

THE CHILD SOLDIER

Written by

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FADE IN:

BLACK SCREEN:

"Our freedom was taken at birth, we are the forgotten children of Africa"

EXT. CAMP - TRAINING FIELD - DAY

At a muddy training camp, we see plenty of child soldiers, from different ages, looking afar.

We hear loud screaming, along with sobbing, coming from a female child soldier, being dragged across the mud, by her hair.

She wrestles and squeals up until the man dragging her, takes her next to general DIMBA, a tall, dark-skinned man.

The general looks at the other soldier who dragged her.

DIMBA

What happened?!

SENIOR SOLDIER #1

Broke rules and protocol by having a key to their hut.

DIMBA

How?!

SENIOR SOLDIER #1

Must have stolen.

The SENIOR SOLDIER lets her go.

The general kneels down and gently lifts the female child soldier's chin.

Every other child soldier watch, paying attention.

The female child soldier doesn't stop crying, and barely opens her eyes.

The general gets back up and walks upon the child soldier formation, leaving her behind him.

DIMBA

Soldiers, comrades, I'll say this no more, so hear carefully. Every one of you knows we have rules, and we need all of you ready to fight. Discipline should start here and be noticed on the battlefield.

FEMALE CHILD SOLDIER #1  
Please forgive me. Please, forgive  
me.

DIMBA  
I am not your chief, but I will do  
everything that within my powers to  
make you ready. OKETCHO!

A young-looking, rugged, 17-year old soldier comes, and bends  
his head down before his general.

DIMBA (CONT'D)  
Good soldiers are brave, and brave  
men do everything they must to  
maintain order. OKETCHO, order.

DIMBA hands him a small pistol.

OKETCHO  
Sir?!

DIMBA  
(shouting)  
Order!

OKETCHO doesn't move.

DIMBA (CONT'D)  
Take five more seconds, and I will  
shoot you.

OKETCHO promptly shoots the female child soldier in the head,  
without ever looking up.

The girl's body falls on the ground, frozen still.

DIMBA (CONT'D)  
Back to formation.

OKETCHO salutes him, and goes back to the formation.

DIMBA (CONT'D)  
(calm)  
Learn every lesson you can from  
those that fell before you, so that  
your days may amount to the days  
they had.

General DIMBA leaves the camp training, as the man who  
dragged the girl down to his feet, gives more training  
exercises to the child soldiers.

While they quickly get back to their workout, he stops two  
girls.

SENIOR SOLDIER #1  
Volunteer!

The two girls go, and come back with a stretcher, in which they'd carry the dead girl.

They take the body of the fallen girl; put it into a stretcher, and carry it into the forest, followed by an armed senior soldier, carrying a shovel.

One other girl pays close attention to the girls carrying the body of their deceased friend, into the forest, to bury.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST - DAY

The girls carry the stretcher without complaining, until they're ordered to stop.

SENIOR SOLDIER #2

Stop.

The soldier catches up to them, and strikes the shovel in his right hand, hard, into the ground.

SENIOR SOLDIER #2 (CONT'D)

Put her down.

The girls put the stretcher into the ground, and wait for any more orders.

SENIOR SOLDIER #2 (CONT'D)

(pointing at the girl at  
the back)

The girl carrying the back-side of the stretcher picks up the shovel, and starts digging.

SENIOR SOLDIER #2 (CONT'D)

(pointing at the other)

You go back to training.

The girl who was sent back stares at the man for a couple of seconds, and walks back.

SENIOR SOLDIER #2 (CONT'D)

And don't try to run away.

FEMALE CHILD SOLDIER #2

Yes, sir.

The soldier waits for the female soldier's footsteps to fade away completely.

When they do, he goes behind FEMALE CHILD SOLDIER #3, and touches her body, slowly.

She panics and starts crying, unable to keep digging.

The senior soldier tries to calm her down, while caressing her skin.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMP - DAY.

FEMALE CHILD SOLDIER #2 arrives back at the camp, and the training is already over.

The child soldiers are having a rest, sitting on a log, while a tent full of senior soldiers is seen.

She goes and sits next to the girl who watched her leave into the forest.

OKETCHO is sitting on another log, watching the female child soldiers' interaction, steadily.

She stares at FEMALE CHILD SOLDIER #2, not knowing what to say, while she breathes heavily, and gets teary-eyed.

FEMALE SOLDIER #2

If somebody finds us, and tries to take us back home, I will gladly stay; so that I may have a chance to stick a knife down every one of these men's throats. That is my promise, and I will keep it.  
Enough, enough!

The other female child soldier wraps her arms around her, and draws her head closer to hers, comforting her.

CUT TO:

INT. CATHY'S HOUSE - DAY

Cathy, a 15-year old girl is sitting next to her young 10-year old brother, helping him finish his homework.

His assignment was to find synonyms and antonyms to two lists, consisting of fifteen (10) verbs and nouns.

In the list we briefly see the words "war", "peace", "and freedom", "hope", "darkness" and "life".

CATHY

(impatiently)

Look carefully, you'll come up with something.

JERRY

I want your help, you're the scientist.

CATHY  
Actress, really.

JERRY  
But you know this stuff, too.

CATHY  
Jerry! We're going to be late; I'll  
leave you, here, seriously.

JERRY  
If you do, I'm telling mom.

JERRY hears a strong door slam behind him, CATHY has just  
left.

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY - DAY.

SUPER TITLE : UGANDA 2008

MONTAGE

The city can be seen from a different direction, traffic in  
the morning, the streets are busy, people wearing good  
clothes, suits, brief cases and others talking on cell  
phones.

Executives in the offices, board rooms filled with people  
talking about business, expensive cars drive by lots of happy  
people around the city, people watching football.

Night life seems to be good in the city. A couple of night  
clubs, people dancing and others drinking beer, sodas and  
bottled water, Good hospitals, doctors and nurses walking at  
the hospitals.

Students playing basketball, football and other games, nice  
schools, students chatting, walking in the school compound.  
Banks opening, people in side bank depositing cash.

CUT TO:

EXT. LANDSCAPE - DAY.

The land of northern Uganda, An African song playing in the  
back ground in the language we don't understand, the  
mountains and hills.

Beautiful Wild life running on the ground, water falls and  
forests can be seen representing the beauty of the land.

The songs are heard from a far distance, the more we come close where the song is coming from, the more it fades out and it's covered by the noise of students playing on the football ground and others in school compound.

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY.

The school stands down between the hills, its buildings are old and torn apart, showing a big number of students who have passed through it, with signs of more to come.

The oddness and coldness can be seen in the classrooms, it's the only school near the village and it's government school.

Students are playing football and others chatting about what they did on weeks and where they went with their families.

The boys wear white shirts and black shorts. Girls wear white tops and black skirts.

A group of boys are talking about soccer matches they watched on weekend and the best football clubs and football teams in the world.

DENIS OKETCHO 16 year-old tall, dark skin and skinny, good looking is standing in between the boys taking control of the soccer arguments.

JOHNSON OTTIMU 17 year-old, dark skin, tall and handsome, is standing next to Denis and OCHIENG PETER medium height, black skin and white teeth, while boys listening.

PETER, a 18-year old, dark skin, and taller than the both JOHNSON and OKETCHO.

OKETCHO

Come on guys, we all know Madrid and Barcelona are the best teams in the world, even though I don't support them. I just like the way they play.

PETER

Denis, Arsenal is the best, they play the best passing game today, you can't say Madrid! Maybe Barcelona, I don't really care.

OKETCHO

No, they're don't. How many trophies have you won in the last ten years?

Everyone laughs at PETER.

PETER

I'm not that into football, anyway.

JOHNSON

Your right man, four premier league  
tittles and one Champion league in  
last six years Manchester crushes  
Arsenal.

They all continue laughing, and OKETCHO tries start up a  
conversation about how they're about to witness a historical  
event in football.

OKETCHO

And next year, we'll get even

PETER interrupts him.

PETER

Denis, sorry to interrupt you, but  
I think you guys will like to see  
something.

They all look at PETER with wonder and enthusiasm.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL - RESTROOM - DAY

The boys are close, looking at a plastic wrap containing  
three knives, in a cubicle.

PETER gives them the knives, first to JOHNSON, then OKETCHO.

OKETCHO likes the feel of it, and JOHNSON is simply ecstatic.

OKETCHO gives the knife back.

OKETCHO

Thanks.

PETER is confused.

PETER

I'm giving them to you guys, as a  
gift.

OKETCHO

I know, and I'm sorry, but I can't  
take it.

PETER

Denis, I'm giving you the knife.  
From now on, we'll stop acting like  
kids, and we'll play like we  
should.

OKETCHO wraps the knife back in the plastic, and leaves it in  
the toilet's cover.



He turns around, trying leave the cubicle.

PETER pulls him back, and pushes him to the wall, bashing his head into it, even making the knife fall onto the ground

PETER (CONT'D)  
When will you grow up, and stop  
talking only about football?!

JOHNSON  
Let him go, Peter. He's alright.

PETER lets him go.

PETER  
Now, I gave you a present, what do  
you say?!

OKETCHO leaves the cubicle, leaving the others stunned.

JOHNSON  
Denis...

PETER  
I'll cut you open, Denis. I won't  
forget this.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - DAY

CATHY OCHIENG 14 year-old dark skin beautiful, white teeth, short hair and good smile not that tall and not skin like the other girls, she wears a blue torn sweater on top of her shirt.

Besides her is her best friend, NATASHA ODEDA, with beautiful short hair, and tall.

Cathy and holds her books in a small bag on her shoulders.

Other girls are listening to what Natasha is telling them about the TV soap she watched when she visited her uncle, in GULU town.

NATASHA  
DIEGO found out that ANTONIO is  
cheating on his sister with her  
best friend...

All are waiting sadly to know what Diego did but Natasha does not keep telling the story.

GIRL#1

So what happened next

NATASHA  
 (Looking at Girl#1)  
 Oh it ended there!

GIRL#1  
 So what do you think happened, did  
 Diego tell her sister?

NATASHA  
 I don't know, but if I visit my  
 uncle again this weekend, I will  
 watch it and tell you on Monday..  
 Cathy what did you do over the  
 weekend?

Cathy looks at the girls, she haven't said anything since  
 they started chatting, students passing by them, while others  
 are heading to their classes.

CATHY  
 Not much, we went and watched a  
 movie in the hall.

All the girls want to know what movie she watched and all  
 eyes on her.

Cathy looks at them eager to hear her out.

CATHY (CONT'D)  
 Okay, it's Julie Robert film,  
 SLEEPING WITH THE ENEMY. It's about  
 abusive husband who abused her  
 everyday and she had to runs away  
 from him but the man searched for  
 her and finds her again..

NATASHA  
 We watched that movie together!

CATHY  
 I watched it again, I love Julie  
 Roberts, can't get tired of her  
 movies, this was the fourth time  
 watching it.

GIRL#2  
 I have never watched a film in my  
 life, but I know one day I will  
 watch many films.

NATASHA  
 Really you haven't!, Oh my.

GIRL#2  
 (To Cathy)  
 Continue I want hear more, what  
 happened when the man finds her.

Before she can tell, the bell rings and everyone rushes to their classrooms.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY.

The classroom is full of wooden desks, and on each desk sits three students squeezed on each desk to fit on, no windows in the classroom only the empty window frames and old walls.

The black board sits on the wall in front of the classroom, few minutes later students sit in the class chatting and others reading their notes and others finishing their homework.

A female teacher enters the classroom she is in her 30s, dark skinned and long hair, she looks serious on her face and respectful, and wears a long blue dress.

Within seconds the classroom is dead silent.

She scans around all student, others pretending to be reading and others really reading.

She walks through the class looking at what they're doing, she reaches the end classroom at the back and turns around walks back to the front desk.

