

RESILIENCE

SCREENPLAY ABOUT THE FRENCH RESISTANCE IN WORLD WAR TWO

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Publishers

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RESILIENCE

EXT STREETS OF PARIS NIGHT

Bombs are exploding throughout the city as planes from the German Luftwaffe attack the city. The streets are dark and empty. Text appears on the screen which reads "Following the invasion of Poland in September, 1939 France declared war on Germany. In May 1940, the Germans unleashed a blitzkrieg attack on France".

EXT STREETS OF PARIS DAY

June 14, 1940. The German army advances through the otherwise empty streets. Civilians peer out their windows as the marching troops and tanks pass by. Text appears on the screen which reads "In June, 1940 the Germans claimed victory and entered Paris without resistance".

INT LE PARISIEN QUOTIDIAN SEBASTIAN'S OFFICE DAY

The office contains a large desk, a filing cabinet, two chairs and a window. Sebastian watches from the window of his office at Le Parisien Quotidien newspaper as the German army marches past on the street below. He is in his mid-thirties and wearing a suit. He shakes his head in disgust and closes the blinds on the window. He sits down at his desk and starts to outline the next day's edition of the newspaper.

INT LE PARISIEN QUOTIDIAN MAIN OFFICE DAY

June 17, 1940. The office contains several rows of desks which serve as workstations for the reporters. Many of the workstations contain typewriters, photographs, and assorted office supplies. Nearly half of the workstations are now empty after the reporters evacuated the city. The remaining newspaper staff is anxiously sitting around a radio in the center of the office as the radio broadcasts a speech by newly appointed President of the Council of the French State, Marshal Philippe Petain. The male employees are wearing suits and the women are wearing blouses and skirts or dresses. Sebastian enters from his office as Petain is heard saying "It is with a heavy heart that I tell you today that we must stop fighting..." several of the staff members shake their heads as others sigh or stare ahead in disbelief. Sebastian's secretary, Genevieve, looks up as he enters the main office and drops the clipboard in her hand as she quickly turns down the radio. She is in her late twenties and wearing a skirt suit.

GENEVIEVE

I'm sorry Monsieur, but-

She picks the clipboard up off of the floor. He walks past her and turns the radio back up. He looks at his watch.

SEBASTIAN

How about we call it an early lunch?

Genevieve weakly smiles and takes her seat by the radio. Sebastian sits on top of one of the nearby desks with a sigh as the staff continues to listen intently to the broadcast.

INT THE MOREAU MANSION ENTRYWAY NIGHT

Sebastian returns home from work late that night. The mansion contains several floors and numerous rooms. The entryway contains a several chairs, an oriental rug on the floor, a large fireplace, family portraits hanging on the wall, and a massive staircase. Sebastian starts to walk up the stairs then pauses and turns to look at a portrait of his parents on the wall. He continues up the stairs.

INT THE MOREAU MANSION LIBRARY NIGHT

The library contains several large book shelves lining the walls, a table, several chairs, and a glass cabinet containing various pieces of art collected over the years. There is a wine bottle and glass on the table. Sebastian's younger sister, Charlotte, is sitting in the library drinking a glass of wine as she scans a large law book on her lap. She is in her mid twenties and dressed in a blouse and pants. She looks up as she hears him enter the library. Sebastian sits down in one of the chairs and removes a newspaper from his pocket. He starts to read the newspaper then throws it down in frustration.

CHARLOTTE

I take it you've heard, then?

He leans back with a sigh.

SEBASTIAN

Heard, talked about, and wrote about it.

CHARLOTTE

But you still can't believe it.

He turns to her, surprised.

SEBASTIAN

How'd you guess?

CHARLOTTE

Because I can't either.

She finishes her glass of wine and gestures to the bottle of wine on the table.

CHARLOTTE

There's a glass with your name on it.

He nods and stands.

SEBASTIAN

Thanks.

He walks to the table and pours himself a glass of wine.

SEBASTIAN

I'd never thought I'd see the day where France would just roll over like this.

He takes a sip of wine.

CHARLOTTE

And it's not like we didn't have warning. But no, we had to sit back and wait it out. Peace in our time my ass!

She snaps the book closed and tosses it aside. He sits down.

SEBASTIAN

Is that a legal term?

CHARLOTTE

Just one of many I'd like to tell Petain if I had the chance.

SEBASTIAN

Now *that* would be a conference I'd put on the front page.

He sits back with a sigh.

SEBASTIAN

Maybe we should've gone to Bordeaux when we had the chance.

She laughs bitterly.

CHARLOTTE

I can just see us holed up in some hotel with all those layabouts living off of gossip and champagne.

She stands, walks to the table, and pours herself another glass of wine.

CHARLOTTE

Meanwhile it would take all of a week before the Germans realized the house was just cushy enough to set up camp in.

She takes a sip of wine and stands leaning against the table.

SEBASTIAN

This is one thing I'm glad Mama and Papa didn't live to see.

She nods and he finishes his glass.

CHARLOTTE

You're the one with the inside scoop; what happens now?

He shrugs.

SEBASTIAN

Now we wait.

INT MARCEL'S OFFICE DAY

Marcel follows his superior, Herr Winkler, into his new office at the Propaganda Department. Marcel is in his mid thirties, and impeccably dressed in an expensive suit. Herr Winkler is in his mid forties and speaks with a German accent. Marcel is carrying a briefcase. The office is large and contains a desk, several chairs, a large filing cabinet, a telephone on the desk, a radio, a wastebasket, and several maps hanging on the wall. Marcel looks around the office.

HERR WINKLER

We didn't have time to refurnish the offices, but I trust this will be satisfactory.

Marcel puts his briefcase on the desk.

MARCEL

More than satisfactory.

Marcel distributes the contents of his briefcase onto the desk and into the filing cabinet. Herr Winkler walks to the door then hesitates.

HERR WINKLER

I should warn you, Monsieur Simone, this is not the Paris that you remember.

MARCEL

I sort of got that impression.

Marcel lights a cigarette and leaves the package on his desk.

MARCEL

I suppose we have you and your men to thank for that.

Herr Winkler points to an updated map of France hanging on the wall which is divided between the occupied, northern zone and southern, Vichy controlled zone.

HERR WINKLER

These people's loyalties are divided into two camps; it's your job to see that they fall into the right one.

MARCEL

Naturally.

Marcel takes a drag of his cigarette.

HERR WINKLER

(Sternly) This isn't some backwater like Spain. Paris alone is crawling with traitors waiting for their chance to corrupt the population.

Marcel continues organizing his belongings.

HERR WINKLER

If even one of their radical ideas takes hold..

He looks skeptically at Marcel.

HERR WINKLER

But it seems that doesn't concern you.

Marcel looks up.

MARCEL

On the contrary; I was given this position to take up my pen for the cause, and that's exactly what I plan to do.

HERR WINKLER

I'm encouraged to hear that.

Marcel removes several propaganda posters from his briefcase and lays them out across the desk.

MARCEL

But I won't do it by forcing this new system down their throats.

HERR WINKLER

And I suppose you have a better approach?

Marcel takes one of the propaganda posters and tosses it into the wastebasket.

MARCEL

A more local one anyway.

Marcel leans back in his chair and puts his feet on his desk.

MARCEL

I like to think of France the way I'd think of a woman. I suppose at this point she's a bit of a spinster, and will take what offers she can get.

HERR WINKLER

If she knows what's good for her anyway.

Herr Winkler reaches across Marcel's desk to take one of his cigarettes. Marcel quickly pulls the pack of cigarettes away and puts it in his pocket.

MARCEL

But make no mistake, she's a lady and wants to be treated like one.

HERR WINKLER

In that case I'll tell the Fuhrer to start stocking up on flowers and candy.

Marcel laughs and takes his feet off of the desk.

MARCEL

It wouldn't a bad start.

