



Out of Poland



AWARD-WINNING

Breakfield and Burkey

Screen Play

OUT OF POLAND

Written by

Charles Breakfield
Roxanne Burkey
Caleb Pirtle

Based on, the Out of Poland Novella by Breakfield & Burkey

Address: 5610 Cliff Haven Dr., Dallas, Texas 756236
Email: Authors@EnigmaSeries.com
Phone Number: 214.244.6752

FADE IN

INT. ROYAL CASTLE, POLAND'S SEAT OF GOVERNMENT - LATE
AFTERNOON - POLISH AMBASSADOR FERDEK WATCOWSKI

Stands on the balcony of the castle, looking out across
Warsaw.

The sky is dark. A heavy mist rises above the land.

His face is somber, his eyes sad.

POV - AMBASSADOR: Lights are being turned off one at a time
in buildings scattered across town.

A HANDFUL OF MEN AND WOMEN hurry down the sidewalks, their
heads bowed against the chill.

A SIREN WAILS as an ambulance races past him. The streets are
virtually empty.

A BUS stops for a lone passenger at the street corner.

ANGLE ON THE ROOM - WIDE SHOT - THE AMBASSADOR

Doesn't turn when he hears THE DOOR BEHIND HIM OPEN.

CAMERA FOLLOWS as the ambassador's daughter, Patrycja, walks
slowly toward him. She reaches her father and gently touches
his arm. She is grown and a beautiful young lady. Her face is
shadowed with concern.

AMBASSADOR

I fear we are facing the end, my
little Patrycja. The Poland you
have known for your twenty-two
years is no more. You can almost
feel the land we love slipping
through out fingers and falling
from our grasp.

PATRYCJA

No, Father, the war is only just
begun. We are a proud people. We
will fight as long as we have
breath to fight.

THE DISTANT SOUND OF AN EXPLOSION. GUNFIRE. TANKS RUMBLING
BEYOND THE FOG.

AMBASSADOR

The German army is nearly at our door, and we have no way to stop them. We have a brave army on horseback. The Germans have an army of tanks. We have pitchforks. They have machine guns. We are like lambs before the slaughter. We will indeed fight as long as we have breath to breathe, but the Germans have us surrounded and their greedy hands around our throats.

PATRYCJA

We must not give up, Father.

AMBASSADOR

(forcing a smile)

We have hope, Patrycja. We need guns.

PATRYCJA

Surely, there is someone to help us.

AMBASSADOR

No one, Patrycja. We are alone.

PATRYCJA

I will pray for the best, Father.

AMBASSADOR

May God have mercy on us all, little one. I fear the worst is upon us.

CUT TO:

EXT. BOX CAR IN THE GDANSK RAILROAD YARD - LATE AFTERNOON -
THREE YOUNG MEN

Cautiously climb out of the box car. They are FERDEK, the ambassador's son, TAVIUS and WOLFGANG, all lieutenants in the Polish army. They are dressed in ragged clothes worn by peasants. Their cloth caps are pulled low over their eyes. They glance nervously in both directions, then move out among the train cars jammed in the yard. All three wear leather backpacks. A LONG AND MOURNFUL WHISTLE breaks the silence.

CAMERA WIDENS to follow FERDEK, TAVIUS, AND WOLFGANG

As they fall in among the railroad workers changing shifts their faces are calm but defiant, and they are trying to blend in, their eyes darting constantly from left to right.

CUT TO:

EXT. GERMAN TROOP TRUCK - LATE AFTERNOON - GERMAN SOLDIERS
 Jump down from the back of the truck. Young men. Hard faces.
 A GERMAN OFFICER strides up to his lieutenant, who snaps to attention.

GERMAN OFFICER
 We know he is here. We don't know why.

LIEUTENANT
 We will find him, Sir.

GERMAN OFFICER
 Before morning. He must not be allowed to escape.

LIEUTENANT
 What do we do when we find him, Sir.

GERMAN OFFICER
 (smiling)
 Shoot him.

THE SOLDIERS clutch their rifles, dressed for battle. They begin trotting down the street toward the railroad yard. They move past a cluster of workers surrounding FERDEK, TAVIUS, AND WOLFGANG, who turn their faces away from the German squad.

THE GERMAN OFFICER stops suddenly beside the cluster of workers. He grabs an old man and jerks him into the street. He holds out one hand with the other resting on the butt of his Lugar.

GERMAN OFFICER (CONT'D)
 Your papers, old man. I'm sure they are in order.

THE OLD MAN nervously begins rummaging through his coat pocket and finally pulls out his papers. His hand trembles as he hands them to the GERMAN OFFICER.

THE GERMAN OFFICER turns to Ferdek, frowns and snaps his fingers.

GERMAN OFFICER (CONT'D)
Your name?

FERDEK hesitates. He glances quickly at Tavius.

GERMAN OFFICER (CONT'D)
Your name. Now. And your documents.
Or you will be shot as a refugee
without papers.

FERDEK
Look around you. Like the others
you see, I am employed by the
railroad.

GERMAN OFFICER
Then you will have papers. I want
to see your papers. A man without
papers is a man who longer exists.

FERDEK
(defiantly)
Poland is a free land, and I am a
free man. You're here without an
invitation. I do not answer to you.

GERMAN OFFICER
(quietly and deadly)
You are sadly mistaken, I'm afraid.
Poland is no longer free. No one is
free of German rule. Your papers,
or Poland will hold your grave.

THE GERMAN OFFICER slowly removes his Luger from its holster.
A shadow falls across his face.

THE WORKERS are suddenly battling among themselves, shoved
forward, then backward, and a young man breaks free and runs
wildly down the street.

THE GERMAN OFFICER hurries into the street, raises his LUGAR
and FIRES A SHOT into the air. He motions to his Lieutenant,
and both follow the soldiers who chase after the fleeing man.

ANGLE ON FERDEK, TAVIUS, AND WOLFGANG

They glance quickly over their shoulder as they hurriedly
disappear around the corner.

Far behind them, they HEAR A SHOT. A moment later, A SECOND
SHOT.

ANGRY VOICES echo down the street.

FERDEK, TAVIUS, AND WOLFGANG are at a dead run down a dark alley.

CUT TO:

EXT. BAR - NIGHT -FERDEK

Pauses on the street corner and glances up at the name on the pub: U SZKOTA. He pulls a torn piece of paper out of his shoe and checks the name

TAVIUS AND WOLFGANG jog to his side.

TAVIUS
The right place?

FERDEK nods.

WOLFGANG glances at the clock above the pub. The TIME is 7:18.

WOLFGANG
We are late.

FERDEK
We are here.

TAVIUS
(forced laugh)
And we don't yet have need for the
graves the Germans offered us.

FERDEK looks down the street. He sees ...

A SQUAD OF GERMAN SOLDIERS marching down the street toward them.

FERDEK hurries through the door.

TAVIUS AND WOLFGANG are on his heels.

CUT TO:

INT. USZKOTA - NIGHT - THE SMALL ROOM

Is dark with lit candles burning atop each of the tables It is a gathering place for WORKERS in dirty clothing on their way home, and a FEW GIRLS dressed in short, tight-fitting skirts, seductive sweaters, and black stockings wandering from table to table.

THE BAR is long and weathered. A LONE BARTENDER leans against the bar, washing glasses and drying them on a ragged towel. The place THROBS WITH THE LOW HUM OF VOICES and an OCCASIONAL LAUGH.

THE BOYS find an empty table in the back corner and sit down.

TAVIUS

What now?

FERDEK

We wait.

WOLFGANG

Jasiek should already be here.

FERDEK

We are at war. Nothing is guaranteed. Not even time.

TAVIUS

You think he's coming?

FERDEK

If he's alive, he will be here.

WOLFGANG

How can you be so sure?

FERDEK

He's my father's uncle. He is family. He is one of us.

TAVIUS

(shaking his head)

He is an old man.

FERDEK

(laughing)

The pistol he carried is old, too, older than he is. But it has killed more than one German.

HALINA, a dark-haired girl, stops at their table. She is still a teenager. She leans across the table wearing a practiced smile.

HALINA

I have not seen you here before.

WOLFGANG

We only stopped for this night. We'll be gone by morning.

HALINA
 One night is enough. Halina can
 make sure it's a night you won't
 soon forget.

FERDEK
 (curtly)
 I am sorry, but you must go and
 practice your business elsewhere.
 We are meeting someone.

HALINA
 A girl, perhaps?

TAVIUS
 No.

FERDEK
 (quickly)
 A girl, perhaps.

HALINA walks seductively away. She glances back over her
 shoulder.

HALINA
 You will be sorry.

TAVIUS
 (muttering to himself)
 I'm already sorry.

FERDEK
 (forcing a smile)
 It's our loss, I'm sure.

TAVIUS
 (frowning)
 What was that all about? We're not
 meeting a girl.

FERDEK
 Do you know this girl who calls
 herself Halina?

TAVIUS
 (shakes his head)
 Never saw her before.

FERDEK
 What do you know about her?

WOLFGANG
 She is terribly young.

TAVIUS
And terribly pretty.

FERDEK
Is she Polish?

WOLFGANG
Her name is Polish.

FERDEK
Or is she German? Or is she
sleeping with a German, and how
much would he pay her to find out
who we are and why we are here? One
wrong word to the wrong person, and
tomorrow would come without us.

TAVIUS
Sorry, Ferdek. I wasn't thinking.

FERDEK
It's quite simple, my friends. The
less we say, the more the Germans
don't know.

WOLFGANG
Of course, she may have been an
innocent working girl trying to
survive the night.

FERDEK
(shrugs)
This a time of war in a land that
no longer belongs to us. Nobody is
innocent. Innocence lies beneath
the tracks of the German tanks.

TAVIUS
Not even a pretty girl?

FERDEK
She could take a table knife cut
your throat, and never lose her
smile.

WOLFGANG
You don't trust anyone, do you,
Ferdek?

FERDEK
Trust no one. The shadows have
eyes, and they are watching us.
Even a friend will sell you out for
a loaf of bread if he is hungry.

(MORE)

FERDEK (CONT'D)

We have a job to do, and it must be done tonight. We may fail. We may never see another morning. But we have one chance to stop the German march. At the moment, no one, not even my father, knows we are here or why we are here, and that's the way it must remain.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROYAL CASTLE - NIGHT - THE BACK DOOR

Opens and AMBASSADOR WATCOWSKI steps out onto the sidewalk. His face is illuminated by the DIM GLOW of a STREET LAMP. He looks in both directions before walking briskly toward the heart of Warsaw. He is wearing a heavy overcoat. His face saddens as he walks.

POV - AMBASSADOR

A MOTHER hurries two children down the street. She takes their hands and runs down a side street as AN AIR RAID SIREN WAILS on the western side of Warsaw.

TWO LOVERS break their passionate embrace on a doorstep. They hold hands for a moment, stare at each other in desperation, then break apart and hurry away in opposite directions.

POLICE CARS race down the street.

THREE POLISH SOLDIERS in uniform dart from the BAR MLEOZNY and run toward the SOUND OF THE AIR RAID WARNING.

AN OLD LADY steps from an upstairs apartment, leans over the balcony railing, and YELLS for her husband.

OLD LADY

(loudly)

Jakub. Jakub. It's time you are home. The Germans are coming. Can't you hear the sirens? Jakub, don't leave me alone like this. The Germans are on the edge of town.

THE SIDEWALK is suddenly thick with people, PUSHING and SHOVING their way out of the bar, scattering down the street.

THE AMBASSADOR watches them for a moment, then walks into the BAR MLEOZNY.

CUT TO:

INT. BAR MLEOZNY - NIGHT -THE AMBASSADOR

Crosses the floor and sits on a stool, his elbows on the bar. The place is virtually empty.

THE LAST MAN at the bar tosses down his drink, sets the glass down, and pitches the waitress a silver coin. He heads toward the door.

MLEOZNY WAITRESS
It's early.

MAN AT THE BAR
It's early to die.

MLEOZNY WAITRESS
Where are you going?

MAN AT THE BAR
As far away from here as I can.

MLEOZNY WAITRESS
(laughing)
And leave me behind?

MAN AT THE BAR
Before the week is over, you will be serving krupnik to Germans.

MLEOZNY WAITRESS
(defiantly)
Maybe I will throw krupnik in their faces.

MAN AT THE BAR
(shoving his hat on his head)
I will not be back for the funeral.

He walks out the door.

STANISLAW, the owner of the BAR MLEOZNY pours straight krupnik in a glass for THE AMBASSADOR.

STANISLAW
I have not seen you in a long time, Ferdek. I remember the days when you would be in here at least once a week for a dance and a kiss and a glass of Krupnik.

AMBASSADOR
(a sad smile)
Those were good days, Stanislaw.

STANISLAW

I miss them.

AMBASSADOR

So do I. But life takes strange turns. And I fear that we are at a crossroad, and we are doomed no matter which way we go.

STANISLAW

The Germans are at one door.

AMBASSADOR

And the Russians are at the other one.

STANISLAW

The Germans will take our liberty.

AMBASSADOR

And the Russians will take our soul.

STANISLAW

(laughing softly)

You have not forgotten.

AMBASSADOR

The thoughts we put into words long ago are on my mind when I awaken every morning, Stanislaw. And there they remain all day and long after my day has ended.

FERDEK looks up at Stanislaw.

AMBASSADOR (CONT'D)

What do the people say? You hear them much more clearly than I do. They lie to me because they believe I want them to lie, and they tell me we are fighting a war we can win. I don't believe them, Stanislaw. You hear the truth much more clearly than I do

STANISLAW

They are afraid, Ferdek. They smell the scent of gunpowder, they feel the tremor of bombs on the edge of Warsaw, they are fearful that the land they love will soon be soaked with their blood.

AMBASSADOR
Will they fight?

STANISLAW
They are a brave people,
Ambassador. But they cannot fight
tanks with horses, guns with
swords. They won't be marching off
to fight, my old friend. They will
be marching off to die.

THE AMBASSADOR holds his glass of Krupnik up to the light and
stares at the reflection of the lamp on the liqueur.

AMBASSADOR
I long for the days when my only
worries were a dance a kiss, and a
glass of Krupnik. Somehow, it all
tastes bitter now.

STANISLAW
What will Poland do?

THE AMBASSADOR turns on the stool and stares through an open
door at the night.

CUT TO:

EXT. GDANSK - NIGHT - AGATA

Walks slowly down the sidewalk, holding a dark coat tightly
around her shoulders, hiding in the shadows of the
storefronts. She is in her early twenties - tall, slender,
and beautiful with long hair falling down both sides of her
face.

POV - AGATA - SHE SEES GERMAN SOLDIERS coming toward her.
They are LAUGHING, probably drunk, with their rifles
carelessly thrown across their shoulders

AGATA turns abruptly and quickly weaves her way through the
traffic to the other side of the street.

A GESTAPO AGENT moves like a shadow from the darkness and
grabs her arm as she steps onto the sidewalk.

AGATA tries to pull away.

GESTAPO AGENT
(harshly)
Your name.

AGATA

Agata.

GESTAPO AGENT

Occupation.

AGATA

Student.

GESTAPO agent pulls her tightly against him. He is leering.

GESTAPO AGENT

What are you studying?

AGATA, without warning, kisses him long and passionately. She pulls away, smiling.

AGATA

(smiling)

Anatomy.

AGATA GRABS the lapels of his coat, kisses him again, and pushes him toward the alley.

AGATA and the GESTAPO AGENT disappear in the darkness of the alley.

A CROWD OF PEOPLE hurry past the alley.

A GASP is followed by a GRUNT.

AGATA emerges from the alley, calmly WIPES THE BLOOD off the knife with a handkerchief, tosses the cloth back into the darkness, slips the knife into her belt beneath her coat, and allows the crowd to wrap itself around her.

CUT TO:

INT. U SZKOTA PUB - FERDEK

Keeps his eyes on the door while TAVIUS and WOLFGANG drink from their glass of beer. Wolfgang has forced calm but Tavius is fidgety.

POV - FERDEK

He watches the beautiful AGATA walks through the door. She stops and looks around. She spots the table and walks straight toward them.

FERDEK stands as AGATA takes a chair across from him. Her face is all business.

FERDEK sits as TAVIUS AND WOLFGANG sit up straight, confusion on their faces.

AGATA

I am looking for Ferdek Watcowski.

FERDEK

And who are you?

AGATA

My name is Agata, but that is not important. I was told to come to the U Szkota and look for a table with three young men. One of them is Ferdek Watcowski. If none of you is known by that name, then I will leave.

AGATA starts to stand.

FERDEK

I am Ferdek. Why are you looking for me?

AGATA

I have a message to give you.

TAVIUS

What about?

AGATA

A certain lock has a certain code that makes Baby operational. I have the code.

WOLFGANG

We were told to meet Jasiek.

AGATA

(looking away)

Jasiek will not be coming tonight.

FERDEK

My father trusts only Jasiek when it comes to matters such as this.