She reaches her desk facing the classroom, she sits her books and files on the desk and sit behind it.

TEACHER

Good afternoon.

All students stand and greet her.

ALL STUDENTS

(standing)

Good afternoon madam!

Everyone sits down quietly, the teacher pulls out a register and starts roll calling all the students, every name she calls the answer present or absent if not in the class.

Moment later after roll call, she sits up and walks to the black board.

She grabs a piece of chalk and writes on the black board HOME WORK after she walks back to her desk and sits down.

TEACHER

Okay, you all remember the assignment I gave you to think about it over the weekend. Now if I call your name come here and tell us. What you want be in next twenty years.

TEACHER (CONT'D)

Natasha!

Natasha sits up and walks to in front of the classroom, she stands facing the students.

NATASHA

(with a smile)

In twenty years from now, I will be a successful doctor, married and have two kids.

All the students burst in laughter and others clapping for her.

TEACHER

That's good, I love it, doctor, ah! Good luck. You know to be doctor you have to study hard and go in the best university in the country.

NATASHA

(to the teacher)

Thanks you.

She walks back to her seat with a big smile on her face.

TEACHER

Cathy.

She sits up and walks in front of the class, all students quiet in a dead silence, she looks at the students and everyone silences down.

CATHY

I like films and I will be an actress like Julie Roberts. I will move to America with my family and start acting.

Everyone claps for her, she walks back to her sit as the sound of clapping fades out slowly, and another student standing in front of the classroom but we can't hear anything is saying.

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY.

It's after classes in the evening, the school compound is crowded with the students on their way home and other playing football.

Cathy stands out the classroom waiting for Natasha and other friends to come, few seconds later Natasha and other girls walks towards her.

They reach her and group of five girls march out of the school heading home, As they start to reach the village, the group reduces as most of them have reach their homes.

Cathy and Natasha are the only left walking in the village.

CUT TO:

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY.

Cathy and Natasha are walking on the road side in the village from school heading straight home.

In the village play ground couple of kids playing football. Cathy and Natasha keeps on walking Passing on the pitch, the boys stop playing football most of them wear Arsenal and Manchester united jersey and others European team Jerseys and most of them are bare footed.

The ground is dry, as there in no grass. One of the boys runs towards Cathy and Natasha, it's 8 year-old JERRY OCHIENG, Cathy's young brother.

He reaches them with a smile at his face and Cathy smiles back to him, other boys stops playing and wait for Jerry to come back.

CATHY

Don't tell me you didn't go to school?

JERRY

I did, but they send me back for school fees.

CATHY

You told me you were going to talk to him.

JERRY

I did. He said he was just going to the market, and he would get back.

CATHY

Ok, then. Go back and play with your friend and don't be late home, you know what will happen, if you do.

JERRY

He will torture me, I know. Hi, Natasha.

NATASHA

Hi, kiddo.

JERRY  
I'm already eight, I'm a boy, now.

Jerry runs back and starts playing again. Cathy stares at him for a while, and he turns back, puts his hands on his mouth.

JERRY (CONT'D)  
(screaming)  
DENIS, come and play.

Denis waves his hand at him.

OKETCHO  
I will, let me just change, first.

Denis gets closer to her sister, and greets her.

OKETCHO (CONT'D)  
Hi, sis. You're watching JERRY  
play?

They both turn to the field and watch JERRY play, gracefully.

NATASHA  
Hi, Denis. I didn't see you at  
school.

OKETCHO  
I was there. Got to go, bye.

OKETCHO kisses Natasha in both cheeks.

He turns to CATHY.

OKETCHO (CONT'D)  
(at CATHY)  
I'll see you at home.

CATHY  
See ya.

Shortly after, CATHY walks away with Natasha, going home.

NATASHA  
What's wrong with him, he doesn't  
seem like himself.

CATHY  
I don't know. I didn't see him this  
morning.

NATASHA  
He's really growing up, isn't he?!

CATHY smiles at NATASHA.

NATASHA (CONT'D)  
That's not what I meant.

CATHY

Of course not, of course not.

NATASHA

Really!

They burst laughing, and pushing each other, and get to a far side of the village, where most houses are poorly built, are made out of mud and others grass roofs and other iron roofs.

The village is simple, with no signs of infrastructure, or even a modern market. It has houses sparsely placed over a large area.

We see people riding bicycles, carrying live chicken, held upside down.

The men wave at the girls, and they wave back.

Other few women are carrying water on their heads, walking down the road.

Some men sit by the shades of their houses.

A group of girls are seen skipping rope, singing at the same time.

Natasha gets to her house, and climbs a few building blocks, as Cathy waves at her and Natasha waves back with a smile.

Cathy walks a few more meters, and gets to her house.

She knocks and gets in the house.

CUT TO:

INT. CATHY'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Cathy's bedroom is has its walls covered with news paper cut-outs, in black and white, and others in color.

The beds are down on the floor, three beds in the room, Cathy sits down on the bed, almost done reading.

When she does finish, she puts the article aside, and gets up, stands in front of a mirror, next to her window.

She tries smiling in a couple of different ways, she bows down before the mirror, to herself, and tries to smile yet again, forcibly.

CUT TO:

EXT. CATHY'S HOUSE - DAY

OKETCHO sees her sister practicing in front of a mirror, while wearing a large jacket.

OKETCHO turns around and leaves.

CUT TO:

INT. CATHY'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

As she smiles, she looks at the window, and sees OKETCHO walking, far away from their house.

CUT TO:

EXT. VILLAGE - MOMENTS LATER

In the middle of the village outskirts, OKETCHO gets to a place where his friends PETER and JOHNSON are.

They're practicing knife throwing, with a tree.

PETER

What are you doing here?

Johnson interrupts PETER, and walks OKETCHO next to them.

JOHNSON

He's alright, he was just nervous.

PETER

So are you ready to become a man?

OKETCHO

Yes.

PETER

Ever played with knives, before?

OKETCHO

No.

PETER signs out to JOHNSON, to give him a knife, which he does.

PETER looks at OKETCHO, and he looks back at him.

OKETCHO stands next to the tree, and throws his knife at it, failing to get the knife to stick into the wood.

PETER gets angry.

PETER

You're no good, you should have never came here.



As PETER goes to the tree to get the knife on the ground, OKETCHO sprints at him, taking a steel pipe, hidden underneath his jacket, and striking him repeatedly.

JOHNSON  
OKETCHO, stop.

OKETCHO stops when he gets little to no response from PETER.

OKETCHO  
(at JOHNSON)  
If you were my real friend, you  
would be here with me, beating him.  
You think I would stay quiet while  
they bashed your head to a wall?!  
Say something.

He turns to PETER, and kneels.

He picks up his knife, and puts it where his steel pipe was.

OKETCHO  
(at PETER)  
One day, I'm gonna cut you open.  
Don't forget that.

OKETCHO spits very close to PETER, who's barely moving, and only moaning.

PETER starts walking away.

JOHNSON  
I will have to tell his parents,  
Denis.

OKETCHO  
Do whatever you want, I don't care.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

The family's kitchen stands right outside the main house.

In the afternoon, Cathy comes in, and sits on a stool, next to her mom, who is in her late 40s.

Her mother has fresh looking skin, and has an incredibly beautiful smile, just like her daughter's.

They're cooking dinner.

MOTHER  
Shouldn't you be studying?

CATHY  
I should be cooking.

MOTHER  
Or practicing..

CATHY  
Maybe, but I didn't get the role I  
wanted.

MOTHER  
I'm sorry.

CATHY  
They gave it to another girl, she's  
pretty.

MOTHER  
I'm sure you are way prettier than  
her. Are you going to quit?

CATHY  
Why do you want to know?!

MOTHER  
Because that would be a big  
mistake, and I don't want to see  
you being marked down by them.

CATHY touches her mother's hair kindly, and she looks at her,  
smiling.

MOTHER (CONT'D)  
Please, call you brothers outside.  
They have to take a bath, and help  
you with the table.

CUT TO:

EXT. VILLAGE - STREET - NIGHT

Cathy goes to the street, and finds her brother, JERRY,  
playing soccer, along with some of his friend.

CATHY  
Jerry!

As soon as he spots her, he gives his friends the football,  
and runs towards her.

CATHY (CONT'D)  
Where's Denis?

JERRY  
Home.

CATHY pants.

CATHY  
No, he's not. Come on, lets go  
home. He's a big man, isn't he?!

They walk back home.

CATHY (CONT'D)  
And you need a bath, boy.

CUT TO:

INT. CATHY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Cathy walks in with her brother, Jerry.

CATHY  
Go.

His brother rushes to the bathroom.

CATHY goes into OKETCHO's room, and knocks on the door.

CATHY (CONT'D)  
Dinner's ready.

OKETCHO  
I'm coming.

CATHY  
Ok.

CATHY stays a while, at her brother's door, then leaves.

CUT TO:

INT. CATHY'S HOUSE - DAY.

The house has few wooden seats within what looks like a living room, one wooden table sits in the middle covered by a long cloth up it's legs.

On the table sits their mom and dad enjoying dinner, Cathy and her brothers Oketcho and Jerry sits on the mat on the ground eating their dinner.

Moment later after dinner their dad starts to tell them stories about legendary fairies tales and other stories of people he met in the market and how the market was today.

FATHER  
Oh! Before I forget, I got a letter  
from your aunt Linda. She wants  
Cathy to go and stay with her next  
year and study there.

MOTHER

(Smiles)

In Kampala! Who will be cooking for us, you see I'm getting old every day...

Cathy makes a sad face.

MOTHER (CONT'D)

I'm joking, I'm happy for you, you're a good girl.

Her brother, Jerry, gets saddened by the news, and looks down at the table.

Oketcho pays attention to his younger brother, not channeling much emotion.

CATHY

(smiling and pointing at the boys)

I can't wait for this term to end, I will miss you boys.

JERRY

Will miss you too, Cathy.

Suddenly, an enormous, oft-putting stomping sound emerges, and leaves everyone worried.

CATHY's father jumps out of the table, and puts himself up against the wall, carefully turning to the window, to see what was happening outside.

He signals them to be quiet, and hide under the table.

JERRY gets there first, and before anyone else can join him, a storming sound of footsteps appear to be heading straight for their house, and they hold their attention.

In fear, CATHY's father turns to his family.

FATHER

(Turning to his family)

Everyone, hide.

But it's too late, the door burst into pieces inside followed by a large stone, which they have used to hit the door, Jerry falls under the table while others standing freeze in shock.

Within seconds the house is full of young, rugged looking soldiers followed by an elderly soldier in his mid 30s whose name is OTTI JULIUS, the head of all operations.

Otti scans the house and everyone inside ,he stops his eyes on Cathy.

Her father is looking on with a sad face and scared, tears running down his face knowing what is going to happen.

Cathy's mother is holding Cathy and Oketcho around her a distance from their father. Jerry is quiet under the table, Otti pulls a chair and sits near the table.

Jerry's heart pound fast tears runs under his chin. Jerry can see dirty boots of the soldiers, his terrified under the table.

OTTI  
(Pointing at Cathy)  
You. What's your name?

Cathy looks at her father scared but she doesn't say a thing, everyone is silent in the room, only the sound of heavy breathing and heart pounding heavy.

OTTI (CONT'D)  
Come here.

Cathy hesitant at first but after few seconds she walks slowly towards Otti.

MOTHER  
Please, don't hurt her.

OTTI  
I do not hurt women, madam. In fact, I respect women, and I treat them as queens.

Otti grabs her shoulders and pulls her close to him.

CUT TO:

EXT. VILLAGE - NIGHT.

It's almost dark outside, lots of children are have been gathered in the compounds outside Cathy's house compound, dead bodies lies on the ground everywhere.

Houses are on fire and people crying in every part of the village.