Marcel takes a drag from his cigarette.

MARCEL

The point is; you can't force what you want out of her. You need to coax her, seduce her.

Marcel removes a pen and paper from his desk.

MARCEL

So with the right sweet talk and a touch of the poet-

HERR WINKLER

They'll surrender without even realizing it.

Marcel stubs out his cigarette in an ashtray on the desk.

MARCEL

Exactly. Now, if you don't mind, I'll start in on some of those love letters.

Marcel starts writing as Herr Winkler awkwardly remains standing next to the desk. Marcel looks up.

MARCEL

Will that be all?

HERR WINKLER

For now.

He exits the office as Marcel resumes writing.

INT LE PARISIEN QUOTIDIAN MAIN OFFICE DAY

June 22, 1940. The staff is at work on a breaking edition of the paper covering the signing of the armistice between France and Germany. The reporters are busy typing, talking on the phone, writing notes, and organizing photos.

INT LE PARISIEN QUOTIDIAN SEBASTIAN'S OFFICE DAY

Sebastian is pacing his office as he plans the latest edition of the newspaper. Genevieve is sitting in a chair across from his desk taking dictation onto a notepad.

SEBASTIAN

And tell Paul that I'll need more photos; a lot more photos.

She nods and writes a note. He snaps his fingers as he gets an idea.

SEBASTIAN

And tell him to get some from the armistice; sort of a before and after angle.

She starts to write another note but his phone rings.

SEBASTIAN

Now what?!

GENEVIEVE

I'll take this at my desk.

She walks to the door then turns around as he pulls out the chair at his desk for her and signals her to sit in it.

SEBASTIAN

Tell them I'll call back.

She reluctantly sits down and answers the phone.

GENEVIEVE

Bonjour, Monsieur Moreau's office.

He starts writing notes on her notepad as she listens to the caller.

GENEVIEVE

I'm sorry, but he's occupied at the moment.

She pauses to listen.

GENEVIEVE

Well if you'd like an appointment..

She pauses to listen. He finishes writing notes and puts the pad down in front of her. She puts the phone receiver down on the desk and turns to Sebastian.

GENEVIEVE

I'm sorry, but he says it's very urgent; something about the police.

He takes the phone from her. She starts to stand, but he signals her to remain sitting.

SEBASTIAN

Yes?

INT MARCEL'S OFFICE DAY

The office now contains a framed photo of Hitler and several Nazi propaganda posters hanging on the walls. Marcel is sitting with his feet on his desk smoking a cigarette. Marcel laughs.

MARCEL

I was hoping that'd get your attention.

INTERCUT MARCEL'S OFFICE AND SEBASTIAN'S OFFICE

SEBASTIAN

Who is this?

Genevieve looks through Sebastian's notes.

Marcel

I'm disappointed in you, Sebastian. Don't tell me that just because I don't live down the road anymore you've forgotten—

SEBASTIAN

Marcel?

MARCEL

Well, it's not your Aunt Camille.

SEBASTIAN

You had me going for a minute with that police line.

MARCEL

How are you?

SEBASTIAN

As well as can be expected. What about you? I thought you were still in Spain.

MARCEL

Let's just say there was a change of plans. Look, I'm back in town so how about we catch up with some lunch?

SEBASTIAN

Sounds great, is tomorrow alright?

A knock is heard at the door of Marcel's office.

MARCEL

The sooner the better.

SEBASTIAN

How about we meet at—

MARCEL

Listen, I'll have to talk to you later. Duty calls.

INT LE PARISIEN QUOTIDIAN SEBASTIAN'S OFFICE DAY

Sebastian hangs up the phone and Genevieve looks up from her notepad.

SEBASTIAN

Sorry about that. Where were we?

GENEVIEVE

You wanted archive photos and..

She looks down at the notepad.

GENEVIEVE

A quick piece on public opinion, and you wanted that robbery story moved back a few pages.

He sits down on the edge of the desk.

SEBASTIAN

Right. And tell Jean to keep to the facts, I've had enough of his commentary.

She resumes taking dictation.

SEBASTIAN

The story's big enough without any of that flowery stuff he goes off on. And make sure they print...

She continues taking notes as he tells her his plans.

INT LE PARISIEN QUOTIDIAN MAIN OFFICE DAY

Marcel enters the main office of Le Parisien Quotidien and walks to Sebastian's office. Genevieve is typing at her workstation outside of Sebastian's office. She looks up as Marcel starts to open the door to Sebastian's office.

GENEVIEVE

Excuse me, Monsieur.

Marcel stops and turns to her.

GENEVIEVE

Do you have an appointment?

She starts looking through a date book on her desk.

MARCEL

Not exactly.

GENEVIEVE

I'm sorry, but Monsieur Moreau has been very busy, and-

MARCEL

Can you tell him that Monsieur Simon is here to see him? (Pause) I promise to take the blame if he gets snappy.

She reluctantly starts to pick up the phone then hesitates.

MARCEL

I'm an old friend of his.

She looks skeptical but dials the phone.

GENEVIEVE

Monsieur Moreau? (Pause) I'm sorry to bother you, but there's a gentleman to see you. (Pause) Yes, I told him that, but (Pause) Monsieur Simon (Pause) That's right. (Pause) I'll tell him.

She hangs up the phone.

GENEVIEVE

He'll be with you in a minute.

MARCEL

See, and I didn't even have to take the fall for it.

Genevieve nods and resumes typing. Marcel watches the door to Sebastian's office for a few moments then turns back to Genevieve.

MARCEL

That's a lovely dress.

GENEVIEVE

(Distracted) Thank you.

MARCEL

It's nice to know that the occupation hasn't taken fashion sense from France's women yet.

She continues typing.

GENEVIEVE

(Half listening) That's one thing, anyway.

MARCEL

I didn't know fabric like this was still available. Do you mind if I...

Marcel starts to put his hand on her shoulder to feel the fabric of her dress. Genevieve quickly removes the page from her typewriter and stands as Sebastian enters from his office carrying his hat and coat.

GENEVIEVE

Here's that list you wanted.

She hands the paper to Sebastian.

SEBASTIAN

Thank you.

MARCEL

It's about time; I was worried we'd have to call out a search party.

Sebastian turns to Marcel and shakes hands with him.

SEBASTIAN

I could say the same about you after the last four years.

Sebastian puts on his coat.

MARCEL

What do you say we head over to the Dingo Bar for old times' sake?

SEBASTIAN

It's a little early for me; coffee alright?

MARCEL

It'll do.

Sebastian puts his hat on. Genevieve starts to walk away.

SEBASTIAN

Mademoiselle Jeunet?

She turns around.

SEBASTIAN

I hate to bother you, but is there any chance you'd be able to stay a little later tonight?

GENEVIEVE

Of course.

SEBASTIAN

Thanks, I knew I could count on you.

She smiles.

GENEVIEVE

It's not as if there's any other place open after dark.

SEBASTIAN

Touche.

She smoothes her hair and dress as she walks towards one of the reporter's workstations.

SEBASTIAN

(To Marcel) Come on, they just opened up a great little café down the street.

MARCEL

Lead the way.

They exit the main office.

EXT CAFÉ DAY

Marcel and Sebastian are sitting at a small table outside of a local café. There are several tables outside the café at which other customers are sitting.

MARCEL

What's all this with you being stuck in the editing room; I thought owning the paper would be the high life?

SEBASTIAN

It was until half my staff headed south.

MARCEL

Tough brake.

Sebastian shrugs.

SEBASTIAN

It feels good getting back to basics; you lose touch when you're stuck on the business end.

Marcel laughs.

MARCEL

Back in the trenches and you're actually enjoying it. You're a sick man, you know that?

SEBASTIAN

I'm not the one who stayed on in a war-zone when my assignment was done.

Marcel raises his cup of coffee.