AGATA

Your father and you must learn to trust me.

TAVIUS

Why should we?

AGATA

Jasiek is an old man. He did what he could for as long as he could, but they killed him.

WOLFGANG

Who killed him?

AGATA

You know as well as I do. Who wants to kill us all and fertilize the land with our blood?

TAVIUS

When did it happen?

AGATA

Just before sundown.

FERDEK

Did they know what information he carried with him?

AGATA

He would not tell them. They cut off his fingers. They removed his eyes. He would not tell them.

FERDEK

But he told you.

AGATA

He did.

WOLFGANG

Why you?

AGATA

(softly)

He was my father.

AGATA passes FERDEK a folded piece of paper.

FERDEK

The code?

AGATA

Baby is being kept in an abandoned armory on the southern edge of town near the river. On the back is a map that takes you to the vault. There is a key hidden behind the picture of a naked woman.

(MORE)

AGATA (CONT'D)

Memorize everything, the code and the map, then burn the paper.

FERDEK

Have you seen the armory?

AGATA

(nodding)

I have.

FERDEK

How many guards?

AGATA

A squad of sentries outside. Three guards inside the vault room. But that was yesterday. Tonight, is a new night. What was never is, and what is will never be the same again.

TAVIUS

What if you're simply leading us into a trap?

AGATA stands and pushes the chair away from the table.

AGATA

That's the chance you'll have to take.

AGATA marches across the pub and out the door.

THE BOYS sit in silence.

FERDEK reads the paper, then holds it up to the candle on the table and lets it burn.

WOLFGANG

Now you are the only one who knows the code.

FERDEK

(nodding)

I am.

TAVIUS

Then what's the plan if something happens to you?

FERDEK

The same as it's always been.

WOLFGANG

What's that?

FERDEK

(laughing softly)

Make sure nothing happens to me.

TAVIUS

What if the girl isn't who she says she is?

WOLFGANG

What if she is working with the Germans?

FERDEK

Only one way to find out.

TAVIUS

What's that?

FERDEK

We open the vault at midnight. If we're still alive at two minutes after midnight, then Agata was telling the truth.

WOLFGANG

It's a terrible risk to take.

FERDEK

It always has been. But we have no other choice.

TAVIUS

(smiling sadly)

Only one thing's for certain. If we die, we no longer have to worry about it.

CUT TO:

EXT. US CONSULATE IN WARSAW -NIGHT - AMBASSADOR WATCOWSKI

Knocks on the door. U.S. AMBASSADOR ANTHONY BIDDLE opens the door, yawning. BIDDLE shakes WATCOWSKI's hand as he steps outside and looks around, not sure why the Polish Ambassador would be out alone in the middle of the night.

BIDDLE

This is certainly unexpected,
Ambassador.

(MORE)

BIDDLE (CONT'D)

I would have never thought you'd be out alone and here at such an ungodly hour.

AMBASSADOR

I apologize for intruding at this late hour, but I must speak to you, and I'm afraid time is running short for both of us.

BIDDLE

The war?

AMBASSADOR

It is not going well.

BIDDLE takes the AMBASSADOR'S arm and leads him into the consulate.

CUT TO:

INT. US CONSULATE IN WARSAW -NIGHT - BIDDLE AND THE POLISH AMBASSADOR

Walk into BIDDLE'S OFFICE and seat themselves beside the desk.

BIDDLE

I hear a lot of rumors, Ferdek. Is it true that your cavalry attacked a German Panzer unit riding horses?

AMBASSADOR

(voice cracking)

The charge was a brave one, though certainly ill-advised. Our boys were slaughtered.

BIDDLE leans forward, hands on his desk, a frown on his face.

BIDDLE

What can we do to help you?

AMBASSADOR

I'm afraid it is too late for anyone to help us. You have been a good friend, Anthony. Your country has been a good friend. But this is our war. We have been attacked, and we will do what we have to do, alone.

BIDDLE

My country will not forsake you at a time like this.

AMBASSADOR

Come now, Anthony. We both know your country will not go to war against Germany because Poland is standing in Hitler's way.

BIDDLE

How can Poland fight Germany alone?

AMBASSADOR

How can anyone fight Germany? Their tanks own the ground. Their planes own the skies. They fight a war that strikes like a lightning bolt. We will fight or die, win or lose alone, Anthony. I am only here tonight to warn you that you, your staff, and the Americans in Poland need to escape while you can still find a safe passage home. If you wait until the end of the week, it will be too late.

BIDDLE

We won't leave you, Ferdek. Don't even think about it.

THE AMBASSADOR stands to leave. He straightens his shoulders

AMBASSADOR

You have only two choices, Anthony.

THE U.S AMBASSADOR waits in silence.

AMBASSADOR (CONT'D)

You can leave. Or you can leave your blood with mine on the streets of Warsaw.

BIDDLE

What about you, Ferdek?

AMBASSADOR

My decision must not be made in the darkness of night but in the light of a new day. Tomorrow, we will all know. Tonight, I am not at all sure.

CUT TO:

EXT. ARMORY - NIGHT - A GERMAN SENTRY

Marches past the door, holding his rifle tightly. His eyes are searching the darkness.

ANGLE ON FREIGHT TRAIN - FERDEK, TAVIUS, AND WOLFGANG

Lie flat atop a freight car.

THE TRAIN eases past the Armory.

ANGLE ON GERMAN SQUAD LEADER

He checks his watch, then looks up to acknowledge the ENGINEER hanging out the window of the locomotive.

ANGLE ON FERDEK, TAVIUS, AND WOLFGANG

They roll off the top of the freight car and hit the ground roughly. They use the train to shield them as they move quickly to the edge of a crumbling stone building.

FERDEK LOOKS UP as a cloud eases across the moon to leave the land in total darkness.

POV - BOYS

THE CLOCK IN THE WATCHTOWER shows twelve minutes until midnight.

ANGLE ON THE BOYS

They wait until they see TWO GERMAN SENTRIES walk past the door, one at a time.

TAVIUS

The guards pass every four minutes, give or take a minute or two.

FERDEK

We don't have a minute or two leeway to get in and out. The timing must be accurate down to the second.

WOLFGANG

You want me to go explain it to the German guard? How do you expect us to be accurate down the second when they are stopping to take a sip of schnapps, relieve themselves, or flirt with some lady friend they have stashed on the other side of the armory?

FERDEK sighs with frustration.

FERDEK

When the next guard passes, Tavius and I will go in. We'll have four minutes to find the vault, open it with the code Agata gave us, and get out with Baby.

WOLFGANG

I thought the plan was for all three of us to go in.

FERDEK

The plan just changed. If we're not out in four minutes, take out the next guard who passes. That will give us eight minutes.

WOLFGANG

What if you're not out in eight minutes?

FERDEK

Run like the demons of hell are after you because they will be. We won't be coming out.

TAVIUS

How many German sentries do you think are inside?

FERDEK

Agata said three men would be guarding the vault.

TAVIUS

(nodding)

We can take care of three men.

FERDEK

Then there's the X factor.

TAVIUS

What's that?

FERDEK

We don't know how many German soldiers are guarding the three sentries.

They watch a GERMAN SENTRY pass the door.

FERDEK checks his pistol.

FERDEK (CONT'D)
 When he rounds the corner, we hit
 the door. I hope you can still pick
 locks.

TAVIUS
 (grinning)
 When we were boys, I kept us in
 candy picking locks.

FERDEK
 We're not after candy tonight.

THE GERMAN SENTRY rounds the corner and disappears.

FERDEK (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 It's time.

FERDEK AND TAVIUS run low through the ruined buildings to the
 door of the ARMORY.

TAVIUS works on the lock.

FERDEK checks his watch. He looks nervously around him.

THE LOCK doesn't open

TAVIUS drops his pick, and it falls to the ground.

CLOSE ON FINGERS raking the dirt, searching for the pick.

TAVIUS (O.S.)
 Damn!

FERDEK
 What's wrong?

TAVIUS
 Can't find the pick!

FLASHLIGHT BEAM suddenly hits the ground.

ANGLE ON FERDEK

He jerks his head up and stares into the face of a German
 sentry.

FERDEK slams his flashlight against the sentry's head and
 rams his elbow into the man's nose. BLOOD SPURTS.

SENTRY crumbles to the ground.

WOLFGANG, without a word, runs to the SENTRY, grabs his legs,
 and begins dragging him away.

WOLFGANG

(low voice)

Couldn't warn you. He would have heard me.

FERDEK

No longer matters.

FERDEK grabs the sentry's helmet and sticks it on his own head.

WOLFGANG drags the unconscious sentry behind the crumbling ruins.

TAVIUS grabs his pick from the dirt.

TAVIUS

Found it!

FERDEK

(checking watch)

You have two minutes and fourteen seconds before the next sentry joins us. Maybe less.

THE LOCK clicks.

THE DOOR swings open.

FERDEK AND TAVIUS step into the dark abyss of the armory.

CUT TO:

INT. ARMORY - NIGHT -FERDEK AND TAVIUS

Walk in silence and in total darkness

FERDEK hurries to the foot of a dusty stairway.

FERDEK

(sharply and in German)

We have a problem!

A GUARD appears at the top of the stairs

GUARD

(in German)

What's happening down there?

FERDEK hurries toward the door. In the darkness with the German helmet on his head, he looks like a soldier.

FERDEK
Polish Partisans are trying to
break into the armory.

GUARD
Where are they?

FERDEK
Behind the first line of trees. We
have lost three men. They strike
like ghosts, then vanish in the
darkness.

THE GUARD, gripping his rifle with both hands, runs down the
stairs.

TAVIUS grabs the GUARD from behind at the bottom of the
stairs and silently slashes the soldier's throat with a
knife.

FERDEK catches the guard's rifle before it hits the floor. He
looks at Tavius, standing above the slain guard, blood
dripping off the knife's blade.

FERDEK (CONT'D)
Two more guards upstairs.

TAVIUS
Unless Agata was wrong.

FERDEK
She's been right so far.

TAVIUS
Then the odds are getting better
all the time.

FERDEK and TAVIUS ease their way up the stairs. The only
LIGHT is a MOONBEAM slicing through a crack in an upstairs
window. They reach the top of the stairs.

FERDEK
(nods toward the corridor)
Third door on the left.

TAVIUS
Who goes in first?

FERDEK holds the rifle up in the moonlight.

FERDEK
I have the firepower if we need it.
Follow me.

TAVIUS
 Fire that rifle and we'll have to
 fight Hitler's Third Brigade to get
 Baby out safe and sound.

FERDEK and TAVIUS quietly slip down the hallway and stop at the third door on the left.

FERDEK presses his ear against the door. He holds up two fingers.

TAVIUS (CONT'D)
 Footsteps?

FERDEK
 Voices.

FERDEK steps back and CRASHES through the door.

CUT TO:

INT. VAULT ROOM - NIGHT - FERDEK AND TAVIUS

See a GERMAN GUARD

Spin around as FERDEK SLAMS the butt of his rifle against the side of the soldier's face. GERMAN GUARD tumbles to the floor.

TAVIUS has his arm wrapped around the SECOND GERMAN GUARD'S NECK. He silently shoves his knife into the man's kidney.

THE SECOND GERMAN GUARD slumps to the floor.

POV - FERDEK - HIS EYES

Sweep along the wall and fall upon the painting of a fat and ugly naked woman on the far side of the room.

ANGLE ON FERDEK

He steps over the two fallen German guards and walks to the painting. He lifts it away from the wall. He reaches behind the canvas and turns with a broad GRIN, holding the key up for TAVIUS to see.

FERDEK tosses the key to TAVIUS.

TAVIUS immediately hurries to the vault, inserts the key, and the door swings open.

POV - FERDEK AND TAVIUS

A large package is wrapped tightly with black cloth.

FERDEK removes the package and stares reverently at it.

FERDEK
Say hello to Baby.

TAVIUS
It's not as large as I thought it
would be.

FERDEK
But just as deadly. It's time to
take Baby home.

FERDEK takes the package and gingerly places it in his
backpack.

HE AND TAVIUS move cautiously across the floor, past the
window.

TAVIUS glance through the window and stops abruptly.

TAVIUS
(grim-faced)
We have trouble outside.

FERDEK joins him and look out the window. He frowns.

POV - FERDEK AND TAVIUS

A GERMAN SENTRY stands beside WOLFGANG, the barrel of his
rifle jammed against WOLFGANG'S head. They are ILLUMINATED by
the MOONLIGHT.

WOLFGANG is on his knees with a look of defiance.

SQUAD MEMBERS, with rifles in hand are staring toward the
second-floor window.

ANGLE ON TAVIUS AND FERDEK

TAVIUS presses his back against the wall

TAVIUS (CONT'D)
You have an exit plan, I presume.

FERDEK stands in silence for a long beat.

FERDEK
When I give you the word, shoot the
sentry guarding Wolfgang.

TAVIUS
What if he kills our friend?

FERDEK

It is the chance Wolfgang will have to take.

TAVIUS

(angrily)

You're not giving him a voice in the matter.

FERDEK

(calmly)

The loss of one life is not as critical as moving Baby out of here. Wolfgang would be the first to tell you that.

TAVIUS

Only one thing's for certain.

FERDEK

What?

TAVIUS

He will die.

FERDEK

Maybe we will all die.

TAVIUS sighs with resignation. He kneels beside the window and opens it wide enough for the barrel of his rifle. He and the rifle both are hidden by the darkness.

FERDEK crawls through the doorway to keep from being seen.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT - FERDEK

Hurries to the top of the stairs. He removes his backpack and clutches it to his chest.

FERDEK

(loudly)

Now.

FERDEK HEARS ONE GUNSHOT from the upstairs room, then a VOLLY OF LOUD VOICES coming from outside the armory.

FERDEK removes a German grenade from his backpack.

CUT TO:

INT. SECOND FLOOR ROOM -TAVIUS

Has pulled away from the window.

TAVIUS dares to glance quickly out the window.

POV - TAVIUS - A DEAD GERMAN SENTRY

Lies across Wolfgang's body.

A DOZEN MEMBERS of the SQUAD move toward the armory entrance.

ANOTHER SENTRY keeps FIRING ROUND AFTER ROUND toward the upstairs' window.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT - FERDEK

Lies at the top of the stairs. After pulling the pin he rolls the GRENADE and watches it drop down the staircase, one step at a time.

POV -FERDEK

THE FRONT DOOR shakes.

THE GRENADE rolls to the next stop.

THE DOOR flies open.

THE GRENADE keeps rolling one step at a time.

A GERMAN OFFICER BOLTS into the armory, holding his pistol high, eyes piercing the darkness.

THE GRENADE keeps rolling, one step at a time.

THE SENTRY SQUAD pushes into the armory.

THE GRENADE KEEPS ROLLING, one step at a time.

GERMAN OFFICER motions his squad toward the stairs.

THE GRENADE KEEPS ROLLING, one step at a time.

THE SQUAD REACHES THE STAIRS

THE GRENADE stops.

THE SQUAD begins moving up the stairs.

A SOLDIER SPOTS the grenade.

HE POINTS.

HE STARTS TO SCREAM.

THE GRENADE EXPLODES, and the stairs crumble in a WILD ROAR of FLAMES that envelop THE SCREEN.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROYAL CASTLE - EARLY MORNING - CARS

Drive slowly past.

PEDESTRIANS hurry down the sidewalk.

A MAN stops at a newsstand to buy a paper. He scans the headlines and slowly shakes his head.

A LITTLE GIRL walks out of an apartment and sits on the top step with a gray kitten.

CUT TO:

INT. AMBASSADOR'S OFFICE - AMBASSADOR WATCOWSKI

Paces back and forth in front of his desk. He is dressed in his formal attire.

PATRYCJA walks with worry and uncertainty through the door. She is aristocratic and proper, but tears stain her cheeks. She wipes them quickly away and forces a smile.

PATRYCJA

(bravely)

Father, you are dressed quite handsomely today. Are you expecting diplomatic visitors?

AMBASSADOR

(sadly and softly)

No, my little Patrycja. They are content to wait for my funeral.

PATRYCJA winces at his words.

AMBASSADOR hands PATRYCJA a handful of papers as she sits down behind the desk.

AMBASSADOR (CONT'D)

These notes must be typed and then hand delivered to the foreign secretaries before they get on the last plane to London.

PATRYCJA

And what will you do, Father?

AMBASSADOR

I will remain with my people until they are all gone, and Hitler stands at my door.

PATRYCJA

We have not fallen to the Germans, yet, Father. Our people will fight to the last man.

AMBASSADOR

Yes, my little Patrycja, we will fight to the last man, and then the Germans will kill the last man.

PATRYCJA

As long as we are alive, we have hope.

AMBASSADOR

(angrily)

Our diplomatic corps is in shambles. Our army is completely routed, and here I am trying to chronicle the last two weeks for ... I don't know who will be left to read them. I don't know if anyone will ever read them. I guess I just want to tell our side of the story in case Poland ever exists again.