Soldiers are tying ropes around necks of the children and others beating those trying to run away, shooting anyone who even tries to run away, and beating them to death.

These soldiers don't care they just kill for no reason, Women, children and fathers.

INT. CATHY'S HOUSE - NIGHT.

OTTI  
(to Cathy)  
We are taking you with us and  
Your brother do you know that?

Cathy's mother tears are runs down her cheek so do Cathy, her father can't say anything, he know they have do everything they say for them to leave them alive.

OTTI (CONT'D)  
We will leave your family alone,  
but you have to do one thing and  
one thing only. Kill your father!

Cathy looks and cries hard, and feeling shaky, she looks down.

Otti pulls out a gun and points it first to her brother, then to her mother, and ultimately, to her father.

OTTI (CONT'D)  
I will kill everyone here and then  
take you, the blood of your family  
will be on your hands.  
Just kill one and save two as  
simple as that.

Outside, other soldiers are already finished gathering everything they came for, children, looting and the killing of innocent one.

The smoke covers the skies of the village.

Inside the house, Cathy refuses to kill any of her family members.

Otti hands her the gun, but she refuses to take it, and Otti slaps her in the face.

She falls down on the ground near the table, and she senses JERRY's presence and fear, without looking at him.

She starts thinking about everything that is at stake, and especially, her brother, which may be found, or even burned inside the house.

A soldier pulls her up and Otti gives her the hand gun again, she takes it.

OTTI (CONT'D)  
Now, just point it to the one you  
want to die and squeeze that  
thing.(showing her the trigger)

Otti pulls her close to him from behind, and wraps his hands a cross her from behind, he holds her hands with the gun and starts to point to one by one.

OTTI (CONT'D)  
Dad or Mom, Mom or Dad?

Cathy squeezes herself off him, turns and points the gun at Otti.

OTTI lifts his hands up, and she pulls the trigger in anger, but nothing seems to have happened, as the gun was not loaded.

All the soldiers laugh at her, Otti lifts his hand to the air, signaling all of them to stop laughing.

He looks at her in the eye and takes his gun away from her.

OTTI (CONT'D)  
You wont be a good wife, but a good soldier, maybe. You have anger, anger that you want to use at all times, but this time, you made a mistake.

Cathy's father goes down on the knees and crawls towards Otti.

FATHER  
(On his knees)  
Please! Forgive us.

One of the child soldiers knocks his face with the butt of his AK47 gun.

OTTI  
(looking at him)  
You haven't done wrong, just ask your daughter to do the right thing for you and your family.

Otti turns to face Cathy while looks at his watch.

Time seems to be running out, and one soldier hands him a loaded gun, which he hands to Cathy, without letting it go.

OTTI (CONT'D)  
(aiming gun to the mother)  
The blood of your family is on your hands. Father gave you his blessing, don't disobey him, or try anything stupid. Second mistake, final words.

FATHER  
If you love us, let this be.

Cathy can't do anything, her hand shakes. Jerry pees in his pants and his pee is running down, his father sees it and walks on the knees to Cathy, he yells at her, pulling the attention of the soldiers not see the pee.

FATHER (CON'T) (CONT'D)  
 (sobbing & screaming)  
 If this family ends today, it will  
 be all your fault, Cathy, and I  
 will curse the very day your mother  
 gave birth to you.

A soldier enters the house and nodes his head to Otti indicating they have finished, Otti hands the gun to Cathy but helping her from behind to pull the trigger.

Her father voices is breaking, changing and fading away, with each scream louder than the last one.

FATHER (CONT'D)  
 (yelling at her)  
 What are you waiting for?! Do it,  
 now. Do it, do it!

We see the a flash of light on Cathy's face, everything is in slow motion, as the body of her father falls to the ground.

Cathy screams but we can't hear her. Everything is slowed down, blood on the walls and Cathy's face. Cathy's Mama kneels down in tears, besides her dead husband.

Oketcho is terrified, just looking at the scenario shocked. He looks at the body of their father drowning in a lake of blood, his own.

Now everything is back to normal, and everyone's cries are heard.

Cathy and her Mother bawl as hard as ever, while her mother looks at all the blood surrounding the room, not daring to believe her husband has just been killed their second child.

CUT TO:

EXT. VILLAGE - NIGHT.

SONG

A SAD AFRICAN SONG PLAYS IN THE BACK GROUND.

It's dark outside and all the children are lined up ropes around their necks and others carrying boxes and looted goods.

Cathy and her brother Oketcho and other kids from her school all marching out of the village.



The screams of pain and loses in the village behind them is heard. Houses on fire and dead bodies lying on the grounds drowning in their own bloods.

The most of the survivors are missing some body parts, ears, arms, lags and others padlocks on their mouths and others mouth were cut off and left to blood to death.

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSE - DAY.

Cathy's mothers lies on the ground facing under the table eyes to Jerry, she is bleeding almost every part of her body but still alive. Jerry crawls out of the table to where she lies on the ground fighting for her life.

JERRY  
(tears running)  
Mama, Mama.

MOTHER  
(in low soft voice)  
They took you sister and brother,  
but they will come back. Promise  
me to wait for them.

JERRY  
(crying)  
I promise mama, I will...

MOTHER  
(low voice and breaking)  
Be a good boy.. you always are.

She stops talking, Jerry starts to shake her calling her.

JERRY  
(crying)  
Mama, mama, mama, mama..

EXT. BUSHES & HILLS - NIGHT.

MONTAGE

The soldiers and their captives are walking through the bushes, hills and forests. The captives are still on the ropes, some get tired and fall down, making others also fall.

They walk till morning next day towards Sudan-Uganda border and the next day they're still working in the forests and hills and mountains.

EXT. HILLS - DAY.

They continue walking without stopping to rest, most of the children are bare footed and walking through rocks, cutting them and bleeding all over the pass.

One of the abducted kid is badly hurt and can't walk anymore, making others to slow down, He slips and falls down, the soldiers starts to beat other kids with the butts of the AK47s to make them keep on walking dragging the kid on rocky grounds but still it's hard for them to walk.

SOLDIER

(in Swahili to Otти)

We have a sick one sir.

OTTI

How bad?

SOLDIER

Very bad, I think he needs a doctor. He is very young, and needs help.

OTTI

We are fighters not doctors. Get some of the recruits to do it, and do it fast. Wounded and young, how can he help me?!

The soldiers untie the sick kid and others continue marching and the soldiers pulls out one kid to stay behind. Cathy looks at Oketcho but Oketcho looks like his avoiding her.

Moments later the group is still walking, the other soldiers and kid comes back and join them.

Blood is all over the cloth of the kid, he shaky and crying. When the other kids see him, they know what has just happened back there.

Some of them get terrified, and their sad faces turn to mourning ones.

After walking for many hours without food or water, most of them are really tired are not used to walk for long hours. One of the girls needs water, her lips are dry and breaking, she can't walk anymore.

GIRL

I need some water.

They all stop, Otти walks back to her.

OTTI

You need some water?!

GIRL  
 (shy, looking down)  
 Yes sir.

OTTI  
 (to soldier)  
 Untie her.

The soldiers pulls her from the group. Otti looks around in the forest.

OTTI (CONT'D)  
 Tie her on that tree.

She starts to cry and to her way from the soldiers' arms.

She pulls herself back to the group but the soldiers overpower her., lifting her up, while her feet kick the open air.

GIRL  
 No, no, no.

GIRL (CONT'D)  
 I don't want water anymore, please stop.

They drag her to tree, and she tries her best to make them stop, while everyone is watching.

She starts getting tied to a tree, by a thick rope.

She finally gives in, tired, and cries for forgiveness and mercy.

OTTI  
 (to the girl)  
 Now wait for rain to give as much water you need.

He turns and looks to all the children.

OTTI (CONT'D)  
 Is there anyone who need water?

No one answers him, and they all look down, with their dry lips and sweaty faces.

OTTI (CONT'D)  
 (yelling)  
 Alright lets move.

They continue to march in the forest, most of them look back at the girl tied to the tree, but there's nothing they can do to help her.

Once she sees they're moving further away from her, and leaving her there, she starts to scream.

GIRL  
HELP! HELP! HELP

After that, she goes back crying, and whispers to herself.

GIRL (CONT'D)  
Help, help, help...

CUT TO:

INT. PRESS CONFERENCE HALL - DAY.

KAMPALA.

The news journalist and government officials gather in one large room, cameras both still and video, tape recorders and microphones are everywhere.

Journalists with pens and clip boards writing the question and the answers from the questions asked to the government officials.

JOURNALIST 1#  
Sir, sir; You said that the government have pushed the rebels out of Uganda, and how comes that the rebels are still abducting children from villages and torturing people.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL #1  
We are working on that. We have put patrol units in all parts of north, to find out where these rebels are coming from.

JOURNALIST #2  
So we hear that they have been killing our soldiers and even gun down some high ranking officers.

JOURNALIST #2 (CONT'D)  
And there were also reports of a helicopter taken down by these men. What does that mean in terms of our country's security, to its own citizens?

The officer silences for few seconds before he can answer him.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL #1  
No helicopters, whatsoever, have been hit down, and no officers have been killed by the rebels, everything is under control.

Other journalists raising theirs in the air to the officer,  
The officer looks around and points at a man.

JOURNALIST #3

Sir, there have been rumors that  
captured children have been facing  
torture from our own soldiers to  
get information about the rebels  
and others have been killed  
unarmed.

He looks at the journalist.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL #1

They're just rumors, next  
question.

The female journalist doesn't believe the official, she  
writes down on a piece of paper. Other journalist keeps on  
questioning the government officials.

JOURNALIST #3

Where are they getting funds to  
fight and why are we don't  
negotiate with them to end the  
bloody war.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL #1

We're have been negotiating for the  
past five years but some times they  
pass behind our backs and invade  
villages, for weapons. They may be  
around our villages, but out peace,  
and our rest is assured. We have  
been doing, and will continue doing  
the very best we can to keep them  
out of our homes, and out of our  
towns. If they're getting fund,  
only God knows who would fund such  
cruel men.

The press conference continues, but we don't hear the  
questions and answers clearly as the sound fades out and  
fades in a song in a language we don't under stand.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMP - DAY.

The camp is in the middle of nowhere in the forest, most of  
the housings are built out of mud and grass, they're about  
fourteen units. The camp is surrounded by fence made of tree  
branches and trees.

In every corner of the fence stands a watch tower with the big lights on two towers, every few minutes guards patrols the camp, on one side of the fence is made up of barbed wires with shape hooked ends.

On top of the other sides of the fence also finished and topped with barbed wires, The officers unites are on the far left side of the camp.

In the camp are all kinds of child soldiers, some young eleven and twelve year-old holding AK47s looking angry and dirty stands in the camp watch new comers, no one of the child soldiers look happy, they all have a serious faces.

The soldiers gather to see the new ones they just stare at them, Cathy looks at the six and seven year-old soldiers and other soldiers feeling sorry for them.

Cathy's face is full of dry sweat and her lips are dry like the others children Soldiers starts to untie everyone and off loading what were carrying, Cathy looks around to find her brother, they stare for few seconds while soldiers forcing to sit on the ground.

She scans around to see if she knows anyone in her group, besides Natasha.

She lands her eyes on a girl from a neighbor village, ESTHER.

She doesn't seem to know anyone else, so she turns to Natasha, and they stare each other for few moments.

Both she and Natasha scan around with their eyes, one more time, and see a lot of girls their age, and one that seemed really young - FAYE.

Otti walks towards the tents on the far side of the camp, leaving the soldiers surrounding the new comer soldiers, everyone is silent just stare at the soldiers stand before them.

CUT TO:

INT. TENT - DAY.

A group of six soldiers sit drinking some beers and sodas. Nothing much in this tent only few seats a bed and clothes hanging on the wall.

OTTI takes a sip on a bottle of beer, other officers drink beer and others drink sodas.

