

THE CONFESSION

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FADE IN

INT. HOSPITAL - ROOM - DAY

ELGA LUTZER (96) lies in bed. Her ashen face reflects the precarious conditions of her health.

An intravenous feeding tube is attached to a bag containing a yellow liquid.

A soft neon light illuminates the room.

INT. HOSPITAL - ROOM - LATER

The sound of a gentle KNOCKING on the door interrupts the silence of the room.

ELGA

Come in.

Her voice is clear and strong.

INT. HOSPITAL - ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The door OPENS slowly and a female DOCTOR wearing a white coat STEPS IN.

She is SARA SINGER, good looking in her 40s, the surgeon who will operate on Elga.

Sara sits on a hospital chair near Elga's bed.

SARA

Good morning Elga, how are you feeling today?

ELGA

Not too good doctor...did you have a nice sleep last night?

SARA

(smiling)

Yes, I did.

A long beat.

ELGA

I'm ready.

Sara stares at her.

A beat.

SARA

Elga, it's a complicated operation,
some problems may arise.

ELGA

Have you operated on elderly people
before?

SARA

Yes I did, age is an important factor
to consider. Your body is frail.

Elga looks at her while smiling.

ELGA

Thank you for not lying to me.

A long beat.

SARA

Do you have other questions?

ELGA

No questions... but--

SARA

Go ahead.

ELGA

I want to tell you something that is
tormenting me for a long time...

SARA

If you need to confess, I think you
should talk to a priest. I can call
the hospital chaplain.

ELGA

I don't trust priests...I was never a
religious person.

SARA

Okay, what you want to tell me?

A long beat.

ELGA

Do you justify a killing if the
killer has been brainwashed?

SARA
A difficult question to answer...

A long beat.

SARA (CONT'D)
Yes, I would understand the killing.
Why this question?

ELGA
It's a long story...in my youth, I
was idealistic and I believed in
racial hygiene...in 1943, I joined
the NAZI party.

SARA
Many Jews were killed by the Nazis.
It was sad period in history. Why you
want to remember it?

ELGA
I've a secret that is torturing me
since. I can't cope with these
memories anymore.

SARA
Okay, if talking about your past
makes you feel better, go ahead I'm
listening. What happened after you
joined the Nazi party?

Elga stares at Sara while continuing her story.

ELGA
I was assigned to supervise a small
group of JEWISH women in a
concentration camp. I don't know what
happened inside me but I was
attracted by a beautiful dark-haired
woman...she became an obsession.

SARA
Were you attracted to women before?

ELGA
During the Nazi's orgies I had some
encounters with women but I was never
an open lesbian.

SARA
What did you do with that woman?

ELGA

I brought her in my barrack and ordered her to undress.

SARA

Did you want to make love to her?

ELGA

I don't know...it was strange...I wanted to admire her body...I felt a weird desire...but she refused, she ran to a corner of the room, curled up on the floor and started to pray.

SARA

What happened then?

ELGA

I followed her, I was so angry--

SARA

Why were you angry?

ELGA

Because she had ignored my order...

SARA

What did you do to her?

ELGA

I lodged a bullet in her temple with my LUGER and left the body in a pool of blood, her eyes were wide open.... still wet with tears.

SARA

Were you ever punished for that?

ELGA

No, actually, my superior was very happy..."one less pig" he told me.

SARA

Don't you think you should have paid for what you did?

ELGA

I paid throughout my life...

SARA

How?

ELGA

My conscience...horrible
nightmares... painful memories.

SARA

Why did you keep this secret for so
long?

ELGA

I was afraid of the punishment. Nazi
collaborators were sent to prison or
killed.

SARA

Why now?

ELGA

I know I'm near the end of my days
and I don't want to close my eyes
with so much guilt in my heart.

SARA

Did you kill other people?

ELGA

No.

SARA

Is this all you want to tell me?

ELGA

Isn't enough?

SARA

Uhm.

A long beat.

Elga stares in silence at the ceiling.

SARA (CONT'D)

Just curious, what was the name of
that concentration camp?

Elga replies slowly like being in a trance.

ELGA

FOSSOLI, it was a transit camp in
ITALY. Prisoners stayed there for a
while and then were sent to the
extermination camps in Germany.

Sara stares at Elga with a disconcerted expression.

SARA
Are you certain it was Fossoli?

ELGA
Yes, they close the camp in 1944, I
was twenty-four years old.

SARA
Do you remember where those women
came from?

ELGA
My superior told me they were Jews
from a small town near MILAN.

SARA
Could it be BRESSO? The town of
Bresso.

ELGA
Possibly.

SARA
Try to remember the name, Bresso...
Bresso...

ELGA
Why you want to know?

A long beat. Sara gazes at Elga.

SARA
Somebody I know died in Fossoli.

ELGA
Many people died there.

Elga closes her eyes. She appears exhausted.

ELGA (CONT'D)
I'm tired.

SARA
Just another question...please.

Elga looks at Sara inquisitively.

She shows Elga a small reddish BIRTHMARK on her right temple.

SARA (CONT'D)
Did you notice a birthmark like this
on her temple? It's genetic.

ELGA
Are you Jewish?

SARA
Yes I am.

ELGA
Maybe she had it. I'm not sure.

SARA
Try to remember...a red birthmark on
the right side of her head. A little
red spot.

A beat.

ELGA
It could be..a red spot on her
temple. Yes, she--

SARA
She had it, right?

ELGA
Yes.

SARA
How can you be sure after seventy
years?

,ELGA
(shouting)
I aimed at that spot and fired.

SARA
You killed her like an animal.

ELGA
Do you know the name of that woman?

SARA
My grandfather died at AUSCHWITZ.

A long beat.

SARA (CONT'D)
My mother grew up without her father
and mother...

A beat.

SARA (CONT'D)
(whispering)
You killed my grandmother ESTHER.

A SOLEMN SILENCE permeates the room.

Tears slide down Sara's cheeks.

Elga closes her eyes. Her body lies in bed, motionless.

INT. HOSPITAL - ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Sara steps towards the door.

SARA
Your surgery is in two hours.

ELGA
Are you going to kill me?

Sara does not answer.

FADE OUT