PATRYCJA

(slams a fist on the desk)

No matter how black things look at this moment, I promise you Poland will be back as a free country. We will not allow ourselves to be owned by any invader.

AMBASSADOR sits down on the edge of the desk, smiling in appreciation of his daughter's fierce assertion of Poland's right to sovereignty.

AMBASSADOR

From my brief discussion with the German Ambassador, we know that Germany launched three full armies at Poland on September first.

AMBASSADOR looks down at a calendar on his desk. He circles September 3 on the calendar. THE YEAR at the top is 1939.

AMBASSADOR (CONT'D)

That was three days ago. Apparently, the attack was originally scheduled for August twenty-sixth, but for some reason it was postponed. It was our last five days of peace. I believe the invasion was delayed because Germany is fearful that a full-scale attack may draw our allies - France and Great Britain - into the fight.

PATRYCJA sneers with disgust and throws her pencil across the room.

PATRYCJA

Poland's allies? Germany thinks we have allies? Father, you have been pleading with them to prepare for the inevitable conflict with Germany since the armies of Der Fuhrer waltzed into Austria.

AMBASSADOR

Maybe the invasion of Poland will finally open their eyes. Maybe they will realize that Germany may have their countries in the crosshairs of Hitler's mad dream.

PATRYCJA

Not one finger was lifted by any of them when Great Britain refused to fight and gave Czechoslovakia to Hitler without a shot being fired or a drop of blood spilled. I've had more troubles getting groceries from the market than the Germans have had with their land grabs. We would have been better off going to the Soviet Union for help.

AMBASSADOR

(sighs)

I tried that. They have been unusually quiet of late I fear, my little Patrycja, that Germany wants to lay waste to our lands, and Russia wants to steal and abolish everything good about Poland. Neither would be concerned if our names were erased forever from the maps of Europe.

CUT TO:

EXT. GDANSK - EARLY MORNING - FERDEK, TAVIUS, AND WOLFGANG

Work their way quietly down an alley, still untouched by the morning sun.

They reach the sidewalk and HEAR THE SOUND OF MARCHING SOLDIERS on cobblestone streets.

They press their backs against the walls to wait for the soldiers to pass.

POV - BOYS

TWELVE GERMAN SOLDIERS are marching AGATA down the street. Her head is held high in defiance. Her hands are tied with rope behind her back.

A GESTAPO AGENT walks nonchalantly behind the soldiers.

AGATA is pushed roughly to the wall of the TRAIN STATION.

TAVIUS (O.S.)

My, God.

WOLFGANG (O.S.)

They are going to kill her.

ANGLE ON FERDEK, TAVIUS AND WOLFGANG.

TAVIUS is aiming a rifle, its barrel resting atop a GARBAGE CAN.

FERDEK places his hand on the rifle barrel and gently pushes it to the side and downward. His face is cut and streaked with blood.

TAVIUS
(angrily)
We just can't stand here and let
her die.

FERDEK
We have no other choice.

WOLFGANG
But we wouldn't have Baby if it
wasn't for Agata.

FERDEK
We are all condemned to die the day
we are born. Agata is a woman most
fortunate.

TAVIUS
How can you say that?

FERDEK
Agata is dying for Poland.

WOLFGANG
(raising his rifle)
Then we shall all die for Poland
today.

FERDEK
Most likely we will, Wolfgang. But
today is not that day. We have the
secret for Poland's survival. We
cannot throw it away because we are
foolish enough to throw our lives
away.

THEY HEAR SHOTS.

POV - EARLY MORNING - FERDEK, TAVIUS, AND WOLFGANG

SMOKE curls from the muzzles of GERMAN RIFLES.

AGATA slowly slides to the earth. She JERKS once, then lies
motionless.

THE GESTAPO AGENT smiles approvingly.

THE SOLDIERS march away.

The morning is silent again.

ANGLE ON FERDEK, TAVIUS, AND WOLFGANG

They run across the street and move through the train yards.

WOLFGANG holds tightly to TAVIUS'S arm as he limps across the track.

THEY HEAR VOICES SINGING and glance over their shoulders.

POV - BOYS -EARLY MORNING - A HANDFUL

Of merchants from Gdansk, mostly old and gray, cross the street, SINGING an old funeral dirge.

They surround the BODY OF AGATA.

TWO MEN stoop down and gently pick her up. They turn, still SINGING, and carry Agata across the street.

ANGLE ON TAVIUS

He MOTIONS toward an empty box car.

FERDEK stares down the track.

POV - FERDEK - GERMAN SOLDIERS

Are meticulously searching each box car.

GERMAN SOLDIERS are boarding passenger trains.

ANGLE ON FERDEK

FERDEK (CONT'D)
We'll have to find another way out
of Gdansk.

TAVIUS
You think they're looking for us?

WOLFGANG
They're looking for Baby and will
execute anybody who has it.

TAVIUS
(laughs bitterly)
Then I guess they're looking for
us, and I'm sure they have
roadblocks on every road out of
town.

BOYS look up.

POV - BOYS - A SQUADRON OF GERMAN PLANES

Blot out the sky.

ANGLE ON WOLFGANG

WOLFGANG

So much for hiding in the woods.

TAVIUS

We may be the most wanted men in Poland, and you can't say that about most thieves.

FERDEK

(laughing)

Thieves steal loaves of bread because they are hungry. We're criminals of the highest order. We stole Baby.

WOLFGANG

They'll shoot us on sight if they find us.

TAVIUS

(nodding)

But we may win the war if they don't.

THE BOYS weave their way among the trains, keeping out of sight, moving across an open field.

They HEAR THE DRONE OF A PLANE and drop to the ground, hugging the earth until the SOUND OF THE PLANE DIES in the distance.

CUT TO:

EXT. GDANSK COUNTRYSIDE - DAY - THE BOYS

Crawl through the grass, moving out of the woodlands.

POV - BOYS - AN OLD BRIDGE

Crosses the river.

A SQUAD OF GERMAN SOLDIERS move warily across the bridge. They stop to look down at the water below them.

TWO SOLDIERS climb back onto the bridge.

GERMAN SOLDIERS start running off the bridge and down an old dirt road.

THE BRIDGE erupts in a fiery bomb explosion. As the smoke clears, several GERMAN TANKS move to the far side of the river, spreading out in a wall of metal and firepower.

ANGLE ON BOYS - FERDEK

Lowers his binoculars as he HEARS THE SOUND OF A PLANE flying overhead. He glances up.

FERDEK

They have us cut off.

He pulls a wrinkled map from his pocket and spreads it out on the ground.

CLOSE ON HIS FINGERS as they trace the roads and rivers leaving Gdansk.

FERDEK (CONT'D)

We're either a day too late, or the Germans arrived a day too early. They will no doubt be waiting for us at every possible escape route I've marked. They know we're here. They know what we've stolen. They want it back.

WOLFGANG

Poland is a big land.

FERDEK

Not big enough. We can hide for a while but not forever.

TAVIUS

If we don't get Baby home, it might as well still be in German hands. The Brits won't last another month. They have one chance for survival.

WOLFGANG

And it's trapped with us.

TAVIUS

And we're stuck out here in no man's land.

FERDEK suddenly grins.

FERDEK

That's it.

WOLFGANG

(frowning)

What's it?

FERDEK

They're out here searching for us,
and we're going to where no one's
looking for us, where no one
expects us to be.

TAVIUS

Where's that?

FERDEK

We get lost in Gdansk.

WOLFGANG

How?

FERDEK

We drink beer where the soldiers
drink beer.

WOLFGANG

You have a death wish, Ferdek?

FERDEK

Would rabbits who escaped a wolf's
lair be foolish enough to go back?

TAVIUS

Only if they wanted to die.

FERDEK

The wolf knows the faces of the
rabbits. The only Germans who know
our faces died at the Armory.

WOLFGANG

So we wait.

FERDEK

Like boys who had rather drink
their beer than fight.

TAVIUS

For how long?

FERDEK looks again toward the river through his binoculars.

POV - FERDEK

A TANK turns its gun toward the woodlands and fires. Flames
and smoke pour out of the barrel.

THE BOYS HEAR THE WHISTLE of the shot overhead.

ANGLE ON FERDEK

He lowers his binoculars.

FERDEK

Until the Germans tire of looking for us. After a few days, maybe they will think: the boys are gone. The boys are dead. Baby is lost. Baby may be at the bottom of the river. Baby will die of rust. They will turn their army toward Warsaw.

WOLFGANG

And where will we be?

FERDEK

Already in Warsaw.

TAVIUS

How do we get there?

FERDEK

(winks)

One step at a time, Tavius. One step at a time.

WOLFGANG

What if the tank shoots again?

TAVIUS

(laughing to hide his fear)

Stay low, Wolfgang. The German is shooting high.

THE BOYS begin crawling through the tall grass back toward the woodlands.

CUT TO:

EXT. GDANSK STREET - DAY - GROSSER MERCEDES TOURING CAR

Eases down the street. The day is gray and overcast. PEDESTRIANS stand solemnly on the sidewalk and watch the car pass by.

TOURING CAR stops at the front steps and gray columns of the GERMAN MILITARY HEADQUARTERS.

ANGLE ON POLICE GENERAL FRIEDRICH-GEORG EBERHARDT

He steps from the touring car and glances around him. His face is stern, carved from granite.

His eyes are just as hard. GENERAL EBERHARDT climbs the steps while his military escorts follow him.

CUT TO:

INT. NAZI HEADQUARTERS - DAY - LIEUTENANT WILHELM HENNINGSEN

Sits beside his AIDE at a long conference table. Lying in front of him is a map of Gdansk and its surrounding countryside.

THE DOOR OPENS and HENNINGSEN glances up to see GENERAL EBERHARDT swagger defiantly and alone into the room. HENNINGSEN and his AIDE stands and salutes. EBERHARDT acknowledges the salutes with a nod and a wave. He sits down heavily at the table. HENNINGSEN and his AIDE continue standing.

GENERAL EBERHARDT

We have a situation. Please sit down, Lieutenant, and tell me what you are going to do to solve the situation that confronts both of us in Gdansk.

HENNINGSEN sits. His AIDE remains standing.

HENNINGSEN

They will be captured, General.

GENERAL EBERHARDT

Do you know where they are?

HENNINGSEN

They have fled Gdansk.

GENERAL EBERHARDT

Are you certain?

HENNINGSEN

Our soldiers spotted them down beside the railroad tracks.

GENERAL EBERHARDT

Were they shot?

HENNINGSEN

Our orders were to capture them.

GENERAL EBERHARDT

Did you?

HENNINGSSEN

We lost them in a crowd that had gathered to witness the execution of a Polish spy.

GENERAL EBERHARDT stares out the window, clenching and unclenching his jaws. He is not happy.

GENERAL EBERHARDT

How many are there?

HENNINGSSEN

Three, Sir.

GENERAL EBERHARDT

And how were they able to steal the gadget?

HENNINGSSEN

We had it locked in a vault in the old armory. Someone must have given them the combination to the lock.

GENERAL EBERHARDT

Who?

HENNINGSSEN

The spy who was executed at the railroad station.

GENERAL EBERHARDT

Why weren't the thieves stopped at the armory?

HENNINGSSEN

Our men had them pinned down, Sir.

GENERAL EBERHARDT

And who let them get away?

HENNINGSSEN

The men, Sir.

GENERAL EBERHARDT

What about them?

HENNINGSSEN

They are all dead, Sir.

EBERHARDT SLAMS HIS FIST to top of the table. His face is WHITE WITH RAGE.

GENERAL EBERHARDT
Are you telling me that a whole
squad of our finest fighting men
could not stop three men?

HENNINGSSEN
That's the report I was given.

EBERHARDT stands and begins pacing back and forth beside the
table.

GENERAL EBERHARDT
Your orders have changed,
Lieutenant.

HENNINGSSEN
Yes, Sir.

GENERAL EBERHARDT
Find them. I don't care how many
men it takes. Scour every inch of
Poland if you have to. But find
them.

HENNINGSSEN
Yes, Sir.

GENERAL EBERHARDT
Shoot them on sight.

EBERHARDT WHIRLS AROUND, his pistol in his hand. HE FIRES one
shot. The bullet hits the AIDE above his right eye. AIDE
crumbles to the floor.

HENNINGSSEN stares down at the dead man.

GENERAL EBERHARDT (CONT'D)
Bring me the gadget when you do. I
will not tolerate failure a second
time.

EBERHARDT strides to the door, opens it, and walks out of the
room. He SLAMS THE DOOR behind him.

HENNINGSSEN is still staring at the dead man.

CUT TO:

EXT. BARN - MORNING - FERDEK

Rises from behind a PILE OF GRAIN and sprints, keeping low to the ground, toward the BARN.

CUT TO:

INT. BARN - MORNING - FERDEK

Steps inside, blinking his eyes as he tries to adjust to the darkness.

POV - FERDEK

A COW stands in the far corner, tied with a rope to a post.

THE FLOOR is covered with hay.

A WOODEN LADDER leads to the LOFT.

THE LOFT appears to be empty.

SUNLIGHT filters through a single window.

ANGLE ON FERDEK

He walks to the window and quickly waves his hand down the glass pane.

TAVIUS and WOLFGANG burst through the door moments later, out of breath, their faces strained.

FERDEK

We can hide here 'til dark.

WOLFGANG

What if the farmer finds us?

TAVIUS

He's Polish. He won't turn us out and leave us to the mercy of the Germans.

WOLFGANG

What if he's a spy?

FERDEK

We'll deal with it either way.

WOLFGANG

He might think we're thieves.

FERDEK
(laughing and holding up
the backpack with Baby)
He might be right.

TAVIUS
What do we do the rest of the day?

FERDEK
Sit. And wait. And hope the Germans
are looking for us elsewhere.

TAVIUS
They know what we've done by now.
They can't afford to let us escape.
They'll be looking under every rock
to find us.

WOLFGANG
Then we are a lucky bunch of
bastards?

FERDEK
What makes you say that?

WOLFGANG
(chuckling)
Poland has a lot of rocks.

WOLFGANG and TAVIUS drop to the floor, their backs against
the wall, their eyes on the barn door.

FERDEK stares in silence through the window. All he sees are
the GRASSES RIPPLING in the wind.

DAYLIGHT begins to SLOW FADE TO DARK.

CUT TO:

INT. BARN - NIGHT - THE BOYS

Are asleep on the floor.

CLOSE ON FERDEK

He HEARS A METALLIC CLICK.

HIS EYES open.

POV - FERDEK

THE BARRELS OF FIVE RIFLES are aimed toward him.

FERDEK SLIDES to a sitting position and raises his arms.

FERDEK
(softly)
Who are you?

SILENCE.

POV - FERDEK

HE shifts his GAZE from FACE TO FACE. Hard faces. Young. Old. Bearded. Eyes unwavering. Faces illuminated by moonlight in the window.

FERDEK (CONT'D)
We were only looking for a place to spend the night. I heard a storm's coming. We'll be gone by first light. Won't take a thing with us when we go.

ANGLE ON TAVIUS AND WOLFGANG as they roust themselves out of a deep sleep.

WOLFGANG
(wiping the sleep from his eyes)
I'll even feed the cow before I go.

WOLFGANG grins.

No one else does.

His grin fades.

SILENCE.

HALINA pushes two of the men aside and stands in front of FERDEK. She wears a wicked smile. She defiantly folds her arms across her chest.

HALINA
I told you earlier that you would need a girl before you left Gdansk.

FERDEK
I don't understand.

HALINA
Do you remember me?

WOLFGANG
I couldn't forget you if I tried.

HALINA
You turned me down.

WOLFGANG
You are only a girl.

HALINA reaches into her jacket pocket and removes a Kongsberg Colt. SHE KNEELS and JAMS the pistol between WOLFGANG'S eyes.

HALINA
It's been a long time since I was a girl.

WOLFGANG
You're no older than eighteen.

HALINA
I killed my first man when I was fifteen. I may kill my next man tonight. But I am a woman now. The Germans gave me no choice. A girl grows up quick, or she doesn't grow up at all.

HALINA stands and holds the pistol loosely at her side.

FERDEK
What do you want with us? If you want money, we have little, but you can take it.

FERDEK pulls a HANDFUL OF CHANGE from his pocket and hands it to HALINA.

LEANDER MIZELLA, the oldest man, angrily SLAPS FERDEK'S HAND with the BARREL of his RIFLE. COINS fly across the barn floor.

MIZELLA
Do not offend us, young man. We are here to help you. But we can just as easily bury you in ground so far away your mother, bless her soul, will never be able to find you, and the wolves will suck your bones and leave splinters all the way from here to Warsaw.

HALINA
We have been watching you since the moment you arrived. We did not know why you were in Gdansk or what you were doing here, but we knew it must be important.

TAVIUS

You must have us mistaken for
someone else.

WOLFGANG

We were simply on our way home when
night caught us.

THUNDER ECHOES in the distance.