MARCEL

Then cheers to our shared insanity.

Sebastian laughs and raises his cup. They clink glasses and Sebastian takes a sip of his coffee.

MARCEL

And how's your sister been? Still giving them hell at school?

SEBASTIAN

Law school now.

MARCEL

(Scoffs) You mean she actually went through with that?

SEBASTIAN

She's damn good at it, too.

Sebastian takes a sip of coffee.

SEBASTIAN

You know Charlotte; if there's a hard way to do something she'll find it.

MARCEL

Some things never change.

Marcel finishes his cup of coffee.

SEBASTIAN

So what finally brought you back home?

MARCEL

I just go where the story takes me. There wasn't much to write about now that Franco has things under control.

SEBASTIAN

That's one way of putting it.

MARCEL

You wouldn't believe what a difference he's made in the last year. It was completely backward when I first got there.

Sebastian clenches his coffee cup in irritation.

SEBASTIAN

They barely set up the Republic before the war. Any country with a new government is bound to—

MARCEL

If you can call that ragtag bunch of communists and anarchists a government.

Marcel leans back in his chair with a sigh.

MARCEL

But what can you expect of a country of gypsies and Moors?

Sebastian puts his coffee cup down with a loud thud.

SEBASTIAN

More than I'd expect of one made up of Hitler's Aryans.

Marcel grimaces.

MARCEL

Spoken like a true Frenchman.

Marcel looks at this watch.

MARCEL

We'd better get the check if you want to get back to the office in time.

SEBASTIAN

Right.

Marcel tries to get a waitress' attention as she attends to another table.

SEBASTIAN

Why don't you come by for dinner this week? We'd have more time and you could see Charlotte too.

MARCEL

Sounds fine, how about Thursday?

SEBASTIAN

Sure, as long as nothing comes up at the office last minute.

Marcel signals to the waitress. Sebastian watches Marcel uneasily as the waitress approaches their table.

INT LE PARISIEN QUOTIDIAN SEBASTIAN'S OFFICE NIGHT

Sebastian is sitting at his desk reading a draft of the next day's edition of the newspaper and checking for edits. Genevieve is organizing articles and photos in the filing cabinet. He puts the paper down.

SEBASTIAN

(Triumphantly) Now *that* is quality reporting.

He leans back in his chair and stretches. He looks at his watch.

SEBASTIAN

What do you say to calling it a night?

He turns to her and sees that she is still focused upon arranging the files. He knocks on his desk.

SEBASTIAN

Mademoiselle Jeunet?

She looks up, startled.

SEBASTIAN

That will be enough for tonight.

He stands and walks to the coat rack. He takes his hat and coat and walks to the door.

GENEVIEVE

I'll just be a few more minutes.

He holds the door open for her.

SEBASTIAN

It can wait until tomorrow.

She reluctantly puts the files aside and closes the filing cabinet. She follows him out the door into the main office.

INT LE PARISIEN QUOTIDIAN MAIN OFFICE NIGHT

Genevieve looks back as Sebastian locks his office. He laughs.

SEBASTIAN

I promise it will still be there in the morning.

She forces a smile as he puts on his coat.

SEBASTIAN

I appreciate you're staying late; I know it was last minute.

GENEVIEVE

I don't mind.

They walk towards the door of the main office.

GENEVIEVE

It'll probably be the last night we'll be able to work late like this with the curfew in place.

She stops at her work station, which is empty except for a typewriter on the desk and a coat hanging on the chair.

SEBASTIAN

(Sarcastically) The joys of occupation.

She puts on her coat and they continue to walk towards the exit.

GENEVIEVE

And..

She stops walking. He walks ahead a few steps then stops and turns around.

SEBASTIAN

And what?

She anxiously adjusts the sleeves on her coat.

GENEVIEVE

I'm sorry, Monsieur Moreau, I should have told you sooner, but I have to leave.

He looks confused.

GENEVIEVE

The paper, I mean. After tonight.

SEBASTIAN

I see.

She sits down on one of the desks with a sigh.

GENEVIEVE

I meant to give you more notice, but there was a change in plans and—

SEBASTIAN

I'll miss you, (Pause) we all will. I'd be glad to write you a reference.

GENEVIEVE

That won't be necessary.

She looks down and resumes adjusting her sleeves.

GENEVIEVE

I'm getting married.

SEBASTIAN

Congratulations.

He pauses and looks at her.

SEBASTIAN

You're fiancé is a lucky man.

GENEVIEVE

(Quietly) Thank you, I hope so, Monsieur.

SEBASTIAN

Call me Sebastian.

She looks up.

SEBASTIAN

After all, I'm not your boss anymore, Mademoiselle Jeunet.

She stands up and stops fidgeting with her sleeves

GENEVIEVE

Genevieve.

She smiles.

GENEVIEVE

After all, I'm not your secretary anymore either.

He stands next to her and leans against the desk.

SEBASTIAN

So tell me, Genevieve, why is it you look like you're getting ready for a funeral instead of a wedding?

She shrugs.

GENEVIEVE

I guess it's just not much of a time for smiles lately.

SEBASTIAN

I can't argue with you there.

GENEVIEVE

Besides, aren't all new beginnings endings too?

She starts to walk towards the door then stops and turns around.

GENEVIEVE

Monsieur—

She shakes her head as she corrects herself.

GENEVIEVE

Sebastian, I want you to know how much I've appreciated all you've done for me.

SEBASTIAN

I didn't give you anything that you didn't earn yourself.

She sighs.

GENEVIEVE

I love this job, it's just...

She looks down as he walks towards her.

SEBASTIAN

Just that you love your fiancé more.

GENEVIEVE

(Without thinking) No, I—

She looks up and they stare into each other's eyes. She looks away.

GENEVIEVE

I'd better be going.

She walks to the door as he follows behind her. He opens the door for her and she exits the main office into the hallway. He pauses as he watches her go.

SEBASTIAN

Genevieve!

She walks back to the door and stands in the doorway.

SEBASTIAN

Good luck to you. (Pause) To you both.

GENEVIEVE

Thank you. I think that's something we could all use more of.

She turns and walks down the hall. He retrieves his office key from his pocket.

GENEVIEVE

(From down the hall) Adieu, Sebastian.

SEBASTIAN

Au revoir.

He walks into the hallway, closes the door, and locks it.

INT THE MOREAU MANSION LIBRARY NIGHT

Sebastian and Marcel walk into the library after dinner. Sebastian carries a bottle of wine and two glasses into the room and places them on the table. Marcel removes a gold cigarette case from his pocket and lights a cigarette as he looks around the room.

MARCEL

(To himself) Talk about stepping into a time machine.

Marcel takes a drag of his cigarette as Sebastian pours himself a glass of wine.

SEBASTIAN

What?

MARCEL

Nothing, I'm just surprised at how little you've changed the room.

Marcel sits down in one of the chairs. He jumps up as he removes one of Charlotte's law books from the chair.

MARCEL

Since you did so much work on the rest of the house and all.

Sebastian sits down in one of the chairs and shrugs.

SEBASTIAN

You remember how my father practically lived in his library; it just didn't seem right.

Marcel stands and walks to the table. He picks up a newspaper lying on the table and puts his cigarette case down.

MARCEL

One more thing to keep in the family.

Marcel starts flipping through the pages of the newspaper. Sebastian sees the cigarette case lying on the table. Marcel notices Sebastian staring at the case and picks it up.

MARCEL

I'm sorry, want one?

SEBASTIAN

No, thanks.

Marcel puts the case into his pocket.

SEBASTIAN

You'd better be careful with those or you'll be out of your rations in a week.

Marcel takes a drag and grins.

MARCEL

You'd be surprised.

Marcel puts the newspaper down.

SEBASTIAN

What do you think? Is it up to your international standards?

Marcel looks confused. Sebastian gestures to the newspaper.

