

Characters speak with accents in degrees of clarity and rhythm:

Main German characters speak with educated English accents, do not use contractions, and speak with a frankness. Russian & German soldiers have heavy broken English accents. British characters speak with typical British English. American character speaks with a slight New York accent.

SCORE- THROUGHOUT ORCHESTRATION INTERTWINED ARE: BACH SUITES FOR SOLO CELLO, AND COMPUTER TYPING.

FADE IN:

COMPUTER TYPING AND PRELUDE I, BACH SUITES for SOLO CELLO.

TRAIN STEAM DISSOLVES INTO A MAP THAT DISPLAYS WESTERN EUROPE WITH FLAGS OF THAT COUNTRY PLACED WHERE THE FOUR ALLIED POWERS ADVANCED INTO GERMANY.

CONSTANCE (V.O.)

This true story is about a girl named Ursula from Berlin, who on January 30, 1933, at the age of 15 joined the Hitler Youth, and followed their motto, "The Fuhrer leads, we follow!"

EXIT. - FLASHBACK - NEW DAY

SUPER: LIEBENWERDA, GERMANY, MAY 14, 1945

In the town square of a small village, beneath the towering church steeple, Russian Soldiers on horses corral well-dressed female German Refugees, their children, the sick, and the old. Russian Soldiers ride on horseback so close to Refugees that they recoil in fear.

URSULA (27), female German refugee with a strong athletic body and tailored look, appears confident as she responds to the SHRILL WHISTLE and hurries to join the line, pulling a handcart, piled high with her belongings.

HANS (2), Ursula's son, large for his age, holds his TEDDY BEAR, sitting on top the handcart like a little prince, with his potty-pot, hanging behind like a TAIL LIGHT.

RUSSIAN COMMANDER, rides on horseback down the line counting the Refugees. He stops at the end of the line to speak to his Head Soldiers, who is also on horseback.

CONSTANCE CONTINUES(V.O.)
 By May 14, 1945, the four Allies of
 WW II: Great Britain, United
 States, France, and the Soviet
 Union were sweeping across Germany.
 At the same time, 146 km from
 Berlin in Liebenwerda, Germany,
 Ursula, at the age of 27 became a
 refugee under Soviet rule.

COMMANDER
 (briskly to Head Soldier)
 Move them out. Head west to Torgau.

HEAD SOLDIER, blows his SHRILL WHISTLE, as Refugees move onto
 the main road like a slow worm until they reach West Torgau.

INT. SAME DAY, EVENING - SCHOOL HOUSE

In an old converted school, villagers serve food in the
 cafeteria, as Soldiers hand out slips of paper with a room
 and bed number. All find their seats on long wooden benches.

Hans chews on a piece of bread; Ursula fearfully looks around
 and sneaks the sandwich she has just made into her backpack.
 When finished eating, Ursula takes her bed number and makes
 her way to the converted classroom and settles in.

EXT. NEXT DAY - MAIN ROAD

Refugees wait at the main road for the WHISTLE to BLOW to
 start their slow worm journey. A truck arrives with German
 Soldiers, thin and tattered, who join the refugees. Those too
 sick, old or weak to walk are ushered away in the truck.

Commander speaks with one of the tattered German Soldiers,
 then hands a megaphone to him.

GERMAN SOLDIER #1
 You are going to a COLLECTION CAMP
 between DESSAU and ELBE.

URSULA
 (To German soldier #2)
 I need to get to Berlin.

GERMAN SOLDIER #2
 Then you must go on your own.

URSULA
 It is strictly forbidden to travel
 alone!

She pulls out her map; and they look at routes to Berlin.

GERMAN SOLDIER #2

You better leave the group. Go now.

Ursula's optimism soon turns to defeat when she hears the SHRILL WHISTLE, and continues on with the group.

Russian Soldiers going in the opposite direction in Military Wagons pass so close to Refugees that a soldier throws Ursula a loaf of bread and another throws her a brown paper package.

At dusk, the Head Soldier BLOWS WHISTLE and all stop. Soldiers dismount, corralling Refugees into the forest.

Ursula finds a spot and sets out their bedding. She opens their prize to see smoked ham; both smile and begin eating.

EXT. NEXT DAY - MAIN ROAD - WEST TORGAU - MAY 15, 1945

Refugees wait at the main road. SHRILL WHISTLE, and the Refugees begin their familiar slow worm to their next stop.

EXT. NIGHT - DUEBAN - MAY 16, 1945

INSERT- VILLAGE SIGN: WELCOME TO DUEBAN, GERMANY

Russian Soldiers calmly make their way to farmhouses for the night while Refugees scurry to find their places. Fearful villagers stand in doorways, gesturing for them to come in.

Ursula spots an Old Woman and hurries towards her. The old woman welcomes Ursula and Hans into her modest farmhouse.

