1 goes left, Soldier 2 goes right, Soldier 3 follows Soldiers 1, and the Commander goes straight.

They look to be trying to completely encircle the cabin.

24 EXT. CABIN - AFTERNOON

24

The boy looks off in to the distance. He see's a black spec in the forest, the spec is moving.

The boy immediately knows its the group of Soldiers.. The hint of a smile forms on the boys face.

We still hear the cries of Asen in the house...

The boy lets out one last scream, and stops.

25 EXT. FOREST - AFTERNOON

25

Soldier 2 stops and waits at the edge of the forest for his signal to move on to the cabin. In front of him sits the left side of the Cabin.

Directly across the property, Soldier 1 stands, with Soldier 3 walking past him. Soldier 1 waits on the right side of the cabin.

Soldier 3 moves past Soldier 1 and makes his way toward the back part of the cabin.

Back at the starting point, The Commander stands.. he scans the cabin for any sign of a trap. Before the Commander lets out a signal, he makes sure everyone is in position.

26 EXT. CABIN - AFTERNOON

26

The door creaks. Out pops the head of the old man.. He looks at the tied up boy, and then looks to the forest.

The old man smiles, and goes back inside. The old man knows exactly what's happening.

27 EXT. FOREST - AFTERNOON

27

We look at the Commander. His face is stern as always, he waits for the perfect time to move.

The forest is still eerily quiet. The boy has stopped screaming.. no chirping from birds, no whistle of the wind.. just silence.

The Commander puts his hands over his mouth, and lets out a sound that anyone could mistake for a singing bird..

We look at Solder 2, he reluctantly raises his rifle and moves forward to the Cabin.

Soldier 1 with his rifle already raised, moves on to the cabin.

Soldier 3 moves forward to the Cabin, raising his rifle as he walks forward.

The Commander walks forward.

The Soldiers are all now on the property of the cabin.

28 EXT. CABIN - AFTERNOON

28

The boy sees the full figure of the Commander walking straight toward him, the boy looks to his right and sees Soldier 2, he looks to his left and sees Soldier 1.

The boy takes in one deep, deep breath.

We see the face of the old man look out of the window.

We hear the screams of Asen stop. And now banging echoes from the inside of the cabin.

The boy closes his eyes.

All of the Soldiers slowly make their way to the boy.

The stern face of the Commander shows a sign of worry. He begins to sweat. He closes his eyes for a split second.. Then regains his composure and continues walking forward.

The front door to the Cabin doesn't creek open this time, this time the door is almost ripped off of its hinges as the old man walks out with Asen in his arms.

The boy immediately looks to the door, staring directly at Asens status.

Asen is conscious.. blood pours from multiple deep cuts from Asens arm. Asens face is bright red, and there are marks almost all over his body. Other than that, it doesn't look bad. It looks like the old man hadn't done all he wanted to do just yet.

Asen walks under his own power, but its difficult. Asen slightly limps.. The old man stands behind Asen and has his left hand gripping Asens neck. In the old mans right hand is a long and sharp knife.

The old man walks off of the porch, he seeks to meet the soldiers.

The Commander gives a motion to the other soldiers.. They all raise their rifles at the old man.

The Soldiers all converge on the old mans position.

The old man stops around ten feet from the Cabin, he waits for the Soldiers to meet him face to face.

The Soldiers still slowly move.

OLD MAN
(yelling)

I can assure you men, this isn't a trap.

OLD MAN
I don't seek to kill you.

The Commander looks at Asen, he sees Asens condition. The Commanders eyes widen. The Commanders finger hovers over the trigger to his rifle.

Soldier 2 looks at the boy and the old man, his face turns to worry. Tears almost form out of Soldiers 2s eyes.

Soldier 3 is now seen, he's checked the back of the cabin and is now on the side of the cabin.

Soldier 1 maintains his composure, he doesn't have his rifle aimed at anyone.

The Soldiers all converge on the old man.

The Commander looks at the boy, he sees that the boy is tied to the cabin. The Commander begins to understand the situation.

The Soldiers all stop moving when they are around 10 feet away from the old man.

OLD MAN

To prove to you I'm on your side, to
prove to you this isn't a trick.

OLD MAN

I'm going to slit this Jew.

The Old Man raises his knife.

Soldier 2 looks at the Commander, he looks worried as always.

The Commander looks back at Soldier 2. The Commander nods at Soldier 2.

SOLDIER 2

Step away from him. Let the boy go.

The old man looks visibly shocked.. He raises the knife back down to his waist.

COMMANDER

Let both of them go.

The old man smiles, and places the knife directly under Asens neck. He holds it there.

OLD MAN

You aren't good Nazi's? Are you.

COMMANDER

You can walk away from this.. just let
the boy go. Please.

COMMANDER

Please. Let both of them go.

The old man laughs

OLD MAN

I knew I should've brought a gun.

The old man wraps his left hand around the body of Asen. And the cold knife touches the neck of Asen.

Asen braces... he closes his eyes.

The boy screams.

The old man starts to move the knife.

We now stare directly in to the eyes of the Commander. The Commanders face shows no sign of worry. No hint of pain. Only determination. This is the Commander any person would follow in to battle.

The Commander doesn't blink. We now go silent. Time slows.

We hear one loud gunshot. The Commanders chest jumps from the recoil of the rifle.