MARCEL

Oh, top quality as always.

Marcel sits down in one of the chairs.

MARCEL

Even with the slant.

SEBASTIAN

What slant?

MARCEL

The one you're lucky the propaganda department hasn't called you in for.

Sebastian stands and walks to the table.

SEBASTIAN

Oh right, because I'm not bowing down at their feet between sieg heils.

Sebastian shakes his head and pours himself another glass of wine.

MARCEL

That's just the stuff I'm talking about. If a comment like that was heard in the wrong place...

Sebastian walks back to his chair and sits down.

SEBASTIAN

Does that list of 'wrong places' include my own house?

Marcel smirks and shakes his head mockingly.

MARCEL

Since when are you so sensitive? (Pause) All I'm saying is you aren't exactly neutral-

SEBASTIAN

As if anyone is these days.

MARCEL

Fair enough, but only a jackass would put it in black and white for the whole city to see.

Sebastian finishes his glass and puts it down with a sigh.

MARCEL

Not that it can be easy with *that* staff.

SEBASTIAN

And just what the hell is that supposed to mean?!

MARCEL

Look, I know what kind of people the newspaper business attracts, but how many Jews and communists can you fit in one office?

SEBASTIAN

You sound like some propaganda mouthpiece.

Marcel shrugs and leans back in his chair.

MARCEL

There are worse things a man could be.

Sebastian stands.

SEBASTIAN

(Clenching his teeth) I choose my staff on their merits.

Marcel rolls his eyes and takes a drag of his cigarette.

SEBASTIAN

And what makes you so sure of their affiliations anyway?

Marcel clears his throat and stands. Sebastian watches as Marcel puts his cigarette out in an ashtray on the table and pours himself a glass of wine.

SEBASTIAN

Son of a bitch.

Marcel takes a sip of wine.

SEBASTIAN

You're one of them, aren't you?

MARCEL

I'm not one of anything.

Marcel walks to Sebastian and pats him on the shoulder.

MARCEL

I'm just a guy who took an opportunity when it was offered.

Marcel walks to his chair and sits down.

MARCEL

If you were smart you'd do the same.

SEBASTIAN

Somehow I doubt that's an opportunity I'd have the chance to turn down.

Marcel puts his glass aside and removes his cigarette case from his pocket. He absentmindedly tosses it from one hand to the other.

MARCEL

I wouldn't be so sure of that. After all, your paper still has influence in some circles.

SEBASTIAN

And you'd be there to make up for influence in the other circles, right?

Marcel sits up straight and puts his cigarette case in his pocket.

MARCEL

Look, it's a legitimate offer—

SEBASTIAN

Legitimate?

Sebastian laughs bitterly as Marcel finishes his glass.

SEBASTIAN

That explains why you've been dancing around it all this time.

MARCEL

You're my friend, Sebastian, and I want to help you.

Marcel stands and walks to the table. He puts his glass down with a sigh.

MARCEL

But I can't do that if you tear down all that I'm working for.

Marcel picks up the newspaper and holds it up.

MARCEL

As long as you stay with that gang of bleeding hearts—

Sebastian grabs the newspaper from Marcel.

SEBASTIAN

Better those 'bleeding hearts' than the butchers you've been churning out lies for.

MARCEL

I'm a journalist; I write what I see.

SEBASTIAN

And you've been conveniently seeing through a National Socialist lens.

Marcel throws his hands up in exasperation.

MARCEL

For Christ's sake, grow up! It's a German world.

Marcel walks to the library door.

MARCEL

It's up to you if you want to live in it. I came here as a friend with an honest proposition, I—

SEBASTIAN

You left any friendship behind as soon when you walked through my door with that proposition.

Marcel stares at Sebastian in disbelief.

MARCEL

In that case, you can't hold me responsible for anything that happens after I walk out of it.

Marcel exits the library. Footsteps on the stairs are heard off screen as Sebastian slams his fist down on the table in frustration. The front door is heard opening and closing as Sebastian pours himself another glass of wine.

INT MOREAU MANSION KITCHEN NIGHT

The kitchen contains a large oven, a small table and four matching chairs, a large counter, a dishwasher, a sink, several cabinets, a large pantry, and a small refrigerator. Charlotte is sitting at the table eating a sandwich as she reads from a law book and takes notes. She looks up as Sebastian enters with an empty bottle of wine and two glasses in his hands.

CHARLOTTE

(Surprised) You're still here?

Sebastian washes the empty bottle and glasses then puts them aside.

SEBASTIAN

Don't sound so excited.

CHARLOTTE

Well, there was no one around when I came in so I assumed you went out with Marcel.

He walks to the pantry and removes another bottle of wine.

CHARLOTTE

Sorry I'm so late; I got held up at the library.

SEBASTIAN

They ought to start charging you rent over there.

She laughs. He opens the bottle

CHARLOTTE

I'm sure they've thought about it.

She takes a bite out of her sandwich as he pours himself a glass of wine. He closes the bottle and walks back to the pantry.

CHARLOTTE

How's Marcel?

Sebastian loudly closes the pantry.

SEBASTIAN

Fine.

CHARLOTTE

I was sorry to have missed him.

Sebastian nods and walks back to the counter.

CHARLOTTE

Make sure you let me know the next time you plan to meet up with him.

Sebastian picks up his glass then puts it down with a sigh.

SEBASTIAN

There isn't going to be any next time.

CHARLOTTE

(With her mouth full) What do you mean?

He leans back against the counter.

SEBASTIAN

I mean that the Marcel we knew never left Barcelona.

CHARLOTTE

I'm too tired for riddles. What are you getting at?

She stands and pours herself a glass of wine. She takes a sip.

SEBASTIAN

He's working for the Germans.

She nearly spits out her drink.

SEBASTIAN

He just got some big shot job in the Propaganda Department.

CHARLOTTE

You're sure?

He nods.

CHARLOTTE

Why would he tell you about it? He must know you'd never-

SEBASTIAN

He wanted to recruit me.

She looks shocked.

SEBASTIAN

If you ask me that's why he got in touch in the first place.

She picks up her glass and walks back to the table. She sits down and stares ahead in disbelief for a moment. She looks up.

CHARLOTTE

What did you tell him?

SEBASTIAN

I told him to go to hell; what do you think I told him?!

CHARLOTTE

What did he say to that?

He shrugs.

SEBASTIAN

He made some vague threat and left.

CHARLOTTE

Let me guess, you were supposed to be shaking in your boots?

He takes his glass and sits down across from her.

SEBASTIAN

That was the idea, anyway.

She finishes her sandwich and he sips his glass.

CHARLOTTE

So what are you going to do now?

SEBASTIAN

I already told him not to come back. What else can I do?

CHARLOTTE

With one of the biggest papers in Paris at your fingertips? Plenty.

He shakes his head.

SEBASTIAN

He already said the department's watching me. It would just cause more trouble.

Charlotte leans back in her chair and thinks.

CHARLOTTE

Unless he's bluffing.

SEBASTIAN

He made it pretty obvious that—

CHARLOTTE

If that were true there wouldn't have been any point in recruiting you.

He snaps his fingers.

SEBASTIAN

You're right!

CHARLOTTE

He needs to impress his new friends and he can't do it alone.

SEBASTIAN

He must be pretty desperate if he bothered coming to me.

She takes the glasses off of the table and stands.

SEBASTIAN

I was drinking that!

She walks to the sink and washes the dishes.

CHARLOTTE

I need you to have a clear head.

SEBASTIAN

For what?

She takes the wine bottle and puts it back in the pantry.

CHARLOTTE

If Marcel wants a story, we'll give him one.

She walks to the door.

CHARLOTTE

When Papa left you the paper he said it was up to the press to clean up this city; here's your chance.

She walks out of the kitchen and he rushes after her.