OLD WOMAN'S FARMHOUSE

Together they eat a simple meal. After dinner, the Old Woman clears the table. Ursula quickly sneaks a newly made sandwich into her pocket, then leaves to put Hans to sleep.

BEDROOM

In a full-length mirror attached to a closet door, Ursula sees herself tucking Hans in bed, then leaves, joining the Old Woman at the table.

URSULA

(awkward & nervous)

I live in Berlin with my parents,
and trying to get home. And...

(sad & frantic)

No word from my husband in over a
year.

OLD WOMAN

Sorry for your troubles.

URSULA

(pathetic & weeping)

If only I could stay behind, then
after they leave, go on my own.

OLD WOMAN

You may stay here.

URSULA

Thank you. I am so grateful.

BEDROOM

Ursula, in bed, sees her reflection in the mirror, worried,
takes from her backpack her husband Karl's self-portrait.

EXT./INT. FLASH

INSERT- HOTEL BUILDING AND SIGN: HOTEL ADLON, BERLIN GERMANY

RECEPTION

INSERT- BANNER: CONGRATULATIONS URSULA & KARL ON YOUR WEDDING
DAY! 3RD OCTOBER, 1942.

Ursula in her wedding dress, a white silk dress with
embroidered red roses with green leaves on the shoulders,
cascading down the arms, and a touch of pink lipstick; Karl,
a handsome uniformed soldier is tall, blond, and blue-eyed.

CLOSE ON- WEDDING DANCE

Karl takes Ursula's hand, escorting her to the center of the
ballroom floor, and with a turn of Ursula under his hand held
high, he then, takes her into his arms and they begin the
first wedding dance. To the WALTZ of the BLUE DANUBE,
elegantly they turn and spin around the dance floor. And mid-
way, other guests join the couple in a grand WALTZ, turning
and turning to the end.

PARENTS & GUESTS
 (joyful)
 To a long and happy life!

EXT. FLASH OVER - NEXT DAY - TOWN SQUARE - BEDROOM

Russian Commander and his German Lover, clinging to him, walk to his horse. He mounts his horse and begins his ritual of counting the Refugees, but returns agitated, speaking to his Lover, gesturing to her to take the megaphone.

GERMAN LOVER
 (powerfully fearful)
 Two people are missing. Come out
 from hiding! Immediately!

BEDROOM

URSULA
 (whispers to self)
 I have been found out!

GERMAN LOVER CONTINUES (V.O.)
 If the two missing do not come out,
 this village will be burned to the
 ground.

Ursula reacts fearfully, as the Old Woman in the doorway, gestures for Ursula to leave. Ursula grabs her belongings, puts Hans on top the handcart, and runs to join the group.

TOWN SQUARE

Ursula shaking and Hans CRYING, clinging to his Teddy. The Commander dismounts, motions to her to pick up the boy and move to the wall. Simultaneously, as she moves to the wall, the Commander takes his pistol and aims it at Ursula and Hans...

BACH SARABANDE FOR SOLO CELLO

CONSTANCE (V.O.)
 Though Ursula's story is like other
 women in war, we seldom hear the
 German women's stories; but I
 believe those stories need to be
 told. Not only for history but for
 a complete picture...

TITLE - **URSULA AND OUR CONVERSATIONS**
the Nazi era.

FADE OUT:

INT. - FLASHOVER - NEW DAY - DESK - 2002

CLOSE ON- Constance(52)a blonde petite woman, sits at her desk, TYPING on her computer.

CONSTANCE

Our first conversation about her life and the war was the first week we met in August 1976. Ursula and her husband Karl had come to American to visit their son, Dieter, my boyfriend at the time. That's when I asked her my first question. As if she could answer that question in an afternoon.

INT. NEW DAY - CONSTANCE & DIETER'S HOME, LIVING ROOM - AUGUST 1976

Ursula, Karl, and Constance finish their cake and coffee.

CONSTANCE (V.O.)

You see, that afternoon, Dieter was working at the hospital, so I was alone with his parents.

COMPUTER TYPING FADES OUT

Constance and Ursula smile at one another rather awkwardly...

CONSTANCE

(naively)

What was it like in World War II?

URSULA

(surprised, yet composed)

It started for me when I was 15 and still very much a child, not as independent as teenagers are these days. You see, everything changed for us on January 30, 1933. Our lives, our thinking, our politics, and how the rest of the world looked at us.

CONSTANCE

Go on, please? So interesting.

CLOSE ON- KARL,
sits in profile, holding his cigarette with a long ash build-
up. Constance leans in to say something, but stops. His sad,
stone faced expression and motionless body imply, *"Don't ask
me anything. It's all too painful."*

URSULA (O.S.)

(cuts-in, matter-of-fact)

It was the end of the Weimar
Republic. The first election gave
92% for one party, the National
Socialist Party of German Workers.
It was the last Reich Marshall,
Hindenburg, and the new Reich
president that nominated Adolf
Hitler as Reich Chancellor and the
leader of the "Reichstag" Congress.
Our newspapers and speeches
contained programs about the new
government.