FLASHES OF LIGHTNING DANCE outside the window.

HALINA

The Germans want you dead.

MIZELLA

They have been tracking you like
wild dogs all day. Word on the
streets of Gdansk say you stole
something very important to the
Nazis. They want it back. They
catch you, they will not negotiate.
They want your blood to ooze into
Polish soil.

FERDEK

What is it we are supposed to have
stolen?

HALINA

We don't know.

MIZELLA

We don't care what it is. Maybe
it's a bomb. Maybe it's far worse.
Maybe it will kill us all before
morning. But if the Germans want
it, and the Germans fear it, then
we want to make sure you can reach
your destination before a German
bullet finds you.

FERDEK climbs to his feet and dusts himself off. He shifts
his gaze from HALINA to MIZELLA.

TAVIUS

What makes you believe you can help
us?

HALINA

We are gypsies. Germans know the
roads to here, there, and just
about everywhere.

(MORE)

HALINA (CONT'D)

We travel the trails where no roads have ever gone. Some say we are like ghosts. We come and we go, and no one ever knows we were there.

FERDEK

Like tonight. I didn't hear you, and even in my sleep, I was listening for anything that might not sound right.

HALINA

(winking)

We are one with the darkness. We appear only when we want to be seen.

WOLFGANG

Why would you want to help us?

MIZELLA

You believe you can defeat the Germans. We believe it is an impossible quest. But if there is a one in a hundred chance you can, we want to make sure you live long enough to pull the trigger on whatever this device you have may be. We may be gypsies. We may never stay in any one place long enough to plant roots. But Poland is our home, too. It may take us forever, but we swear by the Mother of God that we will erase every footprint the Germans leave on our soil.

THUNDER rumbles in the distance. It sounds like CANNON FIRE.

CUT TO:

EXT. WOODLANDS - EARLY MORNING - A GYPSEY CARAVAN OF THREE WAGONS

Eases through the timber and down a hill toward a river.

ANGLE ON LEAD WAGON - WOLFGANG

Sits with Halina. She holds the reins and guides the horses through the forest.

WOLFGANG

What will the Germans do to you if they catch you smuggling us out of Gdansk?

HALINA

First, they must find us.

WOLFGANG

But what if they do?

HALINA

(shrugs)

They will kill us and burn our wagons and pretend we never existed at all. We are like cockroaches beneath the heels of their boots. They want to cleanse the land of Jews and Gypsies alike. In the eyes of the Nazis, we don't have the God-given right to breathe the same air they do.

WOLFGANG

Then we must part company.

HALINA

Why do you say that?

WOLFGANG nods toward the river.

POV - WOLFGANG AND HALINA

THE NAZI WAR MACHINE slowly becomes visible atop a ridge on the far side of the river, a long and formidable line of TANKS, CANNONS, and SOLDIERS.

HALINA stops the wagon, turns back and waves for the other two wagons to stop as well.

MIZELLA walks nonchalantly to HALINA'S WAGON.

HALINA (CONT'D)

Do you see what we see?

MIZELLA

(smiling)

I wonder if there are any Germans left in Germany, or if they have all come to Poland.

HALINA CLENCHES HER JAWS and removes her KRONESBERG COLT pistol from her jacket pocket.

MIZELLA gently places HIS HAND on the PISTOL and pushes it into her lap.

MIZELLA (CONT'D)

It would be a short fight, dear Halina. There will come a time when we must take a stand, but today is not the day.

HALINA

Where will we run?

MIZELLA

Straight ahead.

HALINA

Dead into the Nazi soldiers?

MIZELLA

It's too late to run anywhere else. A mad dash across Poland would only kill our horses. Besides, we have the one critical weapon the Germans don't have.

HALINA

What's that?

MIZELLA

(smiling softly)
We have the river.

CUT TO:

EXT. CARAVAN - MORNING - MIZELLA

Stands beside the lead wagon with FERDEK, TAVIUS and WOLFGANG. All faces are solemn.

FERDEK

What choices do we have?

TAVIUS

We can hide in the thickets.

MIZELLA

The Nazis will cut you down.

WOLFGANG

It's too late to run.

MIZELLA

There's no place to go. Germans are ahead of you. Germans are behind you. Poland is in a vice, squeezed on all sides by the Germans.

FERDEK

We don't want to endanger you or your family, Mizella. You've done everything you could to help us. If the Germans find out, you'll be dead before the Nazi's have their noon meal. We're on our own now.

FERDEK turns to walk away. MIZELLA grabs him by his shoulder.

MIZELLA

I have a plan.

TAVIUS

Let's hear it.

MIZELLA

You won't like it.

FERDEK

Will it take us to the far side of the German army?

MIZELLA

It will.

MIZELLA looks out toward the river and the advancing German War Machine.

MIZELLA (CONT'D)

If you survive.

CUT TO:

EXT. CLOSE ON WAGON WHEELS - MORNING - FERDEK

Is spread-eagle, his hands being tied with ropes to the bottom staves of the wagon.

CUT TO:

EXT. SECOND WAGON BOTTOM - MORNING - TAVIUS

No longer his jovial self is breathing hard as his legs are being quickly tied to the rear axle of the wagon.

CUT TO:

EXT. THIRD WAGON BOTTOM - MORNING - WOLFGANG

His calm façade is ebbing away as he presses his head against the bottom of the wagon as a rope is looped around his waist and tied to a stave.

MIZELLA is on his hands and knees, supervising the operation.

WOLFGANG

What happens if the Germans search the bottom of the wagons?

MIZELLA

They won't find you.

WOLFGANG

What makes you so sure?

MIZELLA

You, my boy, will be under water.

WOLFGANG

We could drown before you reach the other side.

MIZELLA pulls a coin from his pocket, flips it in the air, and catches it.

MIZELLA

It's fifty-fifty.

WOLFGANG

The odds aren't good.

MIZELLA

Those odds are as good as any of us have or can hope for. Keep your mouth pressed hard against the bottom of the wagon, and you will find small air holes. The wind is good today. Ripples in the river will separate the water from the wagon. Breathe slowly. Don't panic. The river is not so wide here.

MIZELLA stands and starts to walk away. He stops abruptly and kneels down again to look under the wagon.

MIZELLA (CONT'D)
One other thing.

WOLFGANG
What's that?

MIZELLA
I am not a religious man. But if I were tied to the bottom of a wagon crossing the river, I would pray.

CUT TO:

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - MORNING - THE CARAVAN

Moves slowly out of the woodlands and toward the Vistula River.

A GERMAN ROW-BOAT crosses the river to the meet the Gypsies.

ANGLE ON LEAD WAGON - MIZELLA HOLDS THE REINS

HALINA sits beside him, a robe lying across her lap.

THE WAGON stops at the banks of the river.

THE GERMAN ROW BOAT reaches shore just as the CARAVAN eases only axle deep into the water.

ANGLE ON ROW BOAT - LT. HENNINGSEN STEPS OUT OF THE BOAT

And wades with hurried steps toward the lead wagon, followed by a dozen men, all armed with rifles held chest high.

ANGLE ON HENNINGSEN AND MIZELLA

HENNINGSEN is ankle deep in the water.

MIZELLA sits in the wagon.

Both stare at each other with contempt and defiance.

HENNINGSEN
You seem to have lost your way.

MIZELLA
This is my country, Sir. I know it as well as the smile on my wife's lips.

HENNINGSEN points to HALINA with a SMIRK.

HENNINGSEN
Your wife?

MIZELLA
(proudly)
My daughter.

HENNINGSEN
Where are you coming from?

MIZELLA
Koszwaly.

HENNINGSEN
What were you doing in Koszwaly?

MIZELLA
We sell things.

HENNINGSEN
What kinds of things?

MIZELLA
Fortunes told. Palms read. Charms.
Rings. Golden amulets to ward off
the evil eyes. Beautiful hand-woven
robes.

He points to HALINA.

HALINA STANDS with a smile, showing off the ROBE IN HER LAP,
letting the robe fall around her feet.

HENNINGSEN does not look as if he is impressed.

HENNINGSEN
Where is your destination?

MIZELLA
The town of Kalisz.

HENNINGSEN
What do you have waiting in Kalisz?

MIZELLA
Family.

HENNINGSEN
I thought Gypsies were nomads.

MIZELLA

My mother owns a dress shop in Kalisz. I'm afraid I was the only wayward nomad.

HENNINGSEN

I think you are lying.

MIZELLA

(smiling broadly)

Does it really matter?

HENNINGSEN ignores his words. He pulls a map of Poland from his briefcase and presses against the side of the wagon.

HENNINGSEN

How close did you travel to Gdansk.

MIZELLA

We gave Gdansk a wide berth. There is a war going on, and we are a peaceful people, and I have heard that there is a lot of fighting in the streets of Gdansk. No one is buying. No one is selling. We have chosen to go in another direction.

HENNINGSEN

Have you crossed paths with three young men who are fleeing Gdansk?

MIZELLA slowly shakes his head.

MIZELLA

We don't travel the roads, Sir. We have seen no one, and I doubt if anyone, other than yourself, has seen us. But armies don't use the roads either, I see.

HENNINGSEN

Step down.

MIZELLA

Why?

HENNINGSEN

(with a smirk)

If we search the wagons, what will we find?

MIZELLA

(shrugs)

Maybe someone to read your palm,
tell your fortune, sell you a gold
amulet to ward off the evil eye.
Who knows what you will find.

MIZELLA steps down and motions for the OTHER DRIVERS to step down as well. They do.

ANGLE ON FERDEK

His face is pressed against the bottom of the wagon. The level of the river has reached his ears.

ANGLE ON GERMAN SOLDIERS

They climb into each of the three wagons. Moments later, they crawl out and jump to the ground.

CAMERA FOLLOWS SERGEANT as he walks briskly toward Lt. Henningsen. He SALUTES.

SERGEANT

The wagons are empty, Sir.

HENNINGSSEN

You didn't search for very long.

SERGEANT

There was not a lot of space to search, Sir.

HENNINGSSEN

You are sure no one is hiding in the wagons?

SERGEANT

The wagons are empty, Sir.

HENNINGSSEN

Very well.

He looks up at MIZELLA.

HENNINGSSEN (CONT'D)

If I find you have lied to me, I will track you and your family down like rabbits. And I can assure you, that no one will ever see you again, and no will ever remember you were here.

THE LIEUTENANT turns and wades toward the waiting row boat.

MIZELLA and HALINA watch solemnly as the Henningsen climbs into the boat and it turns toward the opposite shoreline.

CUT TO:

EXT. RIVER - MORNING - THE CARAVAN

Moves slowly out of the water and threads its way past the German tanks and soldiers.

GERMAN SOLDIERS shower HALINA with catcalls as the lead wagon passes by.

SOLDIERS hammer the butts of their rifles against the wagons.

SOLDIERS grab the wagons and rock them back and forth.

THE SECOND WAGON almost tips over but regains its balance.

MIZELLA, HALINA, and the GYPSY DRIVERS stare solemnly ahead.

ANGLE ON LIEUTENANT HENNINGSEN

He steps out of the rowboat and watches the wagons move toward the timberline.

POV - LIEUTENANT HENNINGSEN

THE WAGONS are swallowed up as they disappear into the trees.

CUT TO:

EXT. WAGONS - MORNING - MIZELLA

Reins for his horses to stop. He leaps to the ground and immediately draws a long knife from his belt as he crawls under the lead wagon.

DRIVERS of the other two wagons do the same.

ANGLE ON MIZELLA

He begins cutting the ropes around FERDEK'S HANDS.

HALINA reaches his side and holds FERDEK'S BODY in place while MIZELLA cuts the ropes around the young man's feet.

FERDEK falls hard on the ground. He lies still, lifeless.

HALINA places HIS HEAD in her hands.

HALINA
 (softly)
FerdeK.

SILENCE.

 HALINA (CONT'D)
 (louder)
FerdeK, can you hear me? Ferdek,
please answer me.

FERDEK COUGHS harshly. Water gushes from his chest. He COUGHS again and again.

MIZELLA grabs FERDEK'S ankles and drags him from beneath the wagon.

 HALINA (CONT'D)
Is he all right?

 MIZELLA
 (laughing)
The boy's fine. He tried to drink
the river dry. That's all.

MIZELLA stands up and jams the knife back into his belt.

HALINA races back to the last wagon and takes Wolfgang's hands to steady him as he crawls out from the wagon.

FERDEK forces himself into a sitting position. He glances toward the other two wagons.

TAVIUS is using a wagon wheel to pull himself back on to his feet.

WOLFGANG is walking around on unsteady feet, HALINA'S ARMS around him. He is wiping water from his face and hair.

ALL THREE are drenched.

FERDEK glances up at Mizella.

 FERDEK
Did the Germans find Baby?

 MIZELLA
 (shakes his head)
Baby is safe.

HALINA glances over her shoulder.

HALINA

I had Baby at my feet the whole time. I even showed the robe to the German lieutenant. He did not have an interest, not even when I let the robe drop down around Baby.

FERDEK grins with relief. He pushes himself to his feet.

FERDEK

How can we repay you? We would not have made it without your help.

MIZELLA

We do not ask for payment. We are Polish. Men like you and I never walk on the same side of the street, not where anyone can see us, but we both have a deep pride in our homeland.

FERDEK

I will not forget you.

HALINA

You can tell me one thing before you go.

FERDEK

What's that?

HALINA

What's Baby?

FERDEK

If we win the war ...

MIZELLA

(resolutely)
We will win the war.

FERDEK

Then you will have Baby to thank.

ANGLE ON HALINA AND WOLFGANG

HALINA reaches up and kisses WOLFGANG on the cheek.

HALINA

Stay safe. I will miss you. But I would like to live a long life, and I think you are a dangerous man.

WOLFGANG

We just have a job to do.

HALINA

Who dies?

WOLFGANG

In war, we simply do what we are asked to do, and we all die a little each day.

CUT TO:

EXT. WARSAW - DUSK - THE CITY

Lies in darkness and shadow. Only a few lights are burning in the approaching night.

ANGLE ON FERDEK, TAVIUS and WOLFGANG

As they emerge from the forest and look down on their home.

FERDEK

All is calm.

TAVIUS

The storm is coming.

WOLFGANG

No. The storm is already here.

He lifts his eyes to the far distance.

POV - BOYS

GERMAN TANKS are silhouettes on the plains north of town. COMBAT VEHICLES are RACING back and forth along a line of GERMAN SOLDIERS and MOBILE ARTILLERY PLACEMENTS.

TAVIUS

I didn't think the Germans would get here this quickly.

FERDEK

They figure to walk across Poland without facing any real resistance, bury us beneath their Nazi heels, then move as rapidly as possible toward France and Great Britain.

WOLFGANG

(angrily)

They don't know the courage of the Polish.

FERDEK

It has nothing to do with courage, Wolfgang. It's all about weapons. The Germans have them. We don't.

TAVIUS

Then why are we fighting? Why have we chosen to die for nothing?

FERDEK

We can't save Poland. We can't stop the German army on Polish soil. It was too late even before the first shot was fired. But we have a chance, even if it is a small and improbable chance of stopping Germany before it crushes the rest of Europe.

WOLFGANG

That's a long shot.

FERDEK

It's the only shot we have.

TAVIUS

So, you're determined to go through with this?

FERDEK

I am. But each man must make his own decision.

WOLFGANG

(grinning)

You're certainly not going anywhere without us.

CUT TO:

EXT. DARK STREETS OF WARSAW - NIGHT - AMBASSADOR WATCOWSKI

Stands with KONDRAT MICKELOWSKI beside a fountain in Saski Park. In the distance, they HEAR CAR HORNS HONK, A FARAWAY POLICE SIREN, THE STEADY RUMBLE of traffic on the streets.

KONDRAT

Warsaw is a beautiful city.

AMBASSADOR

The work of architects who were true artists.

KONDRAT

And now we are going to lose it.

AMBASSADOR

That, I'm afraid, is the quandary we face.

KONDRAT

What are you trying to say?

AMBASSADOR

If we stay and fight to the last man, as my heart says we should do, the ages-old beauty of Warsaw will be destroyed down to the last brick. Bombs leave a dreadful scar.

KONDRAT

And if we leave?

AMBASSADOR

We save the beauty of Warsaw, but it will belong to those who don't see its beauty or love the city as you and I do, Kondrat.

KONDRAT

Will we ever be able to come home again?

AMBASSADOR

We can when the war ends, but it won't be our home anymore.

KONDRAT

Mr. Ambassador, if you see my son before I do, please let him know that he is charged with taking our family out of Poland and to our chalet in Switzerland. He is young and strong. He will make sure they arrive safely.

AMBASSADOR

You can tell him yourself, Kondrat.

KONDRAT stares at the ground and shakes his head.

KONDRAT

None of us knows what lies in store for tomorrow. Perhaps we will all be able to go together. Perhaps we go separately. Perhaps we will meet again, you and I, Mr. Ambassador. Perhaps not. Man is not destined for this earth forever, and I hear the footsteps of death behind me.