One of the officers drinking beer is in his forties, dark face with scares under his right eye his name is JAMES.

One officer, standing not too far from the two, is DIMBA, a tall soldier, with a bearded face, standing in front of a large map of Uganda, with many pin markers on it.

On his right hand, are many papers, rolled into one cylindrical shape.

On a far side of the room is TEMBA, a man wearing a government soldier's hat, with a toothpick in his mouth, paying close attention to the conversation, while drinking a bottle of beer.

JAMES

Did you get any resistance from the enemy?

OTTI

(taking a sip)

Some kids couldn't kill their parents and two died on the way, otherwise everything went as planned.

JAMES

How many girls did get this time?

All other soldiers listening and enjoying their drinks, outside on the door stands soldiers on guard.

OTTI

I'm not sure, I think ten, fifteen.

DIMBA

And what about man, how many man capable of holding a firearm did you guys bring?

OTTI

They're outside; you can count if you want to.

DIMBA

I just want to make sure we do everything as planned. We should have already finished this operation.

JAMES

We're getting new soldiers every 6 months.

DIMBA

We're getting children.

JAMES

We will train them until they're ready, get some more, and it's done.

OTTI

You need a woman, DIMBA.

DIMBA

First, I need soldiers to make sure we'll achieve our goal.

OTTI

(to guards)

Go get the women.

(at Dimba)

First!

He looks at DIMBA with laughter, lifting his beer can, at him.

TEMBA sketches a smile, but looking down; and takes a sip.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMP - NIGHT.

The young soldiers walking through the recruits searching for girls, they starts to pull out girls and leaving boys sited, they pick Cathy, Natasha and all other girl.

They march the girls to the officers huts/tent.

CUT TO:

INT. CAMP - TENT - NIGHT.

The officers are still drinking and chatting, a soldier knocks on the door and enters followed by a line of young girls from the village.

All the girls look innocent and scared to look in the eyes of the officer, they keep their eyes looking at the floor.

JAMES

Oh my! Beautiful.

James sits up and starts to walk scanning the girls standing in a line, He checks them out, touching their face, and boobs.

The girls are scared, but there is little to nothing they can do.

He grabs and pulls out Natasha a side and walks towards the exit.



JAMES (CONT'D)  
(speaking in Swahili)  
I'm going to have fun!

After he exits, Otti sits up, walks to Cathy and pulls her, he takes her to the bed behind him. He forces her to sit on the table, caressing her legs.

OTTI  
Officers if you can excuse me. Go  
and have a good time.

They all sits up and they walk out with girl each and other girls follows the soldier who brought them to hut, Otti follows them and close door when all are out and walks back to Cathy.

Cathy sits on the bed, arm close together between her thighs, eyes down looking at the floor, Otti taps her shoulder, she doesn't respond.

He touches her chin and turn her face to look at him, eyes filled with tears, he looks at her and smiles.

He starts to touch her boobs, she falls down on the knees, arms on Otti's legs cry. Otti looks at her kneeling.

CATHY  
Please let me go, I want go home.

OTTI  
(laughing)  
This is your new home and you're my  
wife from now on.

He pulls her on her feet, then grabs and pulls her dress with force, tearing it apart.

She screams, but he doesn't care, he continues ripping off CATHY's dress.

Her upper body is now unveiled, with her breasts uncovered, and OTTI looking at them, marveled.

Cathy pushes Otti away with brute force and tries to run to the door, but to no avail.

Otti grabs her hand before she even gets close to it.

He turns her around and slaps her in the face.

She falls down to the ground.

He grabs her feet, and she tries to free herself, ending up without her sandals.

He lifts her up, violently, and tosses her to the bed.

OTTI (CONT'D)

We either do it in a good way or bad way. It's up you and if you do anything stupid I will shoot you.

He crawls to his bed, anxiously, and puts his knee in-between CATHY's legs, sliding him up, and forcing her legs to open up to him.

Almost silently, she cries her heart out, fearing what OTTI might do.

He holds her mouth and kisses her, while removing his pants. She tries to resist, and he slaps her again.

She gives up, and he rapes her.

Hours later Cathy sits on the floor of the hut crying, Ottil on the bed.

OTTI (CONT'D)

(gently)

You better get used of it, come to the bed.... now!

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMP - DAY.

Most of the children sit in the camp compound, unmoved ever since.

Some of the girls that had been in the officers' hut are back, while others come back one by one.

Most of them are bruised, and their clothes are torn apart. Natasha's clothes are as she went; Cathy looks at her wondering what happen.

They join the others sitting down in the compound.

Since they'd been give no food after being held captives, their appearance is fragile and cold.

A dozen soldiers show up from both sides of the compound, and start beating them up, ordering them to stand up, in line.

Swiftly, the child soldiers comply with the order.

Soldiers pass through to make sure they're in a straight line.

Moments later, other officers join to see the newcomers and welcome them, with a slight nod of the head.

Other soldiers keep marching from left-right, swinging their arms and beating their feet to the ground, holding guns.

Some children in Cathy's group look at them with a smile.

Soldiers carrying buckets of oil and other local herbals walk to the group and place them on the ground in front of the children.

OTTI  
(Walking and looking at  
them)

Children, men...soldiers! From this day forward, you will be protected from the ghosts of those you kill, from the wrath of those you seek, and from every eye that pray your flesh. This will make you invisible to your enemies, and you will claim victory, every time you go to combat.

The children don't move, and neither speak.

He walks and sits near by with other officers, and other soldier walks to the buckets to carry on from OTTI.

He mixes the herbs with oil, and after mixing, they start to call the children one by one, by pointing at them.

The man starts to speak in tongues, and no one understands what he is saying, nor even recognize the idiom.

Both CATHY and NATASHA start to get the feeling that they might stay be captives for quite some time.

The man holds the bible in one hand and with the other, he touches the heads of those who are to be cleansed.

The cleansing continues, after hours all the children have been baptized and cleansed.

They serve them food, and even though they are hungry, they stay aligned, waiting for their turn, as the uniformed (older) child soldiers are looking at them, pointing their guns at the ground, but holding them tightly.

They all seat down, dishing the little food they have been given.

Their plates are empty, while they look at each other, still hungry.

NATASHA  
They're going to make us eat each other.

The uniformed child soldiers gather them up again, and make them stand in two lines, one with man, the other with woman.

OTTI

Okay everyone, meet general DIMBA. DIMBA is our moderator, and he will tell you about the rules, and you have to know rules, in order to stay alive.

OTTI looks to his left.

OTTI (CONT'D)

Dimba...

DIMBA walks in, stands in front of the two rows.

DIMBA

One row, only.

The children, who were on the back, step up, closing the gap in the front row.

DIMBA (CONT'D)

Rules are simple: Obey your commanding officers no matter what. Speak only when spoken to. Never try to run away, and train as hard as your body allows you to. I will not take responsibility for your unwillingness to obey. Training starts now. Two rows, one follows me, other follows general TEMBA.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST - LATER

Both DIMBA and TEMBA are in front, with about fifteen (15) feet from the close-aligned child soldiers.

At the back, there are two other senior soldiers, controlling the formation.

In DIMBA's (left) row we find CATHY, NATASHA and many other girls which they don't know.

In TEMBA's (right) row we find OKETCHO, JOHNSON, and four other boys as well.

CATHY looks at OKETCHO, and he senses it, but doesn't look at her.

TEMBA

(to DIMBA)

How long do you think this is going to last?

DIMBA  
I don't know, talk to OTTI.

TEMBA  
We need more soldiers.

DIMBA smiles.

DIMBA  
Look at the people who are following you. They need a lot of time to be called soldiers. If they obey, things are going to be quicker; if they don't, we lose time.

TEMBA  
Don't worry about obedience.

DIMBA  
I'm worried about time.

Natasha gets her to concentrate on walking straight, as her brother wasn't giving any response.

They finally get to a clear area.

DIMBA (CONT'D)  
We cannot stay here for longer than thirty minutes.

TEMBA  
Why?

DIMBA  
I know some things you don't. Don't overcomplicate things.

TEMBA  
Alright.

TEMBA starts running to his right side, five hundred (500) feet from the formation.

DIMBA  
(at the girls)  
Pay attention! You are under his command, now.

As TEMBA gets there, he shouts in 3-second intervals, ordering the boys to sprint to where he's at.

TEMBA  
One, two, three, four.

When the first boy (OKETCHO) gets there, DIMBA goes to his right side, making the girls align on his back, while TEMBA give OKETCHO instructions.

TEMBA

You'll do the same, from there,  
quicker. One! Two, three, four.

DIMBA

(to the girls)  
Get ready, you're next.

OKETCHO gets back there, and before the others get there, he starts shouting, in 1-second intervals.

OKETCHO

One, two, three, four, five, six,  
seven, eight, nine, ten.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST - MOMENTS LATER

The boys are fighting each other, one on one.

OKETCHO's on the ground, suffocating another captive.

JOHNSON is also on the ground, being pummeled by a stronger boy.

The other two boys are still up, trying to find the right moment to make a move.

The girls are doing push-ups, with DIMBA's guidance.

DIMBA kneels next to Esther and pushes her back down, making her moan.

DIMBA

Fight for more, will it.

DIMBA suddenly switches his attention to the suffocating boy, and calls for TEMBA's attention.

DIMBA (CONT'D)

Temba, that's enough.

Enthused by the OKETCHO's stamina and grit, TEMBA lets the fight go on, not even looking at DIMBA.

DIMBA runs at OKETCHO, grabs him by the collar, and throws him into the ground.

DIMBA (CONT'D)

(angry)

That's enough, boy.

DIMBA walks back to his girls' exercises.

TEMBA  
We don't have time Dimba, they need  
to train.

DIMBA doesn't look back.

DIMBA  
(to the girls)  
Training's over.

The girls fall to the ground, and then slowly get up.

TEMBA  
You're a spy, aren't you, Dimba?

OKETCHO gets up, with TEMBA's help.

DIMBA turns around, with blood-shot eyes.

DIMBA  
I am a freedom fighter, not a spy,  
and not a killer. I was born to  
serve to serve God and my country.  
What are you?!

TEMBA  
Training's over.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

With the sun almost gone, they walk back to the camp.

DIMBA and TEMBA's rows are not as close as they were in their  
way to training.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMP - LATER

The girls are put apart from the boys, with NATASHA and CATHY  
sitting underneath a tree, surrounded by all the others.

The moonlight shines, and lights up the evening night.

NATASHA  
I would be sitting in front of the  
television, watching a comedy show.

CATHY  
And I would be in front of a  
mirror, dreaming. How come you  
weren't hurt by the man?

NATASHA

I gave him what he wanted, didn't fight. I knew if I did, I would end up like you. Don't fight, Cathy.

CATHY

Life isn't supposed to be like this. We are supposed to fight for what is wrong, condemning it to inexistence. What keeps us from doing that, there's nothing else we want.

NATASHA

We want to survive.

FAYE

That's not enough.

FAYE, a beautiful eleven-year old, with black hair, speaks, while laying down on her sister ESTHER's lap.

NATASHA

It should be.

CATHY

But It's not. I don't know if anyone deserves this, but we don't, and we shouldn't just give in.

ESTHER

Is that dog your brother?

CATHY

Yes.

ESTHER

You are a good sister, but men are just like that, can't be trusted.

CATHY

He's different.

ESTHER

I hope you're right. What's your name?

CATHY

Cathy. And yours?

ESTHER

Esther. My sister's Faye.

CATHY

Pleased to meet you Faye.



FAYE  
Pleased to meet you, Cathy.

ESTHER  
(at NATASHA)  
You?

NATASHA  
I'm Natasha.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMP - DAY

It's early in the morning, and the girls are sleeping in the open air, with nothing but some bed sheets to cover up.