CONSTANCE

(curious)

What did you think about it all?

URSULA

(strong, happy, youthful)

I was fifteen, mostly interested in
sports. That year I was invited to
be a member of the Hitler Youth. I
was proud to join.

The atmosphere changes to eerie, as Constance struggles not
to react when hearing the name Hitler with such familiarity.

CONSTANCE

(shocked, yet acts normal)

I see. So everyone joined.

URSULA

(matter-of-fact)

It was to be nonpolitical, just fun
and sporty. I had organizational
skills and I liked being a leader.
I was assigned as a referee and the
leader for the girls National
Socialist group.

CONSTANCE

(reflective)

I can understand that, a chance to
be a leader.

URSULA

At that same time, my parents stopped talking when I entered the room. I was puzzled as to why, but shrugged it off.

ENT. FLASHBACK - DAY - URSULA'S PARENT'S HOME

SUPER: HERMSDORF, SUBURBS OF BERLIN, JANUARY 1933

Ursula's parents sit in their comfortable living room. Her mother, CHARLOTTE, a jolly woman, knits. Her father, OTTO, a stiff, pencil-thin man has a shouty voice, reads his paper.

CHARLOTTE

(worried, but supportive)

I hate that you have to join the party to get a good job.

OTTO

(reassuring)

Or get any job. I can apply to the Corps of Drivers program since I have a driver's license. I am not really involved in the party. Come, it is news time. We will hear what they report.

Otto puts his paper down and turns on the radio.

RADIO DEUTSCHLAND ANNOUNCER

Good evening from Radio Deutschland news report for January 30, 1933.

CUT TO

EXT. FLASH - CENTRAL BERLIN, MAIN STREET

Down the center of the street armed soldiers MARCH with the new Swastika Flag. Parade Watches line the street CHEERING.

PARADE WATCHERS

(Random and Overlapping)

Heil Hitler! Ja, Ja! Germany Over All!

RADIO DEUTSCHLAND ANNOUNCER CONTINUES

In brown uniforms Nazi soldiers march through the streets, giving citizens the impression of a strong military and leadership.

(MORE)

RADIO DEUTSCHLAND ANNOUNCER CONTINUES

The Fuehrer's new program promises a heaven on earth! Unemployment will disappear, trade and production will bloom, and our youth educated on new ideas for the Fatherland. Germany will be great again!

INT. FLASH OVER -SAME EVENING

OTTO

(disapproving & angry)
A dictatorship and their puppet marchers is more like it.

Ursula(15), comes in proudly, wearing her new Hitler Youth uniform, and her parents quickly put on their *Happy Faces*.

URSULA

(happy & prideful)
Did you see the parade? Impressive!
I was so proud.

With their fake smile, they nod in agreement. Otto turns off the radio as Ursula bounces upstairs. Ursula notices her parents are distant, but shrugs it off.

INT. FLASHBACK OVER - SAME DAY - CONVERSATION CONTINUES - AUGUST 1976

Ursula and Constance continue in conversation while Karl in profile, sits in the background.

CONSTANCE

You didn't ask them the reason they stopped talking when you came into the room?

URSULA

(fearful & relieved)
My father was strict, very strict. I didn't know his reason that he no longer constrained me. I just liked feeling free to go to rallies with my group. You need to understand, during my time, the father ruled the family with an iron fist, and you did as you were told.

CONSTANCE
 (perplexed)
 You didn't feel controlled by the
 Hitler Youth leaders?

URSULA
 (bitter)
 No, not controlled; by my father
 controlled. Besides, by June of
 1935, in just two years, everything
 was in place. There was no getting
 out. You did as you were told. No
 one questioned anything!

CLOSE ON- KARL IN PROFILE IS MOTIONLESS EXCEPT FOR THE
 CURLING SMOKE OF HIS CIGARETTE. AS IF TO SAY, "DO NOT ASK ME
 ANYTHING, IT IS ALL TOO PAINFUL".

CONSTANCE (V.O.)
 (typing)
 Ursula and I met next in Germany,
 in April 1978 at Dieter's and my
 engagement party.

INT. DAY - WERMELSKIRCHEN GERMANY - URSULA AND KARL'S HOME -
 FOYER - APRIL 1978

Upper middle class home, everything tastefully placed. At the
 front door, Ursula and Karl welcome Dieter and Constance.

Ursula and Karl, hug their son, then greet Constance with
 smiles and nods.

CONSTANCE (V.O.)
 (typing & humorous)
 Of course, when I said yes to
 marrying Dieter, I wasn't thinking
 about Hitler or my conversation
 with Ursula. Just hearing the name
 Hitler with such familiarity from
 across the table made me afraid.

URSULA
 Welcome Constance to our home.

CONSTANCE
 Thank you.