INT LE PARISIEN QUOTIDIAN MAIN OFFICE DAY

Sebastian is standing by the radio with the newspaper staff gathered around him. The staff listens intently as he tells them his plans for the paper.

SEBASTIAN

I know that things have been in transition around here lately, but I don't think that's necessarily a bad thing.

He starts pacing.

SEBASTIAN

If nothing else it gave me a chance to look at things with a fresh set of eyes. And after looking at our output these last few months...I...

He stops pacing and looks at the staff.

SEBASTIAN

What's happened to us? We used to be one of the city's hardest hitting papers, now look at us.

He picks up a copy of the newspaper lying by the radio. He opens the paper.

SEBASTIAN

A review of Chanel's latest fashion line.

One of the female reporters looks down, embarrassed. Sebastian flips to another page in the paper.

SEBASTIAN

Petaïn's latest speech. Full pageantry included.

One of the male reporters clears his throat in irritation.

Sebastian flips through several pages of the paper.

SEBASTIAN

Page upon page of fluff.

Sebastian snaps the paper shut. The staff looks at each other uneasily.

SEBASTIAN

I won't deny its well written fluff. And I know that no one wants to raise any eyebrows these days.

He throws the newspaper down on top the radio and looks at the staff members pleadingly.

SEBASTIAN

But isn't that we all got into this business for? (Pause) We're journalists; we're supposed to write what we see. And I don't know about you, but I see a hell of a lot more than ladies fashions when I walk out of here.

Several members of the staff nod in agreement as others whisper to each other.

SEBASTIAN

I'm not suggesting that we court controversy for its own sake; I've never been a fan of sensationalism and I won't start now. All I'm asking for are honest stories that people need to hear. (Pause) I want to make this paper all that it can be, but I'll need your help to do it.

He looks at the staff as they sit in silence. One of the female reporters writes a note in her notepad and looks up.

FEMALE REPORTER

Think you can make anything out of those breadlines?

Sebastian looks at her, surprised.

FEMALE REPORTER

Every week they seem to get longer and I've seen more than a few fights break out over a spot in line.

SEBASTIAN

Expose' on local living conditions and their toll on the people's morale. That's exactly what I'm talking about!

The female reporter eagerly starts taking notes. Sebastian looks to the rest of the staff.

SEBASTIAN

I want everyone to send me their best pitch by the end of the day.

They stand and start to walk to their workstations.

SEBASTIAN

And one more thing..

They stop and turn to him.

SEBASTIAN

Thank you.

INT MARCEL'S OFFICE DAY

Marcel is sitting at his desk outlining a new propaganda campaign as he listens to music on the radio. He looks up as muffled shouts are

heard coming from the hallway. He stands and turns off the radio as he strains to listen. He walks to the door and opens it slightly.

INT PROPAGANDA DEPARTMENT HALLWAY DAY

Herr Winkler is waving a newspaper in the air as he argues with Marcel's superior, Monsieur Renault. Monsieur Renault is an anxious man in his late thirties. Monsieur Renault meekly follows as Herr Winkler walks ahead.

MONSIEUR RENAULT

I told you, we're in the process, but we—

Herr Winkler turns around and holds the newspaper up.

HERR WINKLER

But you'd rather wait until I have a goddamned uprising on my hands to start working!

MONSIEUR RENAULT

You knew that this would take time!

Herr Winkler points at Monsieur Renault.

HERR WINKLER

And you told me that you had this under control.

MONSIEUR RENAULT

And I still say that.

Monsieur Renault grabs the newspaper and takes a deep breath.

MONSIEUR RENAULT

Le Parisien Quotidien is a leftist rag, it has been for years. (Pause) It's been more like a tabloid since the owner died.

HERR WINKLER

I'm warning you, Renault, I want this taken care of.

MONSEIUR RENAULT

I assure you the problem is as good as solved.

Herr Winkler glares at Monsieur Renault then walks past him down the hall. He turns around as Monsieur Renault starts to breathe a sigh of relief.

HERR WINKLER

For your sake, I hope it is.

Herr Winkler turns around and continues down the hall. Monsieur Renault throws the newspaper into a nearby wastebasket and walks to his office. He enters his office and slams the door shut. A moment later, Marcel quietly exits his office and enters the hallway. He looks down both ends of the hall and removes the newspaper from the wastebasket. He glances at the front page of the paper then folds it under his arm and enters his office, quietly closing the door behind him.

INT THE MOREAU MANSION ENTRYWAY NIGHT

The house is quiet and dark. Footsteps and voices are heard outside the front door. A loud knock is heard at the door, followed by a pause. The door is forced open and three Gestapo officers enter the house. One of the Gestapo Officers looks around the empty entryway and signals to the other officers.

GESTAPO OFFICER ONE

(German subtitled)

I'll take this floor, you two go upstairs.

Gestapo Officers Two and Three nod and proceed up the stairs as Gestapo Officer One starts searching the first floor.

MOREAU MANSION SEBASTIAN'S BEDROOM NIGHT

The bedroom contains a large bed, a dresser, a wardrobe, a record player, and a large window. Sebastian is sleeping in his bed and wearing a matching shirt and pants pajama set. He jumps up as he hears Charlotte scream down the hall. He runs to the door and starts to open it as Gestapo Officer Two flings it open. Sebastian stumbles backward, dazed. Gestapo Officer Two raises his gun and Sebastian tries to grab it from him. They struggle as Sebastian attempts to grab the gun. Gestapo Officer Two loses his grip on the gun and it slides across the floor.

Sebastian reaches for the gun as Gestapo Officer Three enters the room with Charlotte, who is wearing a nightgown and bathrobe. Gestapo Officer Three has one hand around Charlotte's waist and is pointing a

gun at her with the other. Gestapo Officer Three points his gun at Sebastian and tightens his grip on Charlotte. Sebastian looks up and pauses.

GESTAPO OFFICER THREE

Step away from the gun.

Sebastian looks to Charlotte and nods.

GESTAPO OFFICER THREE

And keep your hands where I can see them.

Sebastian slowly stands up with his arms raised. Gestapo Officer Two brushes off his uniform and picks up the gun. Gestapo Officer Three signals to Gestapo Officer Two. Gestapo Officer Two pats Sebastian down to check for weapons. Gestapo Officer One enters the room and leans against the door frame. Gestapo Officer Two finishes patting down Sebastian and steps away from him.

GESTAPO OFFICER TWO

(German subtitled)

He's clean.

SEBASTIAN

There must be some mistake, I-

Gestapo Officer One smirks as he surveys the situation.

GESTAPO OFFICER ONE

You are Sebastian Moreau, aren't you?

SEBASTIAN

Yes, but-

Sebastian takes a step towards Gestapo Officer One and Gestapo Officer Two raises his gun. Sebastian stops mid-step.

GESTAPO OFFICER ONE

And you do own Le Parisien Quotidian?

Sebastian nods.

GESTAPO OFFICER ONE

Then you're the same Sebastian Moreau who employs enemies of the Reich, spins rather colorful lies about the state...

Gestapo Officer One removes a resistance pamphlet from his pocket.

GESTAPO OFFICER ONE

And keeps communist propaganda in his library. There's no mistake.

Charlotte struggles to free herself from Gestapo Officer Three.

CHARLOTTE

But that's not his!

Gestapo Officer Three tightens his grip and cocks the barrel of his gun. Gestapo Officer Three looks to Gestapo Officer One, who signals him to wait.

GESTAPO OFFICER TWO

What was that?

Sebastian gives Charlotte a reprimanding look.

SEBASTIAN

An acquaintance gave it to me.

Gestapo Officer Two laughs.

GESTAPO OFFICER TWO

That's real original. No wonder no one buys that trash you peddle.

Sebastian glares at Gestapo Officer Two and turns back to Gestapo Officer One.

SEBASTIAN

He kept trying to convince me to join him and gave me that when I told him off.