THE AMBASSADOR begins walking away.

AMBASSADOR

Are you coming with me, Kondrat?

KONDRAT

I think I'll stay here in the park for a while. It holds so many good memories for me. As long as I am here, they do not leave me.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROYAL CASTLE, POLAND'S SEAT OF GOVERNMENT - EARLY MORNING - THE RESIDENTS OF WARSAW

Crowd the sidewalks, carrying their belongings in wagons and packed on their backs as they begin their escape from the German army.

CUT TO:

INT. ROYAL CASTLE - EARLY MORNING - THE AMBASSADOR AND PATRYCJA

Look down at the frantic throng of people on their way out of town. They HEAR the LOW RUMBLE of ARTILLERY FIRE in the distance.

PATRYCJA

It's so sad, Father. So many built their lives here, and they were happy lives, often prosperous lives, and now they are fleeing for their lives.

AMBASSADOR

Weep for them, my little Patrycja, then weep for us all.

(MORE)

AMBASSADOR (CONT'D)

Before the week ends, perhaps
before the day ends, we will be
down there with them. As they go,
we will go. As they die, we die.

PATRYCJA

No, Father. We will fight.

THE AMBASSADOR hugs his daughter tightly.

AMBASSADOR

No, daughter, we will live to fight
another day. If not us, then your
children or their children will
surely come back to Warsaw someday
and remember us as the last
generation who built a great city.

A LOUD RUCKUS in the Ambassador's office interrupts their
conversation

CUT TO:

INT. AMBASSADOR'S OFFICE - MORNING - THE AMBASSADOR AND
PATRYCJA

Enter as FERDEK, TAVIUS, AND WOLFGANG burst through the door.
They are worn, their hair disheveled, their clothes streaked
with dirt and mud. None of them have shaved for days.

PATRYCJA runs to FERDEK and hugs him. She wipes the mud off
his face with her handkerchief.

PATRYCJA

Where in the world have you been?
I've been so worried about you, all
of you. What happened? You look as
if you crawled through the mud from
there to here, and I'm afraid to
even ask where there was.

FERDEK takes her arms and pushes her gently away.

FERDEK

(frustrated)

Father, we've just come from Gdansk
and saw the German army trying to
encircle Warsaw. The word on the
street is that The Polish Marshall
has ordered a general retreat.
We're surrendering Warsaw.

AMBASSADOR

(sadly)

I know, my son. I was with him when the decision was made.

FERDEK

Why didn't you try to stop him?

AMBASSADOR

We have no army that can stop the Germans.

FERDEK

But, Father, the time has come for Poland to stand and fight.

AMBASSADOR

But, son, it is not the time to die. You were with the Pomorska Calvary brigade. Is it your intention to return to them and ask for your sword and lance?

FERDEK turns away, his jaws clenched, his fists in tight balls.

FERDEK

I would rather die with honor than stand idly by like cowards and let Germany run roughshod over our homeland. We will never be Nazi slaves.

AMBASSADOR

We have one chance to survive this conflict, my son.

FERDEK

Run?

AMBASSADOR

Do you plan to run back to your Pomorska Calvary brigade? Is it your intention to ask for your sword and lance? It is not possible for you to go back and fight with your brigade, son. You have no brigade. It no longer exists. Your cavalry unit launched a very brave but very foolish charge at the Germans. They ran directly into the path of German Panzers.

(MORE)

AMBASSADOR (CONT'D)

Only God knows where you were when the order came to charge. But you are the only one still alive.

FERDEK collapses into a chair, his face the image of hurt, anger, and sorrow. He is consumed with grief and shame.

FERDEK

(seething)

There is more than one way to defeat the Germans.

FERDEK takes the backpack off his shoulder and clutches it in his arms.

PATRYCJA gently pats her brother's back, trying to console him.

PATRYCJA

To fight at another time in another place, Ferdek, we first have to survive.

FERDEK

The Germans are stronger than we are. Their army is more powerful than ours. But will win because we will outsmart them.

PATRYCJA

You have a plan?

FERDEK looks up at her, and a wicked grin crosses his face.

FERDEK

We have the ultimate weapon.

PATRYCJA

(frowning)

What is it?

FERDECK holds his backpack over his head in triumph.

FERDEK

When the time is right, you will know. The whole world will know. We have the key to Germany's greatest secrets.

PATRYCJA glances at THE AMBASSADOR. Both are puzzled.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROYAL CASTLE, POLAND'S SEAT OF GOVERNMENT - AFTERNOON

POLISH FAMILIES cling together as they push their way down the street. THEY HEAR the distant sound of gunfire. SIRENS WAIL in every direction.

THE CASTLE DOOR opens and FERDEK, TAVIUS, and WOLFGANG step out, followed by THE AMBASSADOR and PATRYCJA.

AMBASSADOR

Wolfgang, your father wants you to personally make sure your family gets out of Poland safely. He will allow my family to accompany you as long I am able to arrange suitable transportation for all of you.

WOLFGANG

(shakes his head)

Forgive me, Ambassador, but I don't agree with your assessment of the situation.

TAVIUS

Neither do I, Sir. We are only two weeks into battle, and we are talking about our military, our government, and our people all turning their backs on Poland.

WOLFGANG

Where can we go? How can we get there? German soldiers own the roads. They are circling Warsaw. They are cutting off every exit.

AMBASSADOR

From the reports I have received, you can take the road out of Warsaw to the southeast and stay clear of any military personnel. I want all of you to throw away your military uniforms and remain dressed in civilian clothes like peasants for the trip ahead of you. If you are caught in the uniforms of the Polish army, you will be shot as deserters. If the Germans capture you, they will at least treat you like prisoners of war.

FERDEK

I doubt it, Father. Germany wants our land.

(MORE)

FERDEK (CONT'D)

They want to see every Polish man, woman, and child lying in a ditch or some shallow grave. They want to erase us from the face of the earth.

AMBASSADOR

What makes you say that?

FERDEK

You haven't been in Gdansk the past few days and seen what we have seen taking place. Our contact was taken out and brutally murdered by a firing squad.

AMBASSADOR

What did he do to upset the Germans?

FERDEK

It wasn't a he, Father. It was a woman.

AMBASSADOR

A spy?

FERDEK

A Polish citizen.

WOLFGANG

(angrily)

I have not yet agreed to my father's request. He raised me to be a man and not run when my gut instinct and my military training tells me I need to stay and fight.

AMBASSADOR

Wolfgang, your father raised you to be a good son. Your family needs you now. You cannot turn your back on them.

TAVIUS

There is no honor in running.

AMBASSADOR

(softly)

If there is honor in dying, it is soon forgotten. What good is a headstone when the son is gone? Wolfgang, will you not take your parents and my daughter to safety?

(MORE)

AMBASSADOR (CONT'D)

How do you think they will escape on their own?

PATRYCJA suddenly bristles. Her eyes flash with anger.

PATRYCJA

Who said I was leaving? I know how to shoot. Father, you taught me when I was much younger, and you taught me well. I have no intention of leaving. They may kill me. They may kill me before morning. But they will have to wade through the bodies of their dead to reach me. If I spill my blood, I will let it spill it on the ground of my ancestors.

THE AMBASSADOR places a gently arm around her shoulders but ignores her words. He turns to FERDEK and hands him an envelope.

AMBASSADOR

This letter must be delivered to the airfield within the next two hours. The remaining members of our provisional government are on that plane, bound for Great Britain, to join with the rest of the government. All of our Naval resources have followed protocol and made their way to Great Britain.

FERDEK

Who receives the letter?

AMBASSADOR

Find Phillip Kandinsky. He will make sure it reaches Wladyslaw Sikorski, who will become our President and the commander-in-chief of our military.

FERDEK

What has happened to President Moscicki?

AMBASSADOR

He was forced to resign and has taken exile in Switzerland.

FERDEK

What was his sin?

AMBASSADOR

He was the only one in Warsaw who did not believe the Germans would begin their war on Poland.

TAVIUS walks to PATRYCJA'S side and takes her hand.

TAVIUS

I know you are a fighter. I well understand the patriotic blood that flows in your veins. It flows in mine. But I cannot permit you to stay in Warsaw under these dire circumstances. Allow me to accompany you and Ferdek on this errand. Although it grieves me greatly, I insist we follow your father's wise counsel.

THE AMBASSADOR stands in silence, his face grim, as he watches his Polish people struggle in their plight to escape a country that is being torn apart by war.

AMBASSADOR

In addition to the Luftwaffe's intention to bomb our capital, I have been informed that there is a flanking move by the German XIX Corp around Warsaw to capture Brest Litovsk. There is a brave effort by the eighteenth Polish Division to defend the city, but our army does not have the armor needed to stop the onslaught. The invading Panzer Troops are under the command of General Heinz Guderian.

SILENCE.

EVERYONE solemnly weighs the enormity of his words.

WOLFGANG

The same Heinz Guderian who has pioneered the cruel strategy behind German's armored warfare?

THE AMBASSADOR nods. His face has turned ashen with grief.

AMBASSADOR

You must go now before the collapse of the citadel at Brest. Time is short. I fear it will only take a few days for Guderian to complete his stranglehold on the city.

(MORE)

AMBASSADOR (CONT'D)

When he does, it will be too late
for any of us to escape.

FERDEK takes the letter and places it in the vest pocket of
his jacket.

FERDEK

What about you, Father?

AMBASSADOR

I have plans. I will do what is
best for Poland. Now, take our
treasured copy and learn what it
has to teach. If you can do that,
then we can start altering the
future of these invaders. I suggest
you head for Romania, then go due
west through Hungary to bypass the
new German territories. Your travel
should take you into Switzerland.
You will be safe there.

Angle on FERDEK, TAVIUS, and WOLFGANG.

FERDEK

Patrycja and I will take the letter
to the airport to catch the plane
before it departs. You round up
your families, and we will meet up
at the Barbican Gate no later than
six o'clock.

WOLFGANG

It may take us longer than that.

FERDEK

Time is ticking, and it is not in
our favor. The longer we wait, the
more time will pass before we
deliver Baby to the allies. Every
second we lose, someone else dies.
We must move now, and we must move
quickly.

FERDEK takes Patrycja's hand and starts to walk briskly away
from the Royal Castle.

She hesitates.

PATRYCJA

Papa, you are coming, too, aren't
you?

THE AMBASSADOR smiles sadly.

AMBASSADOR

Now scamper, my children. I have two vehicles waiting for you in the courtyard. There should be enough fuel in them for you to reach your destination. Godspeed. Our country depends on you.

FERDEK, TAVIUS, and WOLFGANG begin running toward the courtyard. FERDEK has to drag PATRYCJA by the hand. She keeps looking back at HER FATHER.

POV - Patrycja

THE AMBASSADOR disappears in a horde of Polish people frantically pushing their way out of town.

CUT TO:

EXT. AIRPORT - LATE AFTERNOON - A LONE PLANE

Sits on the runway. A line of Polish diplomats are making their way up the stairs to enter the plane.

ANGLE ON FERDEK'S CAR

As it wheels past the gate and pulls to a stop behind the plane.

ANGLE ON FERDEK

He steps from the car and hurries to the bottom of the stairs.

FERDEK comes face to face with an AGING DIPLOMAT, who smiles with recognition.

DIPLOMAT

FerdeK, my boy, are you leaving with us?

FERDEK

I have a message for Phillip Kandinsky. It's from my father.

DIPLOMAT

Is your father coming with us?

FERDEK

The message is urgent.

The Diplomat steps back and motions Ferdek ahead of him.

DIPLOMAT

Please go then. I certainly don't want the flight delayed any longer than necessary.

FERDEK nods his thanks and races up the stairs.

CUT TO:

INT. AIRPLANE - LATE AFTERNOON - FERDEK

Looks across the FACES of the passengers.

FERDEK

(loudly)

I have a message for Mister Phillip Kandinsky ... Phillip Kandinsky.

A GENTLEMAN stands beside the seat on the third row. He is well-dressed and distinguished.

KANDINSKY

I'm Phillip Kandinsky. Is there something wrong?

FERDEK removes the envelope from his jacket pocket. He hands it to KANDINSKY.

FERDEK

I was asked to give you this. You must deliver it to President Sikorski as quickly as possible.

KANDINSKY

(indignantly)

I am afraid you have made a grave mistake, young man. Wladyslaw Sikorski is not the President of Poland.

FERDEK

He may be by the time you arrive.

KANDINSKY

(frowning)

Who is sending me this letter?

FERDEK

My father.

KANDINSKY

And who is your father?

FERDEK
The Ambassador.

KANDINSKY slips the letter into his coat pocket.

KANDINSKY
Is this a record of Poland's past?

FERDEK
No, Sir. It is the blueprint for
Poland's future.

CUT TO:

EXT. AIRPORT - LATE AFTERNOON - FERDEK

Watches the plane take off and ascend beyond the clouds.

FERDEK runs to the car and climbs behind the wheel, REVS up
the MOTOR and spins around, heading for the gate.

FERDEK
It's done.

PATRYCJA
I pray that the letter reaches the
new President.

FERDEK
I pray that the new President is
still alive when the letter
arrives.

PATRYCJA
You fear for his life?

FERDEK
I fear for Poland.

ANGLE ON THE CAR

It speeds out of the gate and heads toward the highway.

CUT TO:

EXT. HIGHWAY FROM POLAND - LATE AFTERNOON - TRAFFIC

Is at a virtual standstill. Cars are crammed bumper to bumper
as they inch their way out of Warsaw. HORNS are HONKING.

ANGLE ON FERDEK'S CAR

FERDEK is slumped over the steering wheel. Beads of sweat roll down his face.

FERDEK
We are running late.

PATRYCJA
There's nothing you can do about it.

FERDEK
I told Tavius and Wolfgang to have their families ready to leave by six, and it's already a few minutes shy of seven.

PATRYCJA
If you are late because of this traffic, it stands to reason that they will be late as well.

FERDEK
Wasting time is the deadliest sin I can think of. Time is against us.

PATRYCJA
Time runs at its own speed. We can't slow it down or stop it. We have to make do with the time that is given us.

FERDEK
You may be a poet, Patrycja. But you're certainly not a soldier.

CUT TO:

EXT. BARBICAN GATE - EARLY EVENING - FERDEK'S CAR

Leaves the highway, slowly makes its way to the gate, and parks.

FERDEK eases out of the car and looks around him.

POV - FERDEK

CARS are entangled and moving slowly. He is looking for TAVIUS and WOLFGANG.

THEY have not arrived.

FERDEK walks around to the front of the car and climbs onto the hood. He sits, head in his hands, and waits.

PATRYCJA climbs onto the hood of the car and surveys the crowded streets, a concerned look on her face.

FERDEK

They are late.

PATRYCJA

The traffic is terrible. Give them time.

CANNON FIRE and EXPLODING BOMBS can be HEARD in the distance.

FERDEK

The Germans are coming closer. They are already at the back gates of town, and we have no one to stop them. We must leave and leave now.

PATRYCJA

Tavius and Wolfgang would not leave you.

FERDEK GLANCES up at the watch tower.

FERDEK

Five more minutes and then we go.

PATRYCJA

(defiant)

Ten.

CUT TO:

EXT. BARBICAN GATE - EARLY EVENING - TAVIUS

Drives with a grim face through the pressing throng of cars, trucks, and people. The street is CONSTANTLY BOMBARDED BY HORNS HONKING and PEOPLE SHOUTING. He pulls to a stop and turns around to get his bearing. His face suddenly brightens.

POV - TAVIUS

PATRYCJA stands on the hood of Ferdek's car, her hand shielding her face as she searches for some sign of him.

ANGLE ON TAVIUS

He waves frantically.

ANGLE ON PATRYCJA

She waves back.

TAVIUS fights his way through the traffic to FERDEK'S CAR.

FERDEK

I expected you here twenty minutes ago.

TAVIUS

(looking through the windshield)

I had an unexpected problem.

FERDEK

(concerned)

Where is your family? You went to get them. Are they coming? How much longer will they take? We had orders to take our families out of Warsaw as soon as possible.

A SHADOW of grief passes over TAVIUS'S FACE as he steps out of the car.

TAVIUS

(softly)

That's the problem. My father had a stroke late last evening. He is in the hospital, and my mother says she will not leave without him.

PATRYCJA places a gentle and comforting hand on his shoulder.

PATRYCJA

Tavius, I am so sorry. How bad is it? What are the doctors telling you?

TAVIUS

(shrugs)

Nothing. The doctors are telling us absolutely nothing. The hospital is packed with the wounded, soldiers and civilians alike. The halls are crowded. There are no rooms left. The doctors have not even seen my father yet. He lies on a cot in the morgue while mother cries over him. The hospital is full of mothers crying. Who knows if my father will even still be alive when a doctor comes to treat him. He is already in a coma and may never open his eyes again.

PATRYCJA
How is your mother?