A group of three (3) senior soldiers storm into them, screaming.

SENIOR SOLDIERS  
Wake up, wake up. Up!

The girls wake up, and stand in line.

After that, the soldiers leave.

The six newcomer male child soldiers are seen walking with TEMBA, into one of the officer's hut, with OKETCHO second-in-line.

CATHY  
What's going on?!

ESTHER  
Probably, nothing good.

CUT TO:

INT. CAMP - DIMBA'S HUT - DAY

Dimba is sleeping, half-naked, and OTTI knocks at his bedroom door.

OTTI  
Dimba, we need to talk. Open up,  
Dimba.

DIMBA gets up, and gets suspicious.

He puts on some pants, and goes to his door, without opening it.

DIMBA  
What's this about?

OTTI  
Your subordinate wants some  
questions answered.

DIMBA opens the door, and sees TEMBA, accompanied by his new  
child soldiers' group.

Also, OTTI and JAMES stand in the opposite side of the room.

DIMBA  
TEMBA, what have you told them?

OTTI  
TEMBA wants to ask you how many  
girls you were leading, yesterday.

DIMBA  
Is that a reason for this entire  
circus?

TEMBA  
Two are missing.

DIMBA  
Impossible.

TEMBA  
I want to know when you lost them,  
how you lost them, and why you  
didn't report.

OTTI  
(at DIMBA)  
How many girls did you take to  
training yesterday?

DIMBA  
Ten girls and four boys, other  
soldiers can confirm it.

TEMBA  
I can confirm it as well, that's  
why we need to know what happened?

DIMBA  
Do you think I freed them?

Everyone stays quiet.

DIMBA (CONT'D)  
I have given my life to these  
operations, in order for us to have  
as many soldiers we need. Tell me  
what I have to do to prove my  
innocence?!

The officials look at each other.

TEMBA looks at OKETCHO.

TEMBA

Soldier, you were one the responsible for guiding the routines, outside the camp. When you were counting the girls, how did you count them?

OKETCHO

From one to ten, sir.

TEMBA

Soldier, when we came back, you stayed and tallied the girls, how many where they?

OKETCHO

Ten.

DIMBA

What is your name?

OTTI

(at DIMBA)

Do you confirm that?

DIMBA ignores OTTI, and asks again, furious.

DIMBA

(at OKETCHO)

What is your name?

OKETCHO doesn't answer.

TEMBA taps the boy.

OKETCHO

Oketcho.

DIMBA

Boy, do not mistake me for a friend. I will kill you with my own hands, if you decide to play games against me.

TEMBA

(to child soldiers)

Line-up and abandon location.

TEMBA leaves with them.

OTTI

We have to lower your position. Temba will be your superior, until this is all cleared.

DIMBA  
If that's what you wish.

OTTI  
Alright, have a blessed morning.

DIMBA is left sad, in disbelief of everything that had just happened.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST - DAY

MONTAGE

The child soldiers climbing trees, carrying buckets of water, held by a large stick, and crouching on a dug up space, filled with water.

DIMBA can be seen shouting at them, fiercely, giving guidance as to how he wishes to see them perform each routine.

DIMBA sees OKETCHO performing every activity, perfectly.

While carrying the buckets of water, back and forth, DIMBA sees NATASHA and OKETCHO glancing at each other, and shouts.

DIMBA  
Faster, or you will be punished.

Both of them look ahead, and continue performing the activities.

CATHY, ESTHER and FAYE are carrying large chunks of wood, and leaving them by a tree.

FAYE falls down, and CATHY goes back, and helps her.

The child soldiers perform the running exercise, the same way as before, with OKETCHO running faster than his mates, and again, locking eyes with NATASHA.

JOHNSON runs behind him, and looks at her, as well.

This time, DIMBA doesn't see it, but CATHY and ESTHER do.

They perform gun-assembly exercises, to hone their skills, and later, target practice.

OKETCHO finishes his exercise, and goes back to TEMBA, for more bullets.

DIMBA pays close attention to the proceeding, and sees JOHNSON looking away from the target.

JOHNSON turns to OKETCHO, pointing the gun at his back, and running towards him.

DIMBA takes out his own personal semi-automatic gun, and shoots JOHNSON, hitting his shoulder.

JOHNSON falls to the ground, and cries, in agony.

TEMBA goes straight to him, and shoots him in the head.

With that particular gunshot sound, the girls immediately look to see whose body is that.

From a distance, TEMBA bows down to DIMBA, in mockery, with a big smile.

CATHY sees TEMBA putting his left arm on a boy's shoulder, and calms down, knowing his brother hasn't been shot dead.

CUT TO:

INT. CAMP - TENT - DAY

Generals OTTI and JAMES are being lectured by DIMBA.

DIMBA

This is why we always have to go back, and kill more people. At this rate, there would have been no point to bring these kids. They are being trained by an animal, and they are barking along with him.

OTTI

Unfortunately, these kids are learning fast, they're ready.

DIMBA

They are not ready. Most of the girls can't even run for one hour.

JAMES

Give Temba some time, he'll get them ready.

DIMBA

I hope you are right, and don't regret this decision.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMP - DAY

The girls are sitting by a tree, and FAYE is drawing a picture on the sand, featuring a family aggregate comprised of four members (mother, father and two sisters), holding hands, in front of a house.

On top of the drawing she wrote "PAST".

CATHY erases the title with her hand, and instead writes, "FUTURE".

CATHY draws an arrow at the older woman in the drawing, and writes "FAYE".

CATHY looks at ESTHER, and asks for NATASHA.

ESTHER shakes her head, signaling she doesn't know where she is.

FADE INTO:

EXT. CAMP - DAY

OKETCHO and NATASHA are next to one of the tower-like structures, kissing each other, passionately.

FADE INTO:

EXT. CAMP - DAY

Overview of the whole camp, with new recruits coming.

SUPER TITLE: 12 MONTHS LATER

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMP - DAY.

The child soldiers are all gathered up, with their four commanding officials (OTTI, JAMES, DIMBA and TEMBA), in front of them.

The child soldiers that were there before the new arrivals, bring a three boxes, and put them in front of the officials.

The girls have all trimmed their hair, excluding FAYE; and the man are much more strong, with OKETCHO standing out of the rest, for his posture, and increased height.

JAMES

Men, tonight, we are going to leave for a short period of time, myself and Ottili. We would also wish this to be an opportunity for Oketcho, for him to be under both TEMBA and DIMBA's tutelage, and learn. Do you wish to say something, are you ready.

OKETCHO steps up, and bends his head down, in reverence.

OKETCHO

Yes, I am. Thank you.

JAMES

Give your soldiers their long-deserved uniform. This is the moment you were trained for.

OTTI

This is a sign of trust, and it means you are now family.

OKETCHO opens all three boxes, and starts handing out each one, their new uniforms.

CUT TO:

INT. CAMP - OTTI'S HUT - DAY.

The hut is dark, and we can barely see anything.

CATHY is lying on OTTI's bed, and he's on top of her.

The bed springs make shrieking sounds, as CATHY's body goes back and forth, still, in a looping manner.

CATHY closes her eyes, holding her tears back, and opens them again, shedding a glimpse of light, through her watery eyes.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST - DAY.

Cathy, Natasha and other soldiers are gathering wood for cooking, with full, matching uniforms.

Cathy turns to a tree, and notices a rope, close to the tree.

She starts walking towards the tree, trembling, and breathing heavily, already aware of what was on the other side.

She looks gets to the other side, and sees it is the body of the girl they left behind, on the very day they had been captured and taken as recruit child soldiers.

Cathy manages to contain her scream, and only kneels down, and starts crying.

ESTHER, who was close to CATHY, gets there, and petrifies by looking at the dead girl's body tied to the tree.

The other child soldiers, hearing a weird noise, go to CATHY, and see the rotting body.

OKETCHO gets there after most of them, and goes to his sister, CATHY, helping her get up, and calming her down.

OKETCHO  
 It's ok, it's ok.  
 (at child soldiers)  
 SOLDIERS! Cut her down, and bury  
 her. Now!

He holds his sister in his arms, and lets her go.

Natasha sees the affection given to CATHY by her brother, and feels happy.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMP - TENT - NIGHT.

OKETCHO, along with **the** other four child soldiers, and comes to the generals' meeting tent, and hears DIMBA's voice, just before opening the door.

DIMBA (O.S.)  
 It is too soon!

INT. CAMP - TENT - SAME.

OKETCHO comes through the door, and bends his head, in reverence.

OKETCHO  
 Permission to speak, sir?!

DIMBA  
 Stupid child. Who gave you  
 permission to -

TEMBA interrupts DIMBA, and looks at OKETCHO.

TEMBA  
 Let him speak.

OKETCHO  
 Thank you, sir. We found a girl's  
 body tied to a tree, with large  
 footprints. Boots, sir.

TEMBA  
 (at DIMBA)  
 Is it still too soon?!  
 (at OKETCHO)  
 Thank you, you can go.

OKETCHO  
 We need to find a new base, and  
 abandon this one, immediately.

DIMBA looks at OKETCHO, finding him more straightforward and vocal than usual.



OKETCHO (CONT'D)

If they come here, they will kill all of you, leaving no one behind. And they will torture every child soldier in this camp, forcing us to tell about a camp that no longer exists.

TEMBA

Oketcho...

OKETCHO

Yes, sir.

TEMBA

We call you a soldier, just because we need you to fight, child. You do your part, and we do ours, don't start mixing things up. I am your general, and you shall speak to me as such.

OKETCHO

Yes, sir.

TEMBA

You can go, now.

OKETCHO slightly bends his head down, and leaves.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMP - CHILD SOLDIERS' HUT - NIGHT.

CATHY, ESTHER and NATASHA are on the right, far side of the mat, talking.

ESTHER

That girl didn't deserve to die like that. Someone should have cut her down, and giver water.

CATHY

Why didn't we?! Are they so strong to make us kill and let die? We have to escape from here.

NATASHA

We have to do everything we can to survive.

CATHY

I'd rather die. Kill me now, and I'll be more alive than ever before.

ESTHER  
Cathy, Natasha's right. I wish I  
could help you.

CATHY  
Thanks.

NATASHA  
I can talk to Denis, he can help  
us.

ESTHER  
Who is that?!

NATASHA  
Oketcho.

CATHY  
Don't! He needs the same help as we  
all do, there is no difference.

CUT TO:

INT. CAMP - CHILD SOLDIERS' HUT - DAY.

The girls are all sleeping close to each other, on the straw  
mat.

Suddenly, a light cuts through the dark hut, along with a  
creaking door sound.

OKETCHO, along with other child soldier stand on the door.

The girls get out of the bed, and look at him.

OKETCHO  
Training session in fifteen  
minutes.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMP - TRAINING FIELD - DAY.

The male child soldiers are making a daily round of marching  
and gun-holding posture.

OKETCHO and the other male child soldiers are being  
controlled by a senior soldier, equally.

CATHY, ESTHER and FAYE are cleaning their gun, with tubes, in  
order for them not to jam.

CATHY  
(at ESTHER)  
Look!

ESTHER looks at her sister, and sees her cleaning her gun, just like she is supposed to.

She turns to CATHY, and smiles, forcibly, when all of a sudden.

NATASHA  
(moaning)  
AHHHHHHHHH!

TEMBA  
You can scream even more, if you want to. You really think you can deceive us?!

OKETCHO, and every other boy stop marching, and look at a screaming, along with sobbing, coming from a female child soldier, being dragged across the mud by her hair.

The boys look at OKETCHO, but he's too focused on the situation to take notice.

NATASHA wrestles and squeals up, and TEMBA slaps her a couple of times, making her cry even more.

NATASHA  
(sobbing)  
I didn't mean to, I just found it.

TEMBA drags her through most the field, past the child soldiers, and takes her next to general DIMBA.