Gestapo Officer One flips through the pages of the pamphlet.

GESTAPO OFFICER ONE

That's a very interesting story, Monsieur Moreau.

Gestapo Officer One continues to skim through the pamphlet.

SEBASTIAN

It's the truth.

Gestapo Officer One snaps the pamphlet shut and smirks.

GESTAPO OFFICER ONE

Then you won't mind telling me all about it at headquarters.

Sebastian and Charlotte nervously exchange glances. Gestapo Officer One signals to Gestapo Officer Two. Gestapo Officer Two nods and removes a pair of handcuffs from his belt.

GESTAPO OFFICER

After all, we can't let characters like this acquaintance of yours wander the streets unchecked...

Gestapo Officer Two handcuffs Sebastian.

GESTAPO OFFICER ONE

Now, can we?

Gestapo Officer Two leads Sebastian out of the room into the hallway. Gestapo Officer Three leans in towards Charlotte. Charlotte cringes and turns her head away.

GESTAPO OFFICER THREE

And as for you, chérie...

Gestapo Officer One pulls Gestapo Officer Three away from Charlotte.

GESTAPO OFFICER ONE

(German subtitle)

Hands off.

GESTAPO OFFICER THREE

(German subtitled)

Oh, come on, I-

GESTAPO OFFICER ONE

(German subtitled)

That's an order!

Gestapo Officer Three reluctantly nods. Gestapo Officer One points to the door.

GESTAPO OFFICER ONE

(German subtitled)

Help him transport the prisoner.

GESTAPO OFFICER THREE

(German subtitled)

Yes, sir.

Gestapo Officer Three exits the room.

GESTAPO OFFICER ONE

(To Charlotte) Alright, Mademoiselle, I just need you to answer a few questions...

INT MOREAU MANSION ENTRYWAY NIGHT

Gestapo Officer Two is leading Sebastian down the staircase. Gestapo Officer Three rushes down the stairs after Sebastian and Gestapo Officer Two.

SEBASTIAN

If you'd just listen to me-

Gestapo Officer Two rolls his eyes as Gestapo Officer Three grabs Sebastian by the arm and leads him down the stairs.

GESTAPO OFFICER THREE

(Sarcastically) Oh, I know, we'd find out what a raw deal you got.

They reach the bottom of the staircase.

SEBASTIAN

Look, just ask Monsieur Simon, he'll vouch for me.

Gestapo Officer Two opens the front door and turns around.

GESTAPO OFFICER TWO

Simon?

Gestapo Officer Three tries to lead Sebastian out the door as Gestapo Officer Two holds it open.

SEBASTIAN

Marcel Simon in the propaganda department, he-

Gestapo Officer Two chuckles to himself as Gestapo Officer Three shakes his head and smirks. Sebastian looks at them in confusion.

GESTAPO OFFICER THREE

Who do you think tipped us off?

Gestapo Officer Three drags Sebastian out the front door as Gestapo Officer One enters at the top of the staircase. Gestapo Officer Two starts to walk out the door then stops and turns around as Gestapo Officer One reaches the bottom of the stairs. Charlotte peers around the corner of the hallway at the top of the stairs.

GESTAPO OFFICER TWO

(German subtitled)

What did she have to say?

Gestapo Officer One shrugs.

GESTAPO OFFICER ONE

(German subtitled)

Nothing of any use.

Gestapo Officers One and Two exit through the front door. Charlotte walks to top of the staircase from the hallway. She stares at the front door then sits down on the staircase and puts her head in her hands.

EXT CHERCE MIDI PRISON DAY

Early the next morning a van arrives at the Cherce-Midi prison in Paris. The van enters the grounds through the iron gates of the massive stone fence. The building is a large brown stone structure containing hundreds of cells. Three Gestapo Officers exit the van and walk to the back of the vehicle.

They open the back of the van and Sebastian exits with several other prisoners. The prisoners are led into the front of the building.

INT CHERECE MIDI PRISON HALLYWAY DAY

Sebastian is led to a closed off cell for solitary confinement by one of the prison guards. The Prison Guard opens the cell and gestures to Sebastian to enter. Sebastian hesitates and the Prison Guard pushes him into the cell.

INT CHERCE MIDI PRISON SOLITARY CONFINEMENT CELL DAY

Sebastian cringes as he hears the cell door close behind him. The cell is a tiny room which contains a basin, a stool, a small table, a bed with a makeshift straw mattress, and a horse blanket. The walls are filthy and covered in various inscriptions left by past prisoners. He sits down on the bed with a sigh.

INT CHERCE MIDI PRISON SOLITARY CONFINEMENT CELL LATER THAT DAY

Sebastian is lying on the bed half asleep staring at the inscriptions on the wall. He sits up as he hears another prisoner whistling "La Marseille" in a nearby cell. After listening for a verse, Sebastian joins in and starts whistling the tune. Several other prisoners join in, whistling and humming as the song continues. The music grows louder as more prisoners join then suddenly stops as a door is heard opening down the hall. Loud footsteps are heard approaching down the hall. The footsteps stop then fade into the other direction. Several prisoners sigh in relief as the door is heard closing. Sebastian shakes his head and lies back down on his bed. He turns to listen as he hears Leon muttering in the cell next to him. Leon is in his mid twenties.

LEON

(From his cell) Nationalistic bullshit.

PRISONER ONE

(From his cell down the hall) You want to repeat that?

The prisoners remain silent. Sebastian walks to the door of his cell and looks through a small space between the door and frame.

INT CHERCE MIDI PRISON HALLWAY DAY

Sebastian sees Prisoner One standing by the bars of his cell across the hall. Prisoner One grabs onto the bars of his cell.

PRISONER ONE

Not so chatty now, eh tough guy?

LEON

(Unseen) I'm sure you can't mean me.

PRISONER ONE

Damn right I do.

Prisoner One raises his fist and puts it between the bars. Leon is heard sighing in exasperation and turning over in his bed.

PRISONER ONE

So, are you gonna repeat that?

LEON

What, that it was flag waving imbeciles like you that got us into this hell? (Pause) If you need me to tell you that you're worse off than I thought.

INT CHERCE MIDI PRISON SOLITARY CONFINEMENT CELL DAY

Sebastian clenches his fist as he listens.

INT CHERCE MIDI PRISON HALLWAY DAY

PRISONER ONE

You'll keep your mouth shut if you know what's good for you.

Prisoner One's roommate, Prisoner Two, sits up on his bed with a yawn.

PRISONER TWO

(Wearily) Would you two give it a rest before the guards shut both your mouths for you?

Prisoner One kicks the bars of his cell in frustration and walks back to his bed. Leon starts whistling "The Song of the Volga Boatman".

PRISONER ONE

(Under his breath, disgusted) Goddamn red.

INT CHERCE MIDI PRISON SOLITARY CONFINEMENT CELL DAY

Sebastian walks back to his bed. He sits down and starts reading the inscriptions on the wall as Leon continues to whistle.

INT MARCEL'S OFFICE DAY

Marcel is sitting in his office writing notes on a draft of a propaganda poster. He looks up as he hears two a knock at the door, then resumes taking notes. A knock is heard at his door. He sighs in exasperation.

MARCEL

Come in.

Charlotte enters the office wearing a pantsuit and carrying a briefcase. Marcel stares at her in surprise as she opens the briefcase and removes several issues of Le Parisien Quotidien. Marcel forces a smile as he stands and extends his hand.

MARCEL

Charlotte! I didn't expect to see you around here.

She reluctantly shakes hands with him.

CHARLOTTE

I could say the same thing to you.

He awkwardly clears his throat and sits down. He gestures to the chairs across from his desk.

MARCEL

Sit down.

She sits down and organizes the issues of the newspaper.

MARCEL

What can I do for you?

CHARLOTTE

You mean your men haven't told you?

He lights a cigarette and laughs.