The Commander didn't hesitate. In front of us we see the body of the old man fall to the ground. Shot directly in the head.

Asen still stands, the knife lands directly in the ground right in front of Asens feet.

Asen collapses to the ground.

The boy tries to escape yet again, but fails.

The Commander lowers his rifle, Soldier 2 runs over to the collapsed Asen.

Soldier 1 stares at the old mans body.. Soldier 1 still holds his rifle aimed..

Soldier 1 walks to the Commander.

SOLDIER 1

YOU JUST FUCKING SHOT AN ARYAN. YOU
JUST FUCKING SHOT AN ARYAN BECAUSE OF
TWO RATS.

SOLDIER 1
YOU CAN'T WALK AWAY FROM THIS. You
can't just sweep this under the rug.

The Commander looks at the Nazi symbol on his arm. Then looks at his rifle.

The Commander drops his rifle.

Soldier 3 stands in awe. He's completely frozen in place.

Soldier 3 looks at Soldier 1, then at the body of the old man, and then at Asen.

Soldier 3 drops his rifle. He goes up to the porch and helps the boy tied to the cabin.

The Commander walks over to Asen and Soldier 2

COMMANDER
Is he okay? Will he live through this?

Soldier 3 frees the boy, the boy immediately gets up and runs to Asen.

SOLDIER 2
Deep cuts. A few bruises and possibly
a head injury. I think he'll be okay.

The boy kneels by Asen.

BOY
He's fine?

SOLDIER 2
He's more than fine. It's all okay
now.

The boy smiles, and begins to tear.

BOY
I'll go back. I'll go back there. Only
if you let him go. Bring him to a
refugee camp in Britain or something.

BOY
I'll go back to the labor camp.

Soldier 1 smiles

SOLDIER 1

Boy. You're both going back there.
You're both not surviving this.

The Commander turns around

COMMANDER

They aren't going back.

Soldier 1 stares in to the eyes of the Commander.

SOLDIER 1

You're abandoning us? You're
abandoning your country?

SOLDIER 1

I always knew you were a traitor.

The Commander looks off in to the distance, and then calmly
speaks to Soldier 1

COMMANDER

There has to be a limit. A limit to
all of this. To all the terrible
things I've done. There has to be a
line in the sand that I can't cross.

COMMANDER

Killing two boys, inadvertently
killing two boys by bringing them to a
camp that will work them to death.
That's the line.

COMMANDER

I've done things I'll always regret.
I've killed men and women whos only
desire was to be safe. I've killed
escapees. I've killed laborers for not
serving a purpose.. But I went along
with it. I was convinced it was all
for the greater good, I pretended that
being an Aryan meant something. We
have to go through darkness first, we
have to do terrible things to be
great. I thought we were great, or
that we were on the cusp of being
great.

COMMANDER

But we all saw what that man did. An Aryan. An Aryan tried to torture and kill two boys. Lets not pretend being an Aryan gives us a moral edge. I've stared in to the eyes of the people I've killed.. and it stained my soul every single time. I lost a piece of myself every time. I don't care what people say.. They aren't inhuman. I saw myself in every single one of them, especially in those two boys.

COMMANDER

If the best Aryan can defend the torture and murder of children, that makes all of us monsters. That gives us all the potential to be monsters. I don't want to be a monster. Not anymore.

Those words mean nothing to Soldier 1.

Soldier 1 looks at Soldier 3

SOLDIER 1

Come on. We both need to tell our countrymen what a Commander we have.

Soldier 3 looks at the Nazi symbol on his arm and closes his eyes. He looks in to the eyes of Soldier 1

SOLDIER 3

I can't. I just can't.

SOLDIER 1

I'm the only one with the balls to go back? I'm the only one who can put my conscience aside to be great?

SOLDIER 1

You aren't Aryan. None of you are.

SOLDIER 1

The Reich will Reign.

Soldier 1 walks away, looks back at the group of soldiers again, and then looks to the forest.

Tears form down Soldier 1's face.

SOLDIER 1
The Reich will Reign.

Asen regains consciousness.

The boy wraps his arms around Asen. Tears are still streaming down his face

BOY
I love you. I love you so much.

Soldier 2 smiles, and looks to the Commander. The Commander goes back to Asen.

Soldier 3 sits down on the porch.

COMMANDER
You're safe. You're safe now.

The Commander smiles back at Soldier 2.

The Commander looks at Soldier 1, he now reaches the Forest.. and disappears in to the green.

COMMANDER
We need to get moving.

SOLDIER 2
Where would we be taking them exactly?

COMMANDER
I have a few ideas.

COMMANDER
We need to get him in to the back of the truck.

The Commander, Soldier 2, and Soldier 3 all lift the boy and carry him in to the back of the truck parked on the side of the cabin.

The boy follows barely inches behind, he'll never let Asen out of his sight ever again.

The Soldiers carefully place Asen in the bed of the truck. The boy immediately gets beside him. The Commander joins the boys.

Soldier 2 goes to the drivers seat and Soldier 3 goes to the passenger seat.

The roar of the engine startles the boys, but the Commander puts his arm around the boys.

The truck drives off, leaving the house, the body of the old man, and hopefully Nazi territory.

The truck disappears in to the distance, carrying the two boys to guaranteed safety.