TAVIUS
(a sad grin)
Feisty as always. As soon as she saw the chaos in the hospital, she grabbed a nurse's dress and began trying to comfort those who are in as much distress as she is. Mother knows the end is near for both father and Warsaw. I begged her to come with me. She begged me to go with you. She does not know the mission we are on, but she knows it must be important. She said for Poland to survive, we must prevail, and she will pray for every step we take while we are gone.

FERDEK
She is a brave woman.

TAVIUS
She wants to do what's right. She is Polish after all.

CUT TO:

EXT. DOWNTOWN STREET - EARLY EVENING - WOLFGANG

Places a heavy suitcase against the wall of a building and helps his father, KONDRAT, sit down on it. The old man is dejected as he leans his head against the wall.

WOLFGANG pats the old man's shoulder to reassure him.

WOLFGANG
I won't be gone long, Father. Just take a breather and wait until I get back. We have a lot of miles ahead of us.

KONDRAT
What if you don't come back?

WOLFGANG
Trust me, Father. I'll be back before you know I'm gone.

KONDRAT
Wolfgang.

WOLFGANG

Yes, Father.

KONDRAT

Promise me one thing.

WOLFGANG

What is it?

KONDRAT

When the time comes, and I fear it's not too far distant, I want you to bury me in Polish soil.

WOLFGANG

(pats his shoulder again)

We still have a lot of living to do. When we are tired, we worry about things that usually never happen.

KONDRAT

Promise me, Wolfgang.

WOLFGANG

I will, Father. If anything happens to you, and I pray that it doesn't, I will bring you home.

KONDRAT closes his eyes and is wearing a sad but satisfied smile.

CUT TO:

EXT. BACK ALLEY - EARLY EVENING - WOLFGANG

Races down the alley until he finds the back door of a small church. He turns quickly and steps inside.

CUT TO:

INT. SMALL CHURCH - EARLY EVENING - WOLFGANG

Steps into a dark sanctuary. Only THE LAST RAYS of a SETTING SUN cut their way through the darkness.

WOLFGANG hurries toward the pews.

POV WOLFGANG - FATHER NOWAK, a young priest, nervously awaits him.

ANGLE - WOLFGANG

Sits beside him.

FATHER NOWAK pulls a large roll of paper out of his robe.

FATHER NOWAK

I have the information you requested, Wolfgang.

WOLFGANG

I am forever indebted to you, Father.

FATHER NOWAK

No, Wolfgang, you are indebted to Ludek and especially Rysiek. Two boys, really. Trying to be men. Wanting to be soldiers. They were able to map those areas where the Germans are digging their trenches. Ludek managed to return with the map. Rysiek did not.

WOLFGANG

(frowns)

Has he been hurt? Captured?

FATHER NOWAK

A bullet in his throat. Ludek has hit, too. In the shoulder. He managed to reach the church. You will find the map stained with Rysiek's blood. He was a brave young man.

WOLFGANG

I'm sorry, Father.

FATHER NOWAK

We live. We die. It is not ours to question when or why. It is destiny. That's all. I pray that you succeed, Wolfgang. All of Poland prays for you. They don't know it, but I know they do. Now be gone with you.

WOLFGANG starts to say something, then thinks better of it.

FATHER NOWAK is walking away toward the front of the church.

WOLFGANG turns toward the back door.

ANGLE - FATHER NOWAK

He walks to the back of the pews and looks toward the stained-glass window high above the street. It IS ILLUMINATED by the SETTING SUN.

POV - FATHER NOWAK

A CROSS is SHINING.

CUT TO:

EXT. DOWNTOWN STREET - EARLY EVENING - WOLFGANG

Holds tightly to his father's arm as they push against the crowds shoving their way in the opposite direction. Both are carrying heavy suitcases and moving extremely slowly. KONDRAT stares down at the sidewalk, a portrait of dejection.

WOLFGANG and KONDRAT reach FERDEK'S car.

FERDEK
(sensing a problem)
Everything well, Wolfgang?

WOLFGANG
(trying to remain upbeat)
We are good. It's just that we had a little trouble ... uh, packing.

TAVIUS rushes to take KONDRAT'S suitcase.

KONDRAT sits down on the running board of the car. He is breathing heavily.

WOLFGANG (CONT'D)
(forced grin)
You know how some people are about their keepsakes and pictures. You should have seen the suitcases we left behind.

TAVIUS
If we get out of Poland alive, we can buy other suitcases.

WOLFGANG
It's not the suitcases it's about their keepsakes and pictures.

FERDEK
It's difficult to pack seventy years into a single suitcase.

(MORE)

FERDEK (CONT'D)

Our parents are leaving with everything they had when they came into the world.

TAVIUS

(grins sadly)

Nothing.

WOLFGANG does a silent head count and frowns.

WOLFGANG

We seem to be a little short of some passengers. Tavius, I thought your parents were coming with you.

TAVIUS turns and stares back down the crowded street.

TAVIUS

I'll be going alone.

WOLFGANG starts to say something.

FERDEK shakes his head.

WOLFGANG looks up at a darkening sky.

WOLFGANG

FerdeK, it's getting late. How long before the Ambassador and your mother arrives?

PATRYCJA

(draws a ragged breath but remains stoically silent.)

FERDEK

No one else is coming. Mother and Father indicated they would leave with the rest of the diplomatic party. It's just the five of us.

TAVIUS

And Baby.

WOLFGANG jumps into his car.

WOLFGANG

Let me lead us out. I know the backroads around here quite well. I received all the last known troop movements from a contact of mine on the way here. It will be dark soon, and I am confident we can slip by without drawing too much attention.

TAVIUS

All the other refugees are probably saying the same thing.

WOLFGANG

But we have to try.

FERDEK

No. We have to succeed. If only one survives he, or SHE, must make sure that Baby gets to the allies.

FERDEK looks at PATRYCJA.

PATRYCJA

I don't even know what Baby is.

FERDEK

You'll know in time.

PATRYCJA

You mentioned it was an ultimate weapon. Will it go BOOM if I hold it the wrong way?

TAVIUS

It's not a bomb.

PATRYCJA

That's good to know.

She turns to FERDEK

PATRYCJA (CONT'D)

In case I have to rescue Baby, where is she hidden.

FERDEK

I'll show you tonight.

PATRYCJA

What if we don't last that long.

FERDEK SIGHS painfully.

FERDEK

Then we are doomed, my little sister.

TAVIUS

The whole world as we know it is doomed, and Poland will be nothing more than a sand pebble at the bottom of a bomb blast.

PATRYCJA

(shudders)

That's not a very pretty picture,
Tavius.

TAVIUS

It's not a very pretty war.

FERDEK watches the horde of refugees fight their way toward
the edge of town.

A FEW CARS ease through the crowd.

MOST are fleeing Warsaw on foot.

FERDEK

Darkness will be upon us within the
hour. We will travel at night and
rest during the day.

WOLFGANG

(nodding)

It's safer that way.

CUT TO:

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - NIGHT - THE POLISH MILITARY

Is in full retreat.

SOLDIERS weary.

THE WOUNDED carted out of the WOODLANDS on STRETCHERS.

SOLDIERS DROPPING, unable to go any farther.

THEY CRAWL.

THEY COLLAPSE.

BOMBS DROPPING in the distance send up DEADLY FLARES, and the
ground SHAKES from the force of the EXPLOSIONS.

AN OFFICER'S CAR RACES down the road, weaving through the
crowd of refugees in search of safety.

THE CAR STOPS beside a POLISH SERGEANT kneeling by the side
of the road.

A POLISH CAPTAIN leaps from the car and angrily grabs the
SERGEANT'S arm, pulling him to his feet.

POLISH CAPTAIN

(loudly)

What's going on here, Sergeant?
Your mission was to protect Warsaw,
and here I find you and your army
in totally disarray.

THE SERGEANT climbs unsteadily to his feet and salutes.

POLISH SERGEANT

We can fight no more, Sir.

POLISH CAPTAIN

What do you mean you can't fight!
You're a soldier. You have a job to
do. We are at war.

POLISH SERGEANT

(sadly)

The war in Poland is over.

POLISH CAPTAIN

Where is your commanding officer?

POLISH SERGEANT

He's dead, Sir.

POLISH CAPTAIN

Who is second in command?

POLISH SERGEANT

He died in the first wave. They're
all dead, Sir. Our military is in
shreds.

POLISH CAPTAIN

Who's in command now?

POLISH SERGEANT

We have no command, Sir. We only
have the dead and the dying.

POLISH CAPTAIN

Where are you and your men going?

POLISH SERGEANT

Romania if we live long enough to
reach the border.

POLISH CAPTAIN

You may as well turn around and
fight, Sergeant. The Germans will
hunt you down like little foxes in
Romania.

POLISH SERGEANT

(in disdain)

By the time the Germans get there,
Sir, we'll be gone.

POLISH CAPTAIN

You can't run. We don't have room
for cowards in our army. It is time
to stand strong and fight for your
country.

POLISH SERGEANT

If you must fight, Sir, then you
must fight. But look around you.
When the fight reaches you, you'll
be standing in the middle of this
road alone.

THE SERGEANT trudges away, his head down.

POLISH CAPTAIN

Sergeant, you can't walk away from
me while I'm talking to you. It is
forbidden. You will face a military
court martial and be executed for
desertion.

THE SERGEANT keeps walking until he disappears in the
darkness.

CUT TO:

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - SUNRISE - FERDEK

Jerks his car off the roadway and jumps out as soon as it
ROLLS TO A STOP.

PATRYCJA climbs from her seat and runs around the front of
the car.

TAVIUS pulls his car in behind them.

THEIR FACES MIRROR the terror they feel as the sight before
them slowly begins to unfold.

POV - FERDEK AND PATRYCJA

AN ARMY OF STRAGGLERS wander across the fields, heading
Southeast toward Romania.

SOLDIERS in the first wave are taking their tracked vehicles
with them.

They are virtually hidden in the dust kicked up by the vehicles trying to negotiate surfaces that have been chopped up by bombs, tanks, and heavy artillery.

FERDEK AND PATRYCJA HEAR the sound of bomb explosions and airplanes in the distance.

PATRYCJA

What's happening?

FERDEK

That's what's left of our army. They no longer have the will to fight. It's a war they know they can't win. It was lost before the first shot was fired.

TAVIUS pulls alongside FERDEK'S car. He points toward a small outcropping of trees.

TAVIUS

We need to reach that cover now. The Stukageschwaders will be out prowling for anything on the road. Soldiers. Civilians. Refugees. It doesn't matter to them.

FERDEK spins around at the sound of the SIREN SCREAMS of a Stukageschwader banking out of the sky and heading toward them.

FERDEK

Too late.

THE STUKA is clearly on a strafing run, sending several 7.92 MM rounds toward each vehicle on the road ahead of them. The plane passes overhead and swings around for another run.

FERDEK AND PATRYCJA tumble into the car and race the engine as they pull in behind the car TAVIUS is driving. Both of the VEHICLES bounce toward the trees with the Stuka diving toward them.

GUNS FIRE.

BULLETS rip up the ground.

SHOTS tear into FERDEK'S car and spins it around.

THE RADIATOR EXPLODES

THE CARS limp into the trees.

TIRES FLAT.

SMOKE pours from beneath the hood of FERDEK'S car.

FERDEK ROLLS out of the car.

PATRYCJA FALLS OUT of the car, regains her balance and runs toward TAVIUS. He takes her hand and they run deeper into a thick forest.

FERDEK is only a few steps behind.

WOLFGANG hustles his FATHER out of the car driven by TAVIUS. They can't run nearly as fast.

THE STUKA circles once more. It dives out of the SUN rising above the trees, and the ground beside WOLFGANG and KONRADT is torn apart by the shells.

WOLFGANG AND KONRADT fall beneath splintered tree limbs and a cloud of dust that encircles them.

FERDEK, TAVIUS, and PATRYCJA look back over their shoulders, their faces tensed with the fear they have lost WOLFGANG and his FATHER.

PATRYCJA turns back and begins running toward them.

ANGLE - WOLFGANG AND KONRADT

Slowly open their eyes. They are staring at each other, CHOKING on SMOKE and DUST.

KONRADT suddenly begins LAUGHING.

WOLFGANG laughs even louder as PATRYCJA KNEELS beside them.

PATRYCJA
Are you all right?

WOLFGANG
(to his father)
I told you they couldn't kill us.

KONDRAT
Forget what I told you.

WOLFGANG
What did you tell me?

KONDRAT
I wanted you to bring me back home
and bury me in good Polish dirt
when I die.

WOLFGANG

Why should I forget it?

KONDRAT

(laughing harder)

I've changed my mind. I'm not dying.

THE SOUND of the STUKA fades in the distance. The forest is quiet. WOLFGANG stands and helps his FATHER to his feet.

PATRYCJA is gently wiping the dust from the old man's face.

WOLFGANG

We need to assess the damage to the cars. We have to stay mobile, and those vehicles are our only ticket to Switzerland.

PATRYCJA

The Stuka hit them pretty hard. Tires are flat. The motors are shot. A radiator has burned up. Bullet holes in the side. I doubt if those cars can make it out of the forest. They don't stand a chance of reaching Switzerland.

TAVIUS

(optimistically offers)
I don't know, Patrycja. I'm something of a tinkerer on automobiles. I've done work on racing machines in competition. I might be able to get them up and running if I had the tools.

FERDEK

My father always kept a fairly complete set of tools in the trunk. He once was a pretty fair tinkerer on automobiles, too. He went out alone in the garage and worked on cars when he wanted to escape the stress of his job. He could take a pipe and an old drive shaft and turn them into a workable machine gun. Maybe he knew the war was coming before the rest of us did.

FERDEK begins walking through the trees and back toward the cars.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST - LATE EVENING - PATRYCJA

Sits with her back to a tree, a piece of paper in her lap, a pen in her hand.

FERDEK slumps down beside her.

FERDEK

What are you doing?

PATRYCJA

Writing a letter.

FERDEK

Who's the lucky guy?

PATRYCJA

Father.

FERDEK

Why bother? You'll see him in a few days. We'll make Switzerland in a couple of days, and Father is on his way with the diplomatic corps. By the weekend, we'll all be sitting down to dinner in the embassy.

PATRYCJA

Then again, we may not make it. Perhaps the diplomatic corps never left Warsaw. If the Germans get there first, they'll shut down the airport, and Father will be stranded, and some German official will want to try him for war crimes.

FERDEK

(laughing)

Father's not a criminal.

PATRYCJA

Here is the way Germans think. If you're not one of them, you are a criminal. It's prison or death, and one is about as bad as the other.

FERDEK

I'm betting Father makes it out of Poland just fine.

PATRYCJA
(nodding)
I'd say his chances are much better
than ours.

FERDEK stares at his sister.

SHE stares back.

PATRYCJA (CONT'D)
(softly)
If I don't reach Switzerland, maybe
my letter will.

FERDEK stands without a word and walks back into the forest.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST - LATE EVENING - TAVIUS

Has been working on the engine of his car. He raises up and begins wiping his hands on a rag as FERDEK walks toward him.

FERDEK
How bad is it?

TAVIUS
We have three flats and one
radiator that's been shot up and
will never work right again.

FERDEK
So, what options do we have?

TAVIUS
I can't salvage both vehicles, but
we can take the right parts from
the car that's suffered the most
damage and make one vehicle whole
again.

FERDEK
Let's do it.

TAVIUS
It was excellent planning on the
Ambassador's part. We are indeed
fortunate he secured the same make
and model of two roadsters.

FERDEK
When do you think the car will be
up and running?

TAVIUS
I believe our plan was to travel by
dark and rest by day.

FERDEK
That's what we decided.

TAVIUS
Then plan on leaving sometime after
dark.

FERDEK
You're a magician, Tavius.

TAVIUS
(grinning)
Just a wunderkind with a wrench.

TAVIUS turns to WOLFGANG.

TAVIUS (CONT'D)
Wolfgang, give me a hand and let's
see how well we can transplant the
parts and convince them to start
working again.

WOLFGANG begins removing the one good tire from FERDEK'S CAR.

FERDEK
I'll check on everyone and let
Patrycja and Kondrat know when we
expect to leave. And I'll begin
consolidating our supplies. We'll
be packed and ready to load as soon
as you give us the word, gentlemen.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST - LATE EVENING - PATRYCJA

Is helping KONDRAT drink some water from a cup while he rests
against the trunk of a tree.

FERDEK walks to them.

FERDEK
How is he?

PATRYCJA
He's a little rattled from the
ordeal, but Kondrat is a real
trooper.

THE OLD MAN smiles at her words. They are reassuring, but PATRYCJA'S EYES tell FERDEK of her concern for Kondrat.

FERDEK

We were lucky the cars took the bullets, and no one was hit.

KONDRAT

How long do you think we will be here?

FERDEK

Tavius assures me we'll be going soon after dark. We'll only have one car, so it will be a little crowded.

KONDRAT

Will it outrun the Germans?