MARCEL

My men! Pencil pushers like me get orders, we don't give them.
She looks skeptical. He holds out his cigarette case to her.

MARCEL

Want one?

She shakes her head. He shrugs.

MARCEL

Suit yourself, but you look like you could use a little something to take the edge off.

He takes a drag of his cigarette.

MARCEL

So, what's on your mind?

She looks down and takes a deep breath.

CHARLOTTE

Sebastian's been arrested.

Marcel pretends to be surprised.

MARCEL

What?!

She nods.

CHARLOTTE

Last night three men from the Gestapo came and took him away.

MARCEL

What was the charge?

CHARLOTTE

They said he was involved in something subversive.

Marcel shakes his head, trying to look disgusted.

MARCEL

That's a real specific charge.

He takes a drag from his cigarette.

MARCEL

I only wish there was something I could do.

CHARLOTTE

I'm glad you said that.

Charlotte spreads the various issues of *Le Parisien Quotidien* across Marcel's desk.

CHARLOTTE

All of these issues contain articles condemning communism and—

Marcel piles the newspapers on top of one another and hands them to her.

MARCEL

I'm sorry, but there's nothing I can do.

She throws the newspapers down on top of his desk.

CHARLOTTE

You're on the inside working for them. What do you mean, there's nothing you can do?!

MARCEL

My job is to make glorified ads; this isn't my jurisdiction.

He takes the newspapers and puts them into her briefcase.

CHARLOTTE

You've known him since you were ten; you know he couldn't have done anything they're accusing him of!

He slams the briefcase down onto the desk and glares at her. He clears his throat and regains his composure.

MARCEL

I warned him to watch his step, and he brushed me off. It's out of my hands.

CHARLOTTE

So that's it?

She picks up the briefcase.

MARCEL

I'm sorry.

He starts to turn away from her. She grabs his sleeve and he turns to look at her.

CHARLOTTE

Sebastian was your best friend for over twenty years. You used to spend more time at our house than at your own growing up. Our father got you your first job on the paper. We—

MARCEL

Save the cross examination; I think I know my own history a little better than you.

CHARLOTTE

Then you know that you owe Sebastian.

She slams her fist down on the desk.

CHARLOTTE

For Christ's sake, all you have to do is vouch for him!

He shakes his head.

MARCEL

It's too late for that.

He walks to the door.

CHARLOTTE

What do you mean too late?! He was only arrested last night.

She follows him to the door.

MARCEL

I can't argue with evidence.

CHARLOTTE

What evidence?! He's innocent.

Marcel starts to open the door.

MARCEL

Right, that's why they found Marxist propaganda on him.

CHARLOTTE

But it wasn't his! I tried to tell them truth but he—

She stops and steps away from him with a shocked expression on her face.

CHARLOTTE

(Through clenched teeth) You bastard.

She pushes past him to the door.

CHARLOTTE

And you said you didn't give orders.

She tries to walk out of the office but he grabs her by her arm and pulls her back in. He slams the door shut and stands in front of it, blocking her exit. She tries to push past him but he drags her to one of the chairs and pushes her into it.

MARCEL

And just what was that bit of truth you tried to tell them last night?

She glares at him and grips the sides of the chair. He shrugs and picks up the phone receiver.

MARCEL

Have it your way then.

He dials the phone as Charlotte's eyes nervously dart around the room.

MARCEL

Herr Schon? Yes, this is Monsieur Simon...

INT CHERCHE-MIDI PRISON GENERAL POPULATION CELL DAY

Sebastian is now in a general population cell with bars instead of the closed of solitary confinement cell. His new cell contains a basin, a stool, and a small metal bed. He is sitting on the bed writing a letter to Charlotte.

The letter reads "Dear Charlotte, I hope this letter finds you well. I've been transported to Cherche-Midi with the other political prisoners. I'm alright, and would have written sooner, but-". He looks up as several guards enter the hallway, and resumes writing.

INT CHERCE MIDI PRISON HALLWAY DAY

Guard One reads from a clipboard as the other guards forcibly remove various prisoners from their cells into the hallway and line them up. Sebastian puts the letter in his pocket as Guard Two approaches his cell. Guard Two looks to Guard One. Guard One nods and Guard Two proceeds to open Sebastian's cell. Sebastian pushes past Guard Two into the hallway before Guard Two can drag him out. Sebastian turns to Guard One. He removes the letter from his pocket.

SEBASTIAN

I need this letter sent.

Guard One rolls his eyes.

GUARD ONE

Yea, and I need my wife to stop nagging me.

Guard One watches as the other guards remove the prisoners from their cells.

SEBASTIAN

But you said that once I was out of solitary-

Guard Two signals to Guard One as he starts to open another cell. Guard One nods for him to proceed. Guard One takes the letter from Sebastian and tears it into pieces. Sebastian glares at Guard One as he drops the pieces of the letter to the floor. Guard One shrugs.

GUARD ONE

It's not like it would have been much good to you where you're going.

Guard Two grabs Sebastian by his arm and shoves him into line with the other prisoners.

The guards start speaking to each other in German as they lead the prisoners to the exit. Prisoner One leans towards Prisoner Two as they proceed towards the exit.

PRISONER ONE

Wonder what resort they're sending us to.

Prisoner Two anxiously watches the guards and swallows hard.

PRISONER TWO

I hear it's not so bad closer to the border.

The guards lead the prisoners out of the prison.

EXT CHERCE-MIDI PRISON DAY

The guards lead the prisoners to a large van parked outside of the prison. One of the guards opens the back of the van. Sebastian watches as the guards talk and laugh amongst themselves as they lead the prisoners into the van.

GUARD ONE

(German subtitled)

Where'd they say we're taking this bunch?

GUARD TWO

(German subtitled)

Anrath for now.

Prisoner One turns to Sebastian as he hears Sebastian breathe a sigh of relief.

PRISONER ONE

What the hell are you so happy about?

PRISONER TWO

(Sarcastically) Isn't it obvious? He's looking forward to all the beer and schnitzel.

SEBASTIAN

They said they're sending us to one of their local prisons.

Leon turns to watch Sebastian as he waits further down the line. Prisoner One and Prisoner Two turn to each other then look back at Sebastian. Sebastian approaches the front of the line to the van.

SEBASTIAN

Of course convict labor won't be as glamorous as the political block..

Sebastian enters the van. Prisoners One and Two eagerly follow him. Leon watches Sebastian take a seat in the van as he continues to wait in line.

EXT VAN DAY

The van stops at a border check point. One of the guards hands a badge to a border patrol agent through the window. The border patrol agent nods, hands the badge back to the guard, and waves the vehicle on. The van drives past the check point.

INT VAN DAY

The prisoners are sitting in the back of the van, separated from the two guards sitting in the front seat by a wire screen. Some of the prisoners are trying to sleep as others whisper amongst themselves. Sebastian watches the guards through the screen as they talk to each other.

GUARD ONE

(German subtitled)

If there's more where she came from, this occupation might not be such a bad gig.

GUARD TWO

(German subtitled)

There's no way she had anything on the girls in Berlin. I've seen the girls in Berlin and-

GUARD ONE

(German subtitled)

She was pretty hot stuff. And a hell of a lot cheaper.

Prisoner One nudges Sebastian.

PRISONER ONE

(Whispering) Well translator...

Sebastian turns to Prisoner One and bats his hand away in irritation.

SEBASTIAN

(Whispering) What?

PRISONER TWO

(Whispering) Don't start holding out on us now.

SEBASTIAN

(Whispering) I already told you, they're talking about some whore the fat one went to a few nights ago.

PRISONER TWO

(Whispering) Jesus! She must be something to write home about if he's still going on after ten minutes.

PRISONER ONE

(Whispering) Doubt if he lasted that long with her!