General DIMBA looks at TEMBA.

DIMBA  
What happened?!

TEMBA  
She broke rules and protocol by having a key to their hut. As soon as I saw her, she tried to hide it.

DIMBA  
What?!

TEMBA  
She stole our keys, Dimba. Pity! Have the boy do it, he must learn a lesson.

TEMBA lets her go.

The general kneels down and gently lifts the female child soldier's chin.

NATASHA

I'm sorry. I wasn't going to escape, I wasn't going to leave the camp, I swear.

DIMBA

(tearful)

There is no other way. I'm sorry, child.

Every other child soldier watch, paying attention.

The female child soldier doesn't stop crying, and barely opens her eyes.

The general gets back up and walks upon the child soldier formation, leaving her behind him.

DIMBA (CONT'D)

Soldiers, comrades, I'll say this no more, so hear carefully. Every one of you knows we have rules, and we need all of you ready to fight. Discipline should start here and be noticed on the battlefield.

NATASHA

Please forgive me. Please, forgive me.

DIMBA

I am not your chief, but I will do everything within my powers to make you ready. OKETCHO!

oketcho comes down in front of his general, being watched-over by other soldiers and generals alike, and bends his head down before DIMBA.

DIMBA (CONT'D)

Good soldiers are brave, and brave men do everything they must to maintain order. OKETCHO, order.

DIMBA hands him a small pistol.

OKETCHO

Sir?!

DIMBA

(shouting)

Order!

OKETCHO doesn't move.

OKETCHO

First I have to report to James and OTTI. I cannot do anything until they are here.

TEMBA starts running towards OKETCHO, cursing him, ready to knock him down.

TEMBA

You insolent...

DIMBA

Stop.

OKETCHO looks at TEMBA, angry, and back at the ground. Dimba comes close to Oketcho, pats him on his back, and as he goes back to his starting position, he whispers some words.

DIMBA (CONT'D)

(whispering)

Forgive me!

OKETCHO hears DIMBA's words, and looks straight at him.

DIMBA (CONT'D)

You will obey me, all of you. In their absence, I am James and Otti, as well. Take five more seconds to obey, and I will shoot you, soldier.

OKETCHO promptly shoots NATASHA in the head, without ever looking up, but with a slight hiccup.

NATASHA's body falls on the ground, frozen still.

DIMBA (CONT'D)

Back to formation.

OKETCHO salutes him, and goes back to the formation.

DIMBA (CONT'D)

(calm)

Learn every lesson you can from those that fell before you, so that your days may amount to the days they had.

General DIMBA leaves the camp training, as TEMBA, gives more training exercises to the child soldiers.

While they quickly get back to their workout, TEMBA stops ESTHER and her sister, FAYE.

TEMBA

Volunteer!

The two sisters go, and come back with a stretcher, in which they'd carry NATASHA's body.

They take NATASHA's body; put it into a stretcher, and carry it into the forest, followed by an armed senior soldier, carrying a shovel.

Cathy watches ESTHER and her sister carry her best friend's lifeless corpse, into the woods, for burying, with extreme sadness and melancholy.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMP - CHILD SOLDIERS' HUT.

In the female child soldiers' hut, CATHY is wrapping her arms on ESTHER, while they still wait for FAYE to come back.

CATHY is humming a song, whilst the rest of the female child soldiers around them stand, also praying for FAYE to come back soon from the forest, when -

Their hut door is abruptly opened, and TEMBA stands on the entrance.

TEMBA

Our men were attacked in the forest.

A desperate ESTHER screams, and cries, slowly falling down to the ground.

TEMBA (CONT'D)

We can still surprise them, they don't know we know. Get ready.

TEMBA leaves, leaving the door open.

ESTHER is still crying on the ground, and can barely get up. CATHY calms her down, but she faints.

CATHY

(worried)  
Esther, Esther, Esther...

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST - DAY.

The government soldiers are patrolling the jungle on hunt for the rebels, they're about twenty soldiers on patrol, they continue walking through a forest, but nothing unusual appears to be happening.

Birds are chirping and singing, while the wind blows from east to west.

They look tired it seems they have been walking for a while, sweats, heavy back bags and the hot sun, the walking lead them into the an open field surrounded by trees.

The lead pulls out a map from his side pants pockets and unfolds it, he scans through it while walking. He looks around and puts his hand up signing other soldiers to take cover.

All the soldiers are on the ground within a second, the leader in on one knee trying to scan around the forest, he looks in all directions, it seems it was a wrong alert.

He orders them to get on their feet, they hold assault rifles and submachine guns, as they all look around and start to walk. A silent bullet hits the leader in the chest and blood squibs before they all see their leader falling to the ground.

Bullets starts to fly from trees and other parts of the forest, they have been Ambushed by the rebel, the government soldiers also starts to shoot back at the rebels.

One running with the radio and starts to call for help from the base.

GOVERNMENT SOLDIER

(in swahili)

We are under fire, we're under fire, I repeat, we have been ambushed by the enemy.

Before the soldier on the base replies, they shoot the radio man down, is dead.

SOLDIER ON THE BASE (O.S.)

What's your position?

No answer I heard, whatsoever. The bullets are still flying all over the place but we haven't seen who is shooting at them. We see Cathy running and hiding behind a tree, along with other child soldiers.

She is scared of shooting and killing government soldiers, but she's determined to find ESTHER's sister.

She hold the gun so close to her self, one of the kid near her is shot, blood split all over Cathy's face.

The second kid is shot, she cries and starts to shoot back to the enemies randomly, she runs and hides behind the tree and shoots again to the enemies.

Oketcho is with ESTHER also shooting to the enemy, Joe and Amon are running holding their guns, they stop on one spot and start shooting.

Cathy is looks at them, they're not scared, she looks at everyone and they're all shooting to enemy. Cathy see a soldier aiming to shoot JOE and Amon.

Panicking, she knows she has to do something to help them, and shoots the soldier, with a blazing number of shots.

Their under fire bullets still flying, Cathy turns around to sees a government soldier coming behind Temba, ready to shoot him.

CATHY meditates for a split second, before she shoots the soldier.

Otti looks at her, and barely knows how to thank her. He just signals her to keep moving, and turning away from him, she goes back to the combat, culminating in the overpowering of the government soldiers.

Moments later the shooting stops and almost all government soldiers are dead but few still alive, but wounded. She is still shaking and scared.

They capture all still alive and tie their hands at the back and forces them on their knees, on the ground.

TEMBA

Pack of wolves, unaware of what they're doing.

CATHY

Sir, please ask them about the captured men.

TEMBA

Quiet!

DIMBA

I am the diplomat responsible for this place. Where did you take the soldiers.

GOVERNMENT SOLDIER

(crying)

They ran away.

CATHY shoots him in the head.

DIMBA

(furious)

You should wait for orders.

DIMBA turns to the government soldiers, after putting CATHY's gun down.

DIMBA (CONT'D)

I am a man of few words, where did you take our soldiers?



The government soldiers stay quiet, and barely move. DIMBA looks at TEMBA, and TEMBA walks away.

TEMBA

Your move.

Other children collect guns and uniforms from the dead.

TEMBA and DIMBA walk from behind the remaining, living government soldiers.

DIMBA

Line them up, soldiers.

The soldiers line them in a single straight line on the ground, hands tied to their backs, and on their knees.

TEMBA pulls out couple of kids from others and orders them to shoot the soldier. Cathy, and three boys.

Cathy walks to the prisoners, aims guns at them and start shooting killing three of the prisoners.

Other prisoners are there but badly wounded nothing they can do. It's an execution and the soldiers' faces exude fear.

TEMBA

(laughing)

Okay everyone, come and shoot, one bullet each, in the head. We need uniforms, and the boots don't damage too bad.

All the young soldiers starts to shoot the prisoners, after minutes all the government soldiers are dead, they marched away with the new children can't believe what they are going to be. Seeing dead bodies and people killed in front of them.

They walk way from the scene, leaving all dead bodies behind. Both of the government soldiers and children killed in the gunfire exchange.

CUT TO:

INT. TEMBA'S HUT - NIGHT.

Inside the hut sits couple of high ranked officers and the new soldier from the other camp. Cathy stands on the door facing them were they're sited.

TEMBA

Everyone, this Cathy. I know most of you know her, quite well. Today, she saved my life and others', as well. Beyond beauty, she has a soldier's bravery, and that is noble, to say the least.

Everyone starts clapping.

TEMBA (CONT'D)  
 Tomorrow, James and Otti will come  
 back, and I will make sure no one  
 besides him lays his hands on her.  
 (lifting his beer up)  
 Soldiers, to Cathy and the  
 revolution!

All the soldiers lift their beer bottles, wine glasses and other beverages.

Cathy is quite surprised, and doesn't know what to make of what they're telling her.

TEMBA (CONT'D)  
 You have been promoted, for saving  
 lives today, every children that  
 came here with or after you, shall  
 follow your orders.

Cathy forces a smile on her face.

A new soldier, looking afar, signs her to come, and sit down near him. Cathy looks away, and lifts a beer can, into the air, humorously.

The soldiers go wild, and celebrate her ironic gesture.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMP - NIGHT.

Cathy gets out of the celebration party in TEMBA'S hut, and goes sit next to a tree, where she and NATASHA used to spend most of their time.

Cathy sits down, and looks at Joe and Amon, feeling sorry for them. Joe gets up, walks to Cathy and sits down with her.

JOE  
 Thanks for today.

Cathy just looks at him, he reminds her of his young brother Jerry.

CATHY  
 You're welcome

CUT TO:

INT. CATHY'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY.

Cathy lays on her bed, with her eyes wide open, but she appear to be in a *zen mode*, only half-awake.

JERRY (O.S.)  
Cathy, wake up. Cathy, Cathy,  
Cathy.

Cathy gets up, and sees her brother's blurry image, smiling.  
She smiles, and sits with him, akin to how she was sitting  
with Joe.

JERRY (CONT'D)  
Come back.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMP - NIGHT.

Joe sits up and walks to Amon and they start to clean they  
Guns.

A group of five male child soldiers sits under the tree  
chatting and repairing their guns and others cleaning their  
guns, Oketcho sits with them.

MALE CHILD SOLDIER #1  
What are you planning on doing?

OKETCHO  
Nothing. When we get free, I'll see  
what I can do, but now, there's  
nothing.

MALE CHILD SOLDIER #2  
We have to honour her.

OKETCHO  
We will, in time.

An elderly senior soldier passes them, they all look at him,  
he holds a gun on his back and tall and dread locks.

MALE CHILD SOLDIER #1  
Who is that?

OKETCHO  
Those guys are from the other camp,  
at east. They say they don't even  
train their kids, they just take  
them to combat, take them to war.

OKETCHO (CONT'D)  
You knew about the other camp,  
right?!

MALE CHILD SOLDIER #3  
Yeah, that's were they take other  
kids, that's where the boss stays.

OKETCHO

Yeah.

Cathy sits under the tree in deep thoughts. Esther comes behind her, and sits down, as well. She turns to her new best-friend.

CATHY

How are you feeling?

Cathy looks at Esther, and ESTHER turns to look at her.

ESTHER

Do you still think HE cares about you?! He wouldn't let them take my little sister, if HE did. Sometimes, I still prey, but deep down, I know there isn't going to be any answer. And then comes the sleepless nights, and thirst for revenge.

Cathy looks at her again, feeling her pain.

CATHY

We can only try to take this as far as we can, and not let our guards down. That's all.

ESTHER

Natasha's dead, where do you find that strength in you?! They will end up killing us all. I also don't like what we do but I have to pretend liking it, and should also pretend.

CATHY

I think I'm pregnant!

ESTHER

What?! How long?

CATHY

I don't know.

ESTHER

And the father?

CATHY

How could I possibly know, Esther?! How could I?!