FERDEK

(grinning)
It has so far.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST - SUNDOWN - FERDEK

Adjusts his backpack and finishes loading supplies in the trunk of the roadster.

TAVIUS drops wearily beside the back tire.

WOLFGANG drops beside him.

TAVIUS

We have an operational vehicle. It's ready to go. I'm not sure Wolfgang and I are. We're beat.

WOLFGANG

Do you think we can spare a few hours of sleep before we hit the roads that take us to Switzerland?

FERDEK

We can't leave until dark anyway. A little sleep and a bite to eat would do us all good.

TAVIUS

Right now, I'd rather sleep. We can eat in the car.

(MORE)

TAVIUS (CONT'D)
 It'll be cold anyway. A fire
 burning out here would bring the
 Germans on a dead run. Nobody is
 supposed to be here.

PATRYCJA runs into the clearing, leading Kondrat by the hand.

PATRYCJA
 (frightened)
 Forget any sleep.

TAVIUS
 (on his feet)
 What's wrong.

PATRYCJA points toward the outer edge of the forest.

POV - FERDEK

He sees a tank platoon slowly churning its way across an open field toward them.

ANGLE - FERDEK

He's on one knee, looking over the hood of the roadster.

FERDEK
 We've got a platoon of inbound
 tanks and infantry heading straight
 for us. Everything's loaded. We've
 got to make a run for it if they
 don't change direction.

PATRYCJA
 What can stop them?

WOLFGANG
 They may not want to fight their
 way through the trees.

FERDEK
 Everybody down.

EVERYONE lies belly flat on the ground, watching the approaching tanks with bated breath.

PATRYCJA
 I wish the sun was down.

TAVIUS
 Why?

PATRYCJA
 These old roadsters cast off a
 pretty good reflection when the sun
 hits them just right.

WOLFGANG
 Just pray the shadows reach us
 before the sun does.

KONDRAT
 If you're not prayed up by now,
 it's too late to start.

POV - FERDEK, TAVIUS, WOLFGANG, PATRYCJA, and KONDRAT

THE TANK COLUMN moves closer to the forest. It is almost upon
 them.

FERDEK (O.S.)
 We have a decision to make.

PATRYCJA (O.S.)
 Now?

FERDEK (O.S.)
 Time's not in our favor.

THE TANK COLUMN suddenly turns within a hundred yards of the
 forest, followed by the FIELD ARTILLERY and FOOT SOLDIERS.

THEIR EYES FOCUS on the GERMAN IRON CROSS emblazoned on the
 tanks.

WOLFGANG (O.S.)
 That's the most frightening sight
 of all.

PATRYCJA (O.S.)
 Makes my blood run cold.

TAVIUS (O.S.)
 I wonder how much Polish blood it
 has spilled today.

FERDEK (O.S.)
 A single drop was a drop too much.

ANGLE - ROADSTER - WOLFGANG

Is pacing back and forth in the LAST GLOW OF DAYLIGHT.

WOLFGANG
 I'm not for sure I understand
 what's going on.
 (MORE)

WOLFGANG (CONT'D)

We are heading southeast, but the tank column was moving west. Why? It doesn't make any sense. What's more, it didn't look like they were moving to engage our army. It appears they are on maneuvers, on their way back into Poland.

TAVIUS

Perhaps the fight is over, and they are being called back to the capital.

FERDEK

If the fight is over then why aren't they out mopping up the last pockets of resistance? From what we saw earlier, all surviving forces of the Polish army are going southeast, which must mean they are retreating to Romania. So, the Germans should be moving southeast as well. You're right, Wolfgang. It just doesn't make any sense.

WOLFGANG stands and walks to the roadster.

WOLFGANG

I don't know about the rest of you, but after this little encounter, I'm not sleepy at all. I'd just as soon sneak out of here as soon as the troops are out of sight.

PATRYCJA, without a word, walks to Wolfgang's side and gently tugs his arm, leading him to where his father has been sleeping.

TEARS roll down her cheeks.

WOLFGANG looks down at his father. Tears gather in his eyes, as well. He takes a deep breath.

WOLFGANG (CONT'D)

September seventeenth.

(pause)

Happy birthday, Father.

PATRYCJA

You should be proud of him, Wolfgang. He gave his last breath for the Poland he loved.

WOLFGANG

(softly)

His last wish was to be buried in
the ground of his homeland.

FERDEK places a brotherly arm around WOLFGANG'S shoulders.

FERDEK

And so he shall be.

TAVIUS

I did find a small trenching shovel
among the tools. I would esteem it
an honor to help bury Kondrat.

WOLFGANG draws a ragged breath and nods.

TAVIUS walks to the trunk of the car, opens it, and withdraws
the small trenching tool. He and WOLFGANG find a spot of soft
dirt among the trees and begin to dig.

FERDEK takes a pair of field glass binoculars from beneath
the front seat and walks to the edge of the forest. He slowly
searches the twilight horizon.

PATRYCJA follows a step behind.

POV - FERDEK

THE GERMANS are moving off to the west at a leisurely pace.

FERDEK (O.S.)

That troubles me.

PATRYCJA (O.S.)

Why?

FERDEK (O.S.)

It just doesn't add up. What are
they looking for?

PATRYCJA (O.S.)

Maybe they're looking for us.

ANGLE - FERDEK

He lets the binoculars hang around his neck.

FERDEK

We're wasting too much time. We
need to leave, and we need to leave
this instant.

He looks at PATRYCJA.

HER GLARE is worse than a slap across the face.

PATRYCJA
(defiantly)
Maybe we should. But we won't.

FERDEK
He's just an old man. His time had
come.

PATRYCJA
He's not just an old man. He's
Wolfgang's father.

FERDEK
Wolfgang knows how important our
mission is.

PATRYCJA
Let me ask you one question then.

FERDEK
What?

PATRYCJA
If that was our father, would you
have just walked off and left him
lying on the ground without giving
him a Christian burial?

FERDEK
He would have been a casualty of
war.
(PAUSE)
But, no, I would not have left him.

CUT TO:

EXT. BURIAL SITE - NIGHT - WOLFGANG

Hammers the last clod of dirt into the mound of his father's
grave. He looks up at everyone.

WOLFGANG
My deepest thanks to all of you. I
know it was ill-advised to spend
the time it took to dig a grave,
but I could not have lived with
myself if I hadn't.

FERDEK reaches down, grasps WOLFGANG'S hand and helps him to
his feet.

FERDEK

It was only proper that you bury your father. No apologies. He died among friends, and he died a free man. I only hope we, too, will enjoy a full ending to our stories.

TAVIUS

May I recommend that you mark this location with stones so at some point in the future you can retrieve his remains for a proper burial?

WOLFGANG eyes everyone for their permission. After their silent agreement, he hurries farther into the woodlands to begin collecting rocks.

PATRYCJA AND TAVIUS quickly begin picking up rocks.

Only FERDEK is left alone to stew at another waste of time. Finally, he begins picking up rocks as well.

PATRYCJA

(whispers to him)

I knew you had a heart.

FERDEK

I just thought it would go faster if I pitched in to help.

CUT TO:

EXT. NARROW ROAD - NIGHT - THE ROADSTER

Eases slowly across the empty landscape, the road illuminated by the roadster's dirty headlights and the dim glow of a half-moon hanging crooked in the sky.

CUT TO:

INT. ROADSTER - NIGHT - WOLFGANG

Is behind the wheel, FERDEK in the passenger's seat.

TAVIUS AND PATRYCJA are in the back seat.

WOLFGANG

I may not be going as fast as you want, Ferdek, but I need to go slow so we can watch for any possible troop movement or make sure we don't hit a deer. We have often hunted in this area, which is why I know the land around here so well.

FERDEK

Any idea where we are exactly? We should be getting fairly close to Brest Litovsk. Father said our Army is defending the town, but he was afraid it would soon be surrounded and under siege.

TAVIUS

If our Army is still in control, we can find Partisans who will be able to smuggle us into Switzerland. It would be a lot safer than roaring across country and trying to stay hidden while driving a fancy roadster.

WOLFGANG

That may be wishful thinking on your part, Tavius. I think we should head straight to the Romanian border just as the remnants of our Army did. They may be as dangerous as the Germans. It doesn't take long before a rogue army becomes a band of outlaws. Survival of the fittest is the way I've heard it explained.

FERDEK

I think we should at least find out what the situation is in Brest Litovsk. I may be wrong. Then again, I may be right. I believe we owe it to ourselves to take a quick look. Just running without knowing if our Army broke the German siege seems wrong.

WOLFGANG

It's a fool's errand, Ferdek.

FERDEK

Possibly. But we have a few hours before daylight.

(MORE)

FERDEK (CONT'D)

Tavius and I can sneak in close, take a quick look, assess the situation, and be back in a couple of hours.

WOLFGANG

What if you're not back in two hours.

FERDEK

I'm leaving Baby with you. You know the mission. You know what's at stake. I trust you completely. If we are not back in two hours, chances are, we're not coming back. Don't wait.

PATRYCJA

Don't I get a vote? I think you may be walking into a death trap. I think we should bypass Brest Litovsk as though it never existed.

FERDEK

You are keeping Baby. That is much more important than a vote.

PATRYCJA

I don't even know what Baby is.

FERDEK

Tavius, Wolfgang, and I are just soldiers who are fighting for a cause dear to us. In the overall scheme of our existence, it matters little if we live, or if we die. But, Baby? Baby can win the war.

CUT TO:

EXT. LONELY FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

The house is as dark as the night around it. A single flickering light can be seen in a window.

CUT TO:

INT. LONELY FARMHOUSE - NIGHT - GENERAL EBERHARDT

Sits at a wooden table across from LT. HENNINGSEN. He is obviously not pleased with the situation.

THE ROOM is LIT by a single Kerosene lantern.

GENERAL EBERHARDT
I am extremely disappointed,
Lieutenant. You were given one
mission to accomplish, and you have
failed the Fuhrer miserably.

HENNINGSSEN
We have only been searching for two
days, Sir.

GENERAL EBERHARDT
There are only three of them.

HENNINGSSEN
It is a big country.

GENERAL EBERHARDT SLAMS his fist on the table.

GENERAL EBERHARDT
No, Lieutenant, Poland is a small
country, and we now control Poland
from border to border. Its army is
in full retreat, and the country is
in total disarray. I have given you
all of the men you requested, and
you have given me nothing.

HENNINGSSEN
The roads are packed with refugees.
It is difficult to get from one
town to another. Towns are burning.
The men we seek could be anywhere.

GENERAL EBERHARDT
They could be right under your
nose, Lieutenant. I don't care
where they are, I want you to find
them. I want you to arrest them. I
want you to kill them if you have
to. But they must not reach the
border.

HENNINGSSEN
Which border?

GENERAL EBERHARDT
Any of them. All of them. You know
what they have stolen from us.

HENNINGSSEN
I do, Sir.

GENERAL EBERHARDT
 It must not reach the allies. It must not leave Poland. If it does, Lieutenant, may God have mercy on you. The Fuhrer will have a firing squad waiting for you.

HENNINGSEN stands.

HENNINGSEN
 I can assure you, Sir, that my men will cover all exits from Poland. We will leave early morning.

GENERAL EBERHARDT
 No, Lieutenant, you and your men will leave tonight.

THE GENERAL rests his elbows on the table, his face in his hands as he HEARS THE LIEUTENANT'S FOOTSTEPS cross the floor.

THE DOOR SLAMS.

CUT TO:

EXT. BREST LITVOSK - NIGHT - FERDEK AND TAVIUS

Slip toward a sleeping city, but the perimeter of the town is teeming with soldiers and tanks and heavy artillery.

TAVIUS
 It looks like a city under siege.

FERDEK
 I think it looks more like a city that has been surrounded and captured. The people inside might as well be in prison. None are getting out.

(PAUSE)
 None are getting out alive.

TAVIUS
 Another city we have lost.

FERDEK
 We have lost the whole country.

TAVIUS
 The Germans have taken our land, and now they are squeezing the life out of our people.

FERDEK kneels and removes his binoculars. He slowly scans a dark city, lit only by the headlights of trucks moving in and out of the town.

POV - FERDEK

A TRUCK PASSES in front of the lens.

It is not marked by AN IRON CROSS.

The truck bears the HAMMER AND SICKLE.

ANGLE - FERDEK

FERDEK

It's not the Germans.

TAVIUS

What do you mean?

FERDEK passes the binoculars to TAVIUS.

FERDEK

The Russians now have control of Brest Litovsk. We are at their mercy.

TAVIUS

I thought the Russians were our allies.

FERDEK

My father did everything he could to forge an alliance with Russia, but it seems that Russia decided to make a deal with the devil. Russia made a deal with Hitler himself. Split up Poland and divide the spoils. Our army never had a chance. Our soldiers were dead before they ever went into battle.

POV - TAVIUS - A GYPSY WAGON

Sits beside a crumbling wall.

MIZELLA their benefactor is on his knees, waving frantically.

HALINA is being dragged away by two Russian soldiers.

ANGLE - TAVIUS

He hands the binoculars back to FERDEK

TAVIUS

Hurry. Look to the right at about two o'clock. The gate leading into Old Town. We have some friends in trouble.

FERDEK grabs the binoculars and swings to the right.

POV - FERDEK

A RUSSIAN SOLDIER slams the butt of his rifle hard against Mizella's head, and the gypsy leader collapses to the ground. He tries to stand, but THE SOLDIER kicks him in the stomach.

THE SOLDIER turns laughing as he watches HIS COMRADES try to quell an angry HALINA, fighting desperately to wrest herself free from their grasp.

ANGLE - FERDEK AND TAVIUS

FERDEK'S FACE is grim.

FERDEK

We can't just leave her.

TAVIUS

We have no choice.

FERDEK

We always have a choice.

TAVIUS

(protests)
But our mission is much more important than a girl's life.

FERDEK

Tell that to Halina. She saved us once. Without her, our mission would have already failed. We can't let her die.

(PAUSE)

Or worse.

TAVIUS

We'll never make it back in time.

FERDEK

We won't take long. The difference between living and dying is never longer than the snap of a finger. You coming?

FERDEK is already running toward the Old Town Gate.

TAVIUS sighs and begins running after him.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROADSTER - NIGHT

It sits among a cluster of trees, hidden in the darkness.

CUT TO:

INT. ROADSTER - NIGHT - WOLFGANG

Looks at his watch.

WOLFGANG

It's been more than two hours.

PATRYCJA stares out the open window beside her, a worried frown on her face.

PATRYCJA

Give them another ten minutes.

WOLFGANG

We've already given them thirty.

PATRYCJA

They are coming back. I know they are. I feel it right down here in the pit of my stomach. We need to wait a little longer. We can't abandon them.

WOLFGANG

I know what you're going through, Patrycja. My nerves are on edge, too. But we had a plan. It was Ferdek's plan, and he's counting on us, and we can't let Poland down.

WOLFGANG starts the car engine.

PATRYCJA sticks her head out the window and yells.

PATRYCJA

Ferdek. Ferdek. Tavius. Where are you?

It is a WAIL in the night.

WOLFGANG

They can't hear you.

PATRYCJA
I know they're not dead.

WOLFGANG
Then we'll see them somewhere near
the border on the road to Cernauti.

PATRYCJA cries softly, her face in her hands, as WOLFGANG
drives into the night.

EXT. GYPSY WAGON - NIGHT - MIZELLA

Lies GROANING on the ground. He HEARS THE SOUND OF RUNNING
FEET and covers his face with both arms, expecting a soldier
to kick him again.

FERDEK kneels beside MIZELLA and helps the gypsy to a sitting
position.

FERDEK
What happened?

MIZELLA
They have Halina.

FERDEK
We know.

MIZELLA
The Russians are dogs.

TAVIUS
We'll get her back.

MIZELLA
How?

TAVIUS
(nodding toward Ferdek)
Tell him, Ferdek.

FERDEK
We'll figure it out.

FERDEK watches TAVIUS roll his eyes then looks around at the
darkness.

The soldiers are gone.

FERDEK (CONT'D)
How quick can you have the wagon
ready to leave?

MIZELLA
She's ready now.

FERDEK
Horses fresh?

MIZELLA
They haven't run all day.

FERDEK
Be on the seat and ready to go when
we get back.

MIZELLA
How long will that be?

FERDEK
Maybe five minutes. Maybe never.
But be ready to leave because we'll
be running for our lives.

(PAUSE)
Do you have a pistol?

MIZELLA
Only one.

FERDEK
One is enough.

MIZELLA reaches behind the seat of a wagon and withdraws an
old pistol. He hands it to FERDEK.

MIZELLA
It's loaded.

FERDEK shoves the pistol in his belt and begins walking
toward the gate, TAVIUS right behind.

CUT TO:

EXT. OLD TOWN STREET - NIGHT - FERDEK AND TAVIUS

Ease down the street.

Small houses.

No lights.

Silence.