Esther stares at her with sad face, trying to think of something they could do.

ESTHER

What are we going to do?

CATHY

Nothing, I don't care who the father is, I will keep my baby.. I will look for the best place for him to grow up. I will do anything to protect my child, even...

Cathy gets up, and walks to Joe.

EXT. CAMP - NIGHT.

Moments later Cathy sits with his brother Oketcho chatting, other soldiers patrolling the compounds and others doing others things, everything is cool and fine.

CATHY

Do you think papa will forgive me?

OKETCHO

Why wouldn't he?! He begged you to kill him, why would he be angry at that?! He's proud.

CATHY

I still think about the day they took us. Why didn't you talk to me before?

OKETCHO

I didn't want them to know you're my sister. What other way could I protect you?

CATHY

(tears filling her eyes)  
And why did you decide to talk to me, now?!

OKETCHO

You saw what happened, things are changing fast. They should have finished this operation a long time ago, so some of them are stressed out, others don't remember why they're doing this.

From TEMBA's hut comes loud laughing noises, and both CATHY and OKETCHO look behind their backs.

CATHY

They're just drunk.

OKETCHO

Did you talk to --

He gets interrupted by a loud bang, made by TEMBA, kicking his own door open, dizzy and unstable. The other soldiers go on chanting, following him outside.

CATHY and OKETCHO get up, as do the other child soldiers.

TEMBA knocks DIMBA's door open, and --BANG! Temba shoots him, and along with another partner, they grab both his arms and legs, singing him, to the chanting sound.

The CAMP freezes, and OKETCHO doesn't even dare to come near TEMBA, in his alcoholized state.

CATHY stares at the body afar, figuring out the stakes have been raised, and the upcoming days must be taken with extreme caution.

CUT TO:

INT. CAMP - TENT - DAY.

TEMBA is sitting on a chair, with both OTTI and JAMES in front of him.

OTTI

You bastard, he was our tactician.  
What do you suggest we do, now?!

TEMBA

We can head to the villages, and  
take more soldiers.

JAMES

Two days out, and you make three  
mistakes, fool!

TEMBA

Nothing's lost, sir. We just have  
to get there quick, and attack.

OTTI

What for? Who will be speaking in  
our interests.

TEMBA

We can do that. We can speak for  
ourselves.

TEMBA gets up from the chair.

OTTI gets scared, and points his finger at him.

OTTI

Sit down, immediately.

TEMBA

With all due respect, I will not.

JAMES

You are disobeying direct orders  
from your superiors.

TEMBA

I accept that, but we have a  
mission, and I'm not going to wait  
any longer without seeing it  
through. Am I right?

OTTI

Insubordinate imbecile, we have to  
wait for orders.

TEMBA

We'll die before this mission is  
over, one way or another. That I  
know.

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY.

A small village town lies hills, it's not that well built but  
the locals like it, some few shops, bars and school.

Couple of kids playing football on the road and others  
running with car tire, held by two long sticks.

It's a normal day in this village and nothing could probably  
go wrong. On the far end of the town sits a small police  
station inside are three police men playing poker(cards).

Cathy and other two girls walk slowly chatting on road side,  
pretending to be laughing, they walk towards the police  
stations.

The sun hits directly to town and it's hot outside. Most  
people sits on shades of there houses and others under the  
trees, a group of four women sits outside the house in the  
meeting.

Cathy wears a large jacket and the other girls wear some long  
jackets hiding their guns, they walk pass the a group of  
women.

One woman keeps his eyes on them walking away not listening  
to what the others are saying, so she turns to look at where  
she is looking at, but sees nothing.

WOMEN#1

(speaking in iteso)  
Are you okay.

WOMEN#2

(speaking in iteso)  
I'm not sure, some girls just  
passed by. I think I might have  
seen one of them, somewhere.

Excuse me, I have to be sure, let  
me come back.

She sits up.

INT. POLICE POST - DAY.

The small police post is a single room, inside sits three police men playing cards, on the door stands Cathy and the girls, standing on the door blocking light coming in.

A police man turns to look at what's blocking the light, he landed his eyes on the girls standing in the door way, he tries to sit up but before he could sit up Cathy pulls out an AK47 from the jacket.

She corks it and points to the police men, and also other girls points the guns at them. The Police men are caught off guard, surprised no time to go on radio, the only thing they can do is to wait and see what will happen.

CATHY  
(to the police men)  
Where are your weapons?

POLICE MAN  
(pointing at the window)  
There!!

Cathy sees the AK47 under the window, Cathy signs a girl to go, and get it.

CATHY  
How many are you on this post?

POLICE MAN  
(shaky voice)  
Three.

CATHY  
Where are other guns? Tell me,  
because you know what we can do. If  
you try anything I will take your  
lives.

The woman from the meeting follows them, she looks around and sees them through the window standing in the police post, she walks to wards it.

Trying hard to see what is happening, still, she can't see what's really going on inside the police post.

POLICE MAN  
Here under the table.



Cathy grabs all the guns and gives them to girls, the woman reaches the police post and enters to find are all under gun point and tired their hands on their backs.

WOMEN #2  
 (looking at one of the  
 girl)  
 Esther, is that you?! It's me, aunt  
 Emma.

ESTHER pull the woman into the station and forces her on the ground, Esther walks out to call the other soldiers to come, the police post is secured.

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY.

Within few minutes the vehicles, which are full of child soldiers flood the town. Soldiers jump off even before the car stops, a cloud of dust covers the village town.

The soldiers are kicking doors, looting and shooting people who are trying to run.

The soldiers outside are taking children away from their families, dragging them across the ground, disregarding their cries.

POLICE POST INSIDE:

James enters the police post. He's looking around, and to the police men.

JAMES  
 (to Cathy)  
 How many guns?

CATHY  
 Three sir.

James walks out and orders the soldiers to drag the police men and the woman out. The woman keeps staring at ESTHER, making her uncomfortable.

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY.

WOMEN #2  
 Esther, Esther, is that you?!

ESTHER ignores her but officer James hears her calling her, he turns and walks to the woman.

JAMES  
 (pointing at Esther)  
 Do you know her?

WOMEN #2  
 (in tears)  
 She is my daughter!!

JAMES  
 Oh! Esther come here, do you know  
 this woman?

ESTHER  
 No sir, she is mistaken.

JAMES  
 Okay. Then, I want you to shoot her  
 in the head. Make sure she dies, so  
 next time she won't mistaken other  
 people.

She hesitant to shoot, one of elder soldiers walks to her  
 hold a gun in his hand, she looks at soldier and aim to shoot  
 the woman. Cathy is looking at ESTHER, now she realize they  
 in hell and no way out.

WOMEN #2  
 What did they do to you?!

Esther's eyes are fill with tears running down, she cleans  
 her eyes with one hand and shoots the woman, the woman falls  
 down, bleeding.

ESTHER  
 (whispering to herself)  
 I'm sorry mama.

Cathy looks at ESTHER shooting tear runs in Cathy's eyes.

Other soldiers start to shoot the police men. Cathy walks  
 away and meets ESTHER and Oketcho tying adults down, with the  
 help from other soldiers.

After they start torching all the houses, and packing all  
 that they have looted, they march out of town, taking  
 everything. The houses are on fire and blood is running from  
 every house.

JAMES  
 Enough soldiers. Move, move!

OTTI  
 (lighting up a cigarette)  
 We've got a long day ahead of us.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST - DAY.

The area is covered by green vegetation, two vehicles cutting  
 through the vegetation.

One is a land rover and following it is old TATA lorry, they all carry a red cross symbol on both sides of car bodies.

INT. LAND ROVER - DAY.

Rick 28 year-old, handsome, Black hair, white probably an American, wearing Jeans and a stamped t-shirt. He sits on the co-driver seat.

In the back seats sits other two white men in their late twenties, they all wear jeans and t-shirts with a big UN(logo) mark printed on it.

The driver is in his late 30s, black, probably a local, he is wearing loose pants and a causal shirt.

He is their interpreter, in case they run into trouble.

In the lorry there are many locals, all sitting inside the lorry. They look fatigued, it seems they have been traveling for long hours.

EXT. FOREST - DAY.

Everything seems okay, as they drive through a small road forcing they vehicles to pass through, the trees hitting on they vehicles as they drive slowly.

INT. LAND ROVER - DAY.

Everyone is relaxed and moody. Rick looks outside in the bushes as he sees something moving. He thinks for a moment and relaxes, but within few seconds, he looks again and sees someone in the bush.

He turns and faces the driver, the driver has also seen it, before Rick and turns his head from the driver. The driver hits the brakes, seeing how they are surrounded by child soldiers.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST - DAY.

Young soldiers everywhere with AK47s pointed to the vehicles, some of them still in the bushes, while others start climbing the lorry and forcing everyone out on gun point.

Everyone is terrified. Otti opens the Land rover door and drags Rick out and other soldiers drags the rest out.

They force them to stand in the lines.

Otti hold a hand gun and keep pointing to Rick and the friends, He speaks in a local language or swahili and they don't understand.

Rick looks around and land his eyes on Cathy, she is holding the AK47 point at them behind OTTI they're are having eye contact with Rick.

RICK  
(to Otти)  
What do you want with us?

The driver tries to interpret but Otти ignores him, and calls Cathy.

CATHY  
Empty you pockets!

RICK  
You can't do this to us, we are  
UN workers.

Otti walks to Rick and stands in front of him we a pieced off face.

OTTI  
Do as I say or your life ends  
here. Do you understand white  
boy.

Otti walks and stands a side as Ricks and others start to empty they pockets, Cathy walks through them with a plastic bag and every drops in all their goods.

Rick hides the iPOD in his underwear, Cathy sees him but says nothing, after gathering everything from them.

OTTI (CONT'D)  
Remove all your clothes, and if I  
find that you have been hiding  
anything I will shoot where I find  
it.

CATHY, ESTHER, OKETCHO and other male child soldier walk through checking Rick and others. Cathy heads straight to Rick and removes his digital audio player, and keeps it, hiding it from suspecting eyes.

Few minutes later all have put back on the clothes, Otти orders Rick and his two friends to follow them, leaving locals behind, Rick looks at the locals knowing maybe this is his last day on earth.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST - DAY.

They have been walking for hours, it starts to rain, Rick and the two friends are walking in the middle of the group.

Cathy keeps looking at Rick, they keep glancing at each other. OKETCHO notices they looking.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMP - DAY.

At the camp, the child soldiers are guiding the UN workers into a jail-cell, where, they lock it with a two metal chains.

EXT. CAMP - NIGHT.

CATHY patrols the compound, with an AK47 on her shoulders, she checks all the corners of the north tower.

ESTHER patrols the south post and Oketcho on the east post.

Other soldiers patrolling the other sides of the camp. Cathy decides to leave her post, and goes into Rick's cell.

EXT. CAMP - CELL - NIGHT.

When she gets there, every other worker is sleeping, besides Rick. She whistles, gently, and gets his attention.

RICK

Hi! Get us out of here.

CATHY

There is no way to get you out of here, and tomorrow we won't be here.

RICK

What's going on?

CATHY

Everyday, we will attack both forests and villages, only some children are going to stay here, with TEMBA. Can you get your men to free us?!

RICK

I don't think I can.

CATHY

We didn't choose this, trust me.

Something close to them makes a noise, by a bush. Cathy looks immediately there, and gets nervous.

CATHY (CONT'D)  
 (leaving)  
 Find a way.

Rick gazes upon her, running away.

CUT TO:

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY.

In a small town village, bullets are flying. Houses are burning.

Child soldiers are shooting people, breaking into houses and looting.

Cathy walks inside one hut, and finds soldiers raping a woman while her children watch.

She starts getting tears in her eyes. She knows after raping her they will kill her or cut off her body parts.

Cathy pulls out the gun to shoot the woman.

JAMES  
 What do you think you're doing?!

Cathy doesn't say anything, she just stares at him. He senses the weakness in her, so he stops them from raping the woman, and gives the soldiers immediate orders.

JAMES (CONT'D)  
 (to the soldiers)  
 Stop.

James looks at Cathy and other soldiers, the woman and her kids all there scared.

He calls two soldiers to watch the family in the house.

Esther and Oketcho stay to watch out.

JAMES (CONT'D)  
 (to Cathy)  
 I want you to shoot them, each one,  
 one bullet.

(to the soldiers)  
 If she hesitates, kill her and bury  
 her with them.

He walks out followed by other soldiers outside the house, The woman cries, screaming for mercy and help from God.

Cathy looks over her shoulder and sees guns pointing at her. There is no choice but to kill the family and stay alive. Cathy grabs the gun and points it the family.

WOMAN #2

Please, don't kill my kids, take them with you, they can be soldiers and help you in the war.

CATHY hesitates, and takes too long to make a decision.

SENIOR SOLDIERS

Do it, do it!

Cathy remembers her father shouting the same words at her, and freaks out.

CATHY

(screaming)

Noooo!!

OKETCHO grabs his gun, and shoots down the senior soldiers threatening his sister's life.

Cathy hears the gunshots, and is surprised she wasn't hit. Oketcho comes from behind and hugs her.

OKETCHO

We have got to leave.

ESTHER

What have you done, what have you done?! Oketcho, what are we going to do?!

OKETCHO

We'll follow them to town as if nothing happened. We'll leave the uniforms somewhere, and we're free.

ESTHER

That's it?!

OKETCHO

Yes, and we don't have time.

CUT TO:

EXT. TOWN - DAY.

People are doing they usual work, shopping, and people buying grocery. Some people are sitting outside their buildings, music playing hard from the street vendors who sell CD and DVD discs.

Kids playing on the road, and others on the sheds of their houses, while others are just coming back from school, still wearing uniforms.

It's a normal day for them, nothing indicating any type of wrong-doing or any turbulent situations.

The small town is surrounded by slums, and can be seen from the town, the population of the town isn't high, with around half a thousand people.

Cars are driving by the highway which cuts through the town and the business is good for them.

With an army barracks five miles away from town, no would possibly imagine that the rebels could attack a neighbor town.

The two jeeps and one lorry full of child soldiers speed into town, creating clouds of dust, that catches the town by surprise.

They jump off the tracks.

Others are marching on foot to the town ahead of them, getting into town, making their targets start to run for their lives. Again, the shooting re-energizes, and build momentum.

Soldiers start to run after them, shooting to kill. Both kids and women are being shoot. A police officer runs with a radio to hide in the toilet and starts to call for back-up from the army barracks near them.

INT. SWITCH BOARD BARRACKS - DAY.

The switch board is old fashioned, with a couple radio and some computer monitors. Four soldiers are seated down, while the rest of the are up, making surveillance rounds.

Soldiers in the switch boards center are listening to calls from the police officer, and they punch through to the message to officer on duty.

EXT. TOWN - DAY.

Within few minutes the government soldiers are on they way to enter the town with every military prowess they can manage, carrying heavy guns and wearing full army uniforms.

Due to the nature of the operation, these child soldiers wear no uniforms, they wear as the locals do, the only difference being their gun-holding appearance.



The streets are empty no one walking, everyone is hiding, and the only sound we can hear is the guns shoots and cries from the injured one.

Now the battle is between the rebels and child soldiers, the town is burning down, the government soldiers are shoot everyone the can't different locals and rebel and no taking a risk.

A young girl runs to pick up her toy and she is shot right away, falling dead cold on the ground. Most of the child soldiers are being shot dead, as well, with the government soldiers disregarding their age.

The child soldiers are running and hiding wherever they can. Cathy runs slowly and enters a building followed by Oketcho.

James and Otti are commanding the soldiers, they are ordering their child soldiers to fight for freedom, but they know it was a mistake to come here.

Esther runs with a gun shooting at the soldiers.

James and Otti runs and hidden inside the building with Rambo, and every other soldiers.

OTTI

(to Rambo)

Protect us, guard the door. We will go through from behind.

They're sweating and scared, if they're caught it's their end. James looks outside through the key hole on the door; to see his soldiers dying.

INTER CUT:

INT. TOWN - BUILDING 2 - DAY.

CATHY and OKETCHO enter the building, inside it's empty, but there's a body laying close to the wall. They come close to see it, and it's Joe, with a blood-soaked shirt.

Cathy starts taking her military clothes off.

OKETCHO

Take his clothes off, and hold him.

She reaches for his gun, grabs it and hides both of their guns behind the wall. She falls down to the ground, and holds Joe.

OKETCHO is about to leave the building.

CATHY

Stop! Don't go.

OKETCHO  
I'll be back soon, I promise.

Oketcho leaves the building, and soon after, four loud gunshots are heard. Cathy starts crying.

Government soldiers are checking the houses and buildings, searching for senior or child soldiers. They don't seem to be taking prisoners, besides those unarmed.

CUT TO:

INT. TOWN - BUILDING #1 - DAY.

Inside the other building, ESTHER and others are captured by the government soldiers outside, but JAMES, OTTI and RAMBO were taken down.

The locals are crying and carrying dead family members.

The government soldiers have taken control of the town and almost all rebels have been contained.

A soldier enters the building where Cathy was laying against the wall, holding a child on her arms, and crying.

The soldier is not sure what to do, as there is blood around the building. He thinks for a moment, before checking around, and figuring out Cathy was a young grieving sister.

GOVERNMENT SOLDIER  
Girl, have you been hit?!

Cathy shakes her head, no; and the soldier walks out of the room, leaving Cathy alone.

Moments later she gets out of the building, and heads for a clear area, while looking for her brother's body on the street.

CUT TO:

EXT. TOWN - DAY.

The town is filled with smoke and fire in different parts of the town, she walks towards the locals, soldiers passing by her.

She turns and starts to walk out of the village, while most soldiers are still looking for the rebels. She keeps on walking.

EXT. ROAD - DAY.

A couple of government Army humvees, full of soldiers, from a distance, driving to direction to where Cathy heads, she sees them, but pretends not to, and keeps walking.

The army humvees passes by her and suddenly stop, she slows down her walking pace and soldiers come out. She remains calm, and doesn't break the she knows that she will be tortured.

GOVERNMENT SOLDIER #3  
Where are you heading?

CATHY  
Home.

GOVERNMENT SOLDIER #3  
Where are you coming from?

CATHY  
Hospital.

GOVERNMENT SOLDIER #3  
Climb up, we'll give you a ride.

CUT TO:

EXT. TRUCK - DAY.

The soldier gives Cathy a hand to help her climb on the lorry, she gets her eyes on Rick, Esther, Oketcho, Amon, and others. As she starts to walk towards them, Rick shakes his head slowly, without anyone noticing, but CATHY.

Cathy stops walking, and the smile on her face dries. Cathy looks around the track on the faces of the soldier.

She stares at Rick and some soldiers notice her eyes, and the way she stares at.

RICK  
What's your name?

Everyone in the track looks at Rick, including the child soldiers, everyone is quite waiting for response from Cathy.

CATHY  
I'm Catherine.

Rick reaches to shake her hand, for the first time, thanking her, without her they will be still with the rebels and they don't know will have happened after going to the new camp.

Cathy brings hers hand and shakes with Rick, Cathy's hands are filled with burn scars.

A soldiers sees them and tap son another soldier to look, and Rick sees them too.

UPDF SOLDIER  
Where did you get that?

Cathy is still looking at other soldiers.

CATHY  
Fire! Our house caught fire a few years ago, and I was in it.

An image of CATHY's house, burning gets superimposed on her face, and fades away

UPDF SOLDIER #2  
Leave the girl alone.

The track continue speeding on road, leaving clouds of dusty behind, soldiers keep on staring at Cathy, she looks away to ignore them.

UPDF SOLDIER  
How old are you Cathy?!

Before she can answer, they're in a small town.

She looks at the houses and one catches her eyes, everyone is waiting to know how old she's.

CATHY  
That's our house.

The sound of someone banging on the board of the lorry is heard, which makes the lorry to stop. A soldier helps Cathy down off the lorry.

She looks back at her friends as the track speeds away again. She starts walking, and suddenly hears a loud scream, and freezes.

UPDF SOLDIER  
Hey, stop right now!

When she turns back, she sees OKETCHO sprinting in full speed towards, having broken the rope tying his hands.

The humvee takes a while to make the u-turn, and OKETCHO gets to CATHY first.

OKETCHO  
(gasping)  
Go back home, you'll find FAYE, and two other. I was trying to --

The soldiers get there, and knock him countless times with a police-stick, which makes him bleed, and scream.

They put him back into the truck, and drive off.

CATHY looks at the truck driving away, this time, not turning away.

FADE TO:

EXT. DRY ROAD - DAY

Cathy walks on the road alone, surrounded by nothing but only dry plains, she keeps on walking in terror and fear, and feels exhausted.

EXT. FOREST - DAY.

CATHY finds herself lost in the woods, and with no more strength to carry on, she falls down on her knees. She looks to the sky and closes her eyes, hands humble.

CATHY

Oh lord, now I lay down to sleep in  
this wild, I prey lord to keep my  
soul and my baby's, and if I die  
before I wake, I pray you take our  
souls with you. I never lost hope  
that you love me.

She walks slowly, and grabs her stomach, trying to feel the unborn baby's heart beating.

Moments later.

FADE TO BLACK:

EXT. FOREST - DAY.

WOMEN'S VOICE (O.S.)

Cathy, Cathy.

To the sound echoes, Cathy opens her eyes to see a dog barking in front of her, few seconds later two men with spears and bows and arrow reach her, it's already morning.

Her lips are dry, and she looks weak.

The hunters helps her up, and together they march out of the forest with her, and get her as close as possible to her destination.

EXT. CATHY'S VILLAGE - NIGHT.

Cathy walks to what used be her home village, all houses, stores and stands were burnt down, making it look like a ghost village.

She keeps walking, searching for what used to be her house on the far end of the village.

She reaches at where there house used to be, only to see a half wall left on the house, she walks to the back of wall.

CATHY

Faye! Faye! Faye!

A small girl looks out of the rubble left of her house, it's ESTHER's little sister, FAYE.

FAYE

Cathy!

She runs towards her, and Cathy lifts her up.

Cathy gently touches her hair.

CATHY

(whispering)

I'm so glad to see you. You're  
alive, you're OK.

She puts Faye on the ground.

FAYE

Where's Esther?!

CATHY

She had some things to solve, but  
she'll come back.

Out of the house, two more girls emerge, and CATHY recognizes them as the girls that were missing from the camp. Besides them, she also sees another shadow, and trying to find out who it was, she gets excited - it's JERRY, her brother.

CATHY runs towards him, and they hug for a very long while.

JERRY

My lovely sister.

Moments later, they sit around the fire inside the kitchen.

CATHY

Where is mama?

Jerry looks down, and back to Cathy.

JERRY

She is dead.

CATHY

How?

JERRY

You just didn't see it, it was right after they took you, shot her down, just like that.

Cathy is fighting with the words to say something but the mouth won't let her.

CATHY

I'm sorry Jerry. Where are the other villagers?

JERRY

They left to the government camps in GULU. Soldiers came here and took everyone to the camp.

There is a silent tension that runs through them, for a short while.

CATHY

Why didn't you go with them?

JERRY

Before mama died, she made me promise to wait for you to come back. She told me that you would come back one day.. so I have been waiting for you ever since. Where is Oketcho?

CATHY

Imprisoned, but fighting to get free.

FADE TO BLACK:

EXT. CATHY'S VILLAGE - DAY.

The sky is clear, Cathy and Jerry are walking out of the village.

THE END.