A WOMAN suddenly SCREAMS in the HOUSE ON THE CORNER. There is
a SINGLE LIGHT on in an upstairs room.

FERDEK jerks his head toward the SCREAM and darts across the street, keeping in the shadows.

He runs onto the porch and tries the door. It is locked.

FERDEK looks at TAVIUS, takes a long breath, and KICKS the door in.

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT - FERDEK AND TAVIUS

Burst inside.

THE ROOM is empty.

FERDEK runs to the stairway.

He reaches the first landing.

A RUSSIAN SOLDIER appears at the top of the stairs. He's barefoot, missing a shirt, and his belt is unbuckled.

THE SOLDIER doesn't say a word.

THE FIRST BULLET is buried in his forehead.

FERDEK grabs the DEAD SOLDIER and drags him down the hallway, TAVIUS right behind.

FERDEK reaches the open door of the lit room, pauses a moment, and throws the DEAD SOLDIER inside.

THE BODY is riddled by bullets.

FERDEK rolls toward the open door.

POV - FERDEK

A RUSSIAN SOLDIER stands in his underwear, staring at the fallen body of his comrade. He is in a stupor.

FERDEK in one motion rises to his feet and jams the muzzle of his pistol against the soldier's head as TAVIUS jerks the gun from his hand.

THE SOLDIER looks as if he can't quite comprehend what just happened.

HALINA is off the bed and on her feet, holding a torn and tattered dress around her naked body.

FERDEK
You all right?

HALINA doesn't answer. Her face is flushed with anger.

TAVIUS nods toward the RUSSIAN SOLDIER.

TAVIUS
What do we do with him?

HALINA
You will do nothing with him.

She rips the pistol from FERDEK'S grasp, shoves the muzzle between the soldier's eyes and pulls the trigger.

THE SOLDIER'S head jerks back.

Blood splatters on HALINA'S face.

She doesn't blink.

TAVIUS
Now what?

FERDEK
Now we run like hell and hope we're out of sight before somebody finds them.

HALINA has finished putting on her dress. Blood still stains her face.

FERDEK takes her hand, and the three of them run out of the room and bolt down the stairs.

CUT TO:

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - SUNRISE - THE GYPSY WAGON

Races out of the forest, across the remains of a battlefield, and toward the road leading to the border between Poland and Romania.

THE ROAD is jammed with the cars of REFUGEES fleeing the German invasion.

THE WAGON rolls alongside the traffic jam.

CUT TO:

EXT. GYPSY WAGON - SUNRISE - MIZELLA

Is driving, HALINA at his side. FERDEK kneels in the open door behind them.

HALINA

We are making better time than any of them.

MIZELLA

The horses don't need a road.

(laughs)

We make our own road and go where we please, and maybe Romania will treat us better than the Germans or the Russians did.

FERDEK

How much farther do you think it is to the border?

MIZELLA

Can you see the last car in front of us?

FERDEK

(squinting)

I can't.

MIZELLA

When you do, we have arrived at the border.

CUT TO:

EXT. POLAND-ROMANIAN BORDER

It is a beehive of activity with refugees trying to cross beyond a German checkpoint.

ANGLE - LT. HENNINGSSEN

Is pacing back and forth in front of his men. He stops in front of his SERGEANT.

HENNINGSSEN

If they leave Poland, they must come through this checkpoint, Sergeant. Be on the constant lookout. Check every car, every occupant. Find them. They are three young men, and I've heard they are traveling with a young woman now.

(MORE)

HENNINGSSEN (CONT'D)

They have stolen one of our most valuable assets. It must be found. They must be stopped.

SERGEANT

What if they leave Poland at some other point along the border?

HENNINGSSEN

I have men stationed along the border. They have no other way to escape.

SERGEANT

Do you want them arrested?

HENNINGSSEN

I want them shot and their bodies hanged from a tree as a warning to anyone else who tries to defy us and the Fatherland.

SERGEANT

They will not escape through here.

HENNINGSSEN

If they do, God help us all.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROADSTER - EARLY EVENING - WOLFGANG

Leans against the car.

THE PROCESSION of refugees has come to a complete stop.

PATRYCJA steps from the car.

PATRYCJA

What's the hold up?

WOLFGANG

Some car at the head of the line. The Germans won't let the old man drive into Romania, and he's causing quite a stir.

THEY HEAR a shot.

PATRYCJA

My god, they've killed him. What will they do to us?

WOLFGANG

Nothing. Our papers are in order. We are Polish citizens seeking asylum in Romania. Just smile. Be courteous. Let them see your legs. Wink if you have to. We'll make it through okay.

PATRYCJA

What if they find Baby?

WOLFGANG

(grimly recounts)
We won't see tomorrow.

PATRYCJA

(tries to smile)
That's encouraging.

WOLFGANG

Our mission was a long shot when we started. It's even longer now.

WOLFGANG AND PATRYCJA are startled when a GYPSY WAGON pulls alongside the Roadster.

FERDEK jumps to the ground ahead of TAVIUS.

PATRYCJA leaps from the Roadster and grabs FERDEK around the neck with one hand while feeling for TAVIUS with the other.

PATRYCJA

You're alive. I was so afraid I would never see either of you again. I've been sick to my stomach ever since you left.

FERDEK

We've had better days, but this one is turning out all right.

PATRYCJA tries to wipe the dried blood from his face.

FERDEK (CONT'D)

It's not mine.

WOLFGANG reaches up and shakes MIZELLA'S hand.

WOLFGANG

I never thought we'd see you again.

MIZELLA

We made a little trade, the boys and I.

(MORE)

MIZELLA (CONT'D)

They saved my daughter, and I offered to give them a ride to the border. Why not? I was coming here anyway.

PATRYCJA looks up and sees HALINA for the first time. She GASPS.

HALINA

(smiling)

The blood's not mine either.

PATRYCJA faces both FERDEK and TAVIUS

PATRYCJA

Well don't keep us in suspense. What did you find in Brest Litovsk?

FERDEK

We'll talk about it later.

FERDEK turns to WOLFGANG.

FERDEK (CONT'D)

Do you have a plan for getting Baby across the border?

WOLFGANG

I wasn't expecting a German checkpoint. It will be dicey.

FERDEK

Why do you think the Germans are searching every vehicle that passes through here?

WOLFGANG

Standard procedure, I assume.

FERDEK

You may be right. But I think they are looking for Baby. If they kill us too, that's even better.

TAVIUS

Do you have a plan, Ferdek?

FERDEK

I do if Mizella will sell me his wagon.

MIZELLA

What will I do without my wagon?

FERDEK

I will give you a thousand Polish złoty. Cash in hand.

MIZELLA

I will buy several wagons. That's what I'll do.

FERDEK

Does it come with the dynamite in the back?

MIZELLA

(laughing)

For a thousand Polish złoty, it comes with everything but Halina.

FERDEK reaches into the back floorboard of the Roadster and retrieves his backpack.

FERDEK

We've made it this far, and we don't have much farther to go.

He holds up the backpack.

FERDEK (CONT'D)

Baby is almost home.

THE PROCESSION OF CARS starts to move slowly forward.

CUT TO:

EXT. CHECKPOINT - DUSK - WOLFGANG AND PATRYCJA

Drive slowly to a stop at the wooden gate separating Poland from Romania.

GENERAL EBERHARDT swaggers over, eyeing the Roadster.

GENERAL EBERHARDT

A beautiful car.

WOLFGANG refuses to look at him, trying to hide his face.

GENERAL EBERHARDT (CONT'D)

It's a shame that we have to confiscate such a magnificent machine. But I'm sure you know all about the spoils of war.

WOLFGANG opens his mouth to argue.

THE GERMAN SERGEANT rips the door open and drags WOLFGANG out of the car, throwing him on the ground.

GERMAN SOLDIER shoves the barrel of his rifle against WOLFGANG'S throat.

PATRYCJA steps out of the Roadster, steps over WOLFGANG and walks seductively to GENERAL EBERHARDT. She smiles and winks.

PATRYCJA
I come with the car.

GENERAL EBERHARDT
(looking down at Wolfgang)
Your husband?

PATRYCJA
Just a driver.

PATRYCJA pulls a key from her pocket and waves it in front of the GENERAL'S face.

PATRYCJA (CONT'D)
Hotel Czernowitz. Room 242. I do
hope you know where it is.

She scratches the key across the general's chin and drops it in his hand.

GENERAL EBERHARDT
I am quite familiar with the hotel.

PATRYCJA winks.

PATRYCJA
It's a long way for a lady to walk.

GENERAL EBERHARDT
I'll make sure we have a car to
take you to the hotel, and I'll be
there about eight.

PATRYCJA
Do bring some champagne. A lady
does love champagne when she's
meeting a gentleman caller for the
first time.

PATRYCJA AND THE GENERAL are interrupted by a commotion.

ANGLE - GYPSY WAGON

Roars toward the boarder, the horses GALLOPING as hard as they can go.

FERDEK stands in the wagon, URGING the horses faster.

SOLDIERS FIRE.

BULLETS HAMMER the side of the wagon.

LIEUTENANT HENNINGSEN races with his men toward the wagon as it breaks past the checkpoint.

HENNINGSEN
He's the one. Stop him.

THE WAGON suddenly careens sideways as it crosses a ditch.

FERDEK is thrown to the ground.

HE LOSES THE BACKPACK as he rolls away from the gunfire and begins racing toward the forest. The horses are galloping ahead of him.

HENNINGSEN runs to the backpack, picks it up, and holds it triumphantly over his head.

HENNINGSEN (CONT'D)
(yelling to the General)
We now have it in our possession,
sir.

THE BACKPACK EXPLODES, killing HENNINGSEN with the blast.

By the time the STUNNED SOLDIERS LOOK UP, FERDEK is gone.

CUT TO:

EXT. CZERNOWITZ HOTEL IN CERNAUTI - NIGHT - THE ROADSTER

Comes down the street and stops in front of the hotel.

GENERAL EBERHARDT steps out and straightens his jacket. He is carrying a bottle of champagne. He jogs up the steps and walks into the hotel.

ANGLE ON ALLEY - NIGHT

FERDEK, TAVIUS, AND WOLFGANG slip out of the alley and make their way to the Roadster.

TAVIUS CRAWLS under the Roadster.

ANGLE - BENEATH THE ROADSTER

TAVIUS works a second backpack free from its hiding place. He slides out.

TAVIUS
Ingenious, Ferdek.

FERDEK
I didn't think we had a chance to
smuggle BABY to Romania. But no one
would stop a General and search his
car.

WOLFGANG
How did you know the General would
confiscate the car?

FERDEK
Simple. He's a German General.

CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL CZERNOWITZ - GENERAL EBERHARDT

Walks down the hallway, ceremoniously pulls the key from his
pocket and kisses it. He stops in front of Room 242 and tries
the key in the lock. It doesn't turn. He tries again. Same
results. He begins KNOCKING ON THE DOOR.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOTEL CZERNOWITZ - TAVIUS

Hot wires the Roadster, and the engine ROARS TO LIFE.

TAVIUS AND FERDEK jump into the back seat.

WOLFGANG is driving. He stops in front of the alley.

PATRYCJA runs to the Roadster and climbs into the front seat.

CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL CZERNOWITZ - GENERAL EBERHARDT

Is still KNOCKING on the door. His KNOCKING become more
frantic with each passing moment.

Finally, he smashes the bottle of champagne against the door
and storms back down the hallway.

CUT TO:

EXT. BRITISH EMBASSY - MORNING

FERDEK, TAVIUS, WOLFGANG, and PATRYCJA walk up the steps to the front door. They look worn and disheveled, their clothes rumpled, the men badly in need of a shave.

FERDEK and TAVIUS still have bloodstains on their faces.

FERDEK, carrying a suitcase, pushes the buzzer, and everyone waits.

ANGLE - EMBASSY DOOR

It opens cautiously. An attaché wearing a suit, starched white shirt, and tie stands in the doorway, nervously shifting his gaze from face to face.

FERDEK

We are here to see the Ambassador.

ATTACHÉ

He is not accepting appointments this morning.

TAVIUS

We don't have an appointment.

THE ATTACHÉ starts to close the door.

ATTACHÉ

The Ambassador is not accepting guests this morning.

WOLFGANG places his hand against the door to keep it from closing.

FERDEK

Here is our letter of introduction.

He pulls a well-worn, dirt stained envelope from his back pocket and hands it to the Attache.

THE ATTACHÉ scans the letter and steps back.

ATTACHÉ

The Ambassador will see you momentarily.

CUT TO:

INT. BRITISH EMBASSY - MORNING - THE AMBASSADOR

Sits at his desk, reading the letter.

THE DOOR OPENS and FERDEK, TAVIUS, WOLFGANG, and PATRYCJA enter as the Ambassador looks up.

BRITISH AMBASSADOR
This is highly unusual.

FERDEK
Indeed it is, Sir.

BRITISH AMBASSADOR
The Polish Ambassador has requested that I meet with you immediately, and I don't even know who you are.

TAVIUS
It doesn't matter who we are.

FERDEK places the suitcase on the desk and opens it. He carefully removes a machine and sits it in front of the Ambassador.

FERDEK
Compliments of Ambassador Ferdek Watowski.

THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR stands and stares down at the machine, a confused look on his face.

BRITISH AMBASSADOR
What is this?

WOLFGANG
That, Mister Ambassador, is a German Enigma Machine.

TAVIUS
Your government and the allied forces have wanted one for a long time.

FERDEK
The Enigma Machine encodes then decodes all German messages. Your army will be able to know the secrets, plans, strategies, and movements of the German forces as soon as the Germans plan them.

BRITISH AMBASSADOR
My God, man, this machine will change the war.

PATRYCJA

Your military leaders won't be in the dark anymore.

FERDEK

We know you will make sure it reaches the right hands.

BRITISH AMBASSADOR

Of course, but where did you get it?

TAVIUS

That, Sir, is a rather long and complicated story.

BRITISH AMBASSADOR

Do the Germans know you have it?

FERDEK

The Germans believe it was destroyed in a bomb blast. It's our little secret now.

THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR stares hard at each face.

BRITISH AMBASSADOR

Who are you?

PATRYCJA

(winks)

Just consider us procurement and delivery.

PATRYCJA, FERDEK, TAVIUS, and WOLFGANG turn without another word and begin walking toward the door, leaving THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR with a puzzled look on his face.

CUT TO:

EXT. BRITISH EMBASSY - THE TEAM

FERDEK, TAVIUS, WOLFGANG, AND PATRYCJA WALK UP TO THE ROADSTER AND STOP TO EYE EACH OTHER. THEY ARE TIRED BUT SATISFIED IN COMPLETING THEIR MISSION BUT THEIR MINDS ARE RACING.

WOLFGANG

I trust you still have it, yes?

FERDEK smiles and pats his breast pocket.

FERDEK

We've got the blueprints. We can build machines of our own. We can stop Nazis and evil everywhere. All I need now is a good blacksmith.

WOLFGANG

I just happen to know of a competent blacksmith who lives close to my family's Chalet.

TAVIUS arches his brow before asking.

TAVIUS

Has he been known to build the most delicate of metal castings? Say like a series of precision rotors?

WOLFGANG nods and smiles.

WOLFGANG

Gentlemen and Lady, I would maintain that we should learn the secrets of the Enigma machine so we can put a stop to the Nazis. We owe it to Poland.

PATRYCJA FOLDS HER ARMS IN FRONT OF HER CHEST WITH A STERN LOOK.

PATRYCJA

Why can't this weapon be used to penetrate any evil aggressor? Doesn't evil always plan, believing no one can read their communications?

TAVIUS BRIGHTENS AT A NEW IDEA.

TAVIUS

Well what about the good people and governments that need their information protected? Why can't we learn to do both?

WOLFGANG AND FERDEK BOTH NOD AND SMILE.

WOLFGANG

Why not indeed!

POV FERDEK, TAVIUS, WOLFGANG, AND PATRYCJA ALL TURN TO WATCH A BLACK SEDAN SLOWLY PULL UP TO THE PARKING AREA AND STOP. THE PASSENGER SIDE DOOR OPENS AND AMBASSADOR FERDEK WATCOWSKI CALMLY STEPS OUT TO FACE THEM. THEY ARE ALL ASTONISHED BUT PLEASED.

PATRYCJA lunges into her father with a fierce hug as the others gather around.

PATRYCJA

Oh father, you made it! I was so worried.

AMBASSADOR

(trying to suppress his pleased look) You're late. What took so long?

FERDEK

(grinning) We took the scenic route.

WOLFGANG and FERDEK both nod and smile as they extend their hands to congratulate.

AMBASSADOR

I would hear of your journey.

FERDEK

(smirks and offers) How about we recount our adventures and hear yours over that dinner you promised? Patrycja has something special for you.

AMBASSADOR

(studying the bullet riddled roadster)
I doubt the embassy security will admit this vehicle into the compound. I'll send my driver and car to collect you all at Wolfgang's château around 6:00 pm.

FADE OUT.

*

*