Prisoner One laughs loudly and Prisoner Two elbows him in the ribs. Guard One turns around to look behind him, waits a second, then shrugs and turns forward again. Prisoner One rubs his side in exaggerated pain.

PRISONER ONE

(Whispering) When did you get such an arm?

PRISONER TWO

(Whispering) Are you *trying* to get us all beaten to a bloody pulp!

Sebastian leans against the wall of the van and closes his eyes.

PRISONER ONE

(Whispering) I was just saying—

PRISONER TWO

(Whispering) Like the time you were 'just saying' that -

Prisoner Two turns as heaving sounds are heard in the back of the van.

PRISONER TWO

(Whispering) Just what we need.

Guard One turns around as the heaving grows louder.

GUARD ONE

What's going on back there?!

The sound stops and the prisoners sit in awkward silence. Guard One starts to turn around then stops as the sound resumes.

PRISONER ONE

(In a normal tone of voice) It sounds like he's vomiting, sir.

GUARD ONE

(German subtitled)

How much further until Anrath?

Guard TWO

(German subtitled)

I'd say another two hours.

PRISONER ONE

(To Sebastian) Now what's he saying?

SEBASTIAN

(Whispering) He's asking how far until we get there.

GUARD ONE

(German subtitled)

There's no way in hell I'm smelling that for two hours.

The van swerves to the side of the road and comes to an abrupt stop. Guards One and Two exit the vehicle. Moments later, Guard One opens the back of the van as Guard Two stretches by the side of the road. Guard One looks over the prisoners, and notices Leon hunched over in the corner of the van. Guard One points to a nearby prisoner.

GUARD ONE

(German Subtitled)

You. Take him out.

The prisoner helps Leon as he struggles to step out of the van. Guard One grabs Leon by the arm and pulls him out of the van.

EXT ROAD DAY

Leon falls face first and struggles to stand. Guard One sighs in exasperation and pulls Leon up off of the ground. He pushes Leon forward towards Guard Two.

GUARD ONE

Take him down the road. I'll keep an eye on the truck.

Guard Two leads Leon down the road. Leon gets on the ground and starts loudly gagging. Guard Two turns away and lights a cigarette. Leon sticks his finger down his throat, forcing himself to vomit while Guard Two has his back turned. Leon reaches into his boot and removes a shiv. Leon takes several deep breaths and Guard Two turns around. Guard Two grabs Leon by his arm and tries to lead him back to the van.

GUARD TWO

Get moving!

Leon takes the shiv and stabs Guard Two repeatedly in the chest and throat. Guard Two falls to the ground, dead. Leon removes the gun from Guard Two's holster and quietly walks back to the van. Guard One closes the back of the van then walks towards the front of the vehicle. He enters the passenger's side of the vehicle.

INT VAN DAY

Guard One looks to the window as he hears a sound and is shot in the face. The other prisoners look at each other in alarm. Leon flings the door open with one hand as he carries Guard Two's gun in the other. He now appears perfectly healthy. He gestures to the prisoners to exit the van.

LEON

Come on!

The prisoners eagerly exit the vehicle. Sebastian walks to the edge of the van and sees Guard Two's body lying on the ground in the distance.

He jumps out of the van as the other prisoners start to run in several different directions.

EXT ROAD DAY

Leon grabs Sebastian from behind and pulls him down behind a nearby tangle of bushes as a car approaches. Several moments after the car has passed Leon stands.

Sebastian struggles to untangle his clothes from a branch. Leon takes the branch and breaks it over his knee. Leon tosses the branch aside and walks towards Guard Two's body. Leon turns around and gestures to the van.

LEON

Don't just stand there!

Sebastian looks confused. Leon runs his hand over his face in frustration.

LEON

The uniform...

Sebastian nods and runs to the van. Leon mutters to himself in irritation as he walks to Guard Two's body. Sebastian reaches the van and opens the passenger's side door. He pulls Guard One's body out of the van and drops it to the ground. He bends down next to the body and hesitates as he stares at Guard One's destroyed face in disgust. He swallows hard and starts to remove the uniform.

EXT ROAD LATER THAT DAY

Sebastian and Leon have changed into the guards' uniforms and put their prison uniforms on the bodies of the guards.

SEBASTIAN

Now what?

LEON

Now we wait.

Leon walks to the side of the road and waits for a car and Sebastian follows him.

LEON

Those lazy bastards wouldn't be caught dead walking anywhere. It'll look better if we hitch a ride.

Leon signals an approaching car, but it keeps driving ahead.

SEBASTIAN

How's your German?

LEON

Not bad if I need to say hello, goodbye, or salute the Fuehrer.

He pats Sebastian on the back.

LEON

And for the rest I've got you.

A car approaches.

LEON

If they ask, tell them I'm mute.

Sebastian scratches the back of his neck. When he pulls his hand back it is covered with blood from the collar of the uniform.

SEBASTIAN

But what about the—

Leon signals to the car and it stops along the side of the road.

INT CAR DAY

A young couple sits arguing in the front seat of the car. The man is wearing a suit and the woman is wearing a skirt suit with a matching veiled hat. The back seat is filled with suitcases and hat boxes. The woman glares as she looks out the window at Sebastian and Leon.

MAN

(German subtitled)

Oh, so now you're going to sulk, right?

She pulls her hat off and throws it down onto the seat.

WOMAN

(German subtitled)

I'm just disappointed you aren't inviting them into the honeymoon suite with us.

The man anxiously pulls at his tie as he sees Leon walk towards the vehicle.

MAN

(German subtitled)

Would you rather spend the rest of the trip in an interrogation room?!

WOMAN

(German subtitled)

If you would have just kept driving—

EXT ROAD DAY

The man and woman can be seen arguing through the car window as Leon approaches the car. The woman jumps as Leon knocks on the passenger's side window. The man and woman look at each other and pause, then the man lowers the passenger's side window as Sebastian approaches the vehicle.

MAN

(German subtitled)

(Anxiously) It looks like you're having some trouble, officers.

SEBASTIAN

(German subtitled)

Yes, our van broke down.

MAN

(German Subtitled)

Well, I used to help my father in his garage, maybe I could take a look and—

SEBASTIAN

(German subtitled)

No!

The man and woman look alarmed.

SEBASTIAN

(German subtitled)

I mean, it's beyond that point, and it's of the utmost importance that we call headquarters immediately.

MAN

(German subtitled)

Well in that case, you're more than welcome to ride with us; we're only a few hours from town

The man turns to the woman.

MAN

(German subtitled)

And it's on our way.

The woman forces herself to smile as Sebastian and Leon enter the back seat of the car.

INT CAR LATER THAT DAY

The woman is leaning against the passenger's side window, asleep, as the man drives. Leon stares blankly out the back seat window. Sebastian talks to the man as he looks out the window and attempts to figure out where they are driving.

MAN

(German subtitled)

It's a wonder the two of you came out of there in one piece!

SEBASTIAN

(German subtitled)

(Awkwardly) Yes...well, they couldn't waste much time by the road, since they were still in prison uniforms and all.

The man nods and continues driving. The man looks in the rear view mirror and sees Sebastian exchange a nervous glance with Leon. The man looks at their ill-fitting uniforms and notices the guns at their waists. Sebastian looks up and sees the man watching them.

MAN

(German subtitled)

Still...

Sebastian anxiously looks out the window as they pass a church. He suddenly points to the window.

SEBASTIAN

(German subtitled)

There!

Leon starts to turn towards Sebastian, but stops himself as the man looks back in the rear-view mirror.

MAN

(German subtitled)

What?

SEBASTIAN

(German subtitled)

Stop the car!

The man swerves to the side of the road and stops the car. The woman yells as she is pushed against the window. Sebastian opens the car door.

MAN

(German subtitled)

What's going on?!

SEBASTIAN

(German subtitled)

I just saw one of the prisoners running into the woods.

MAN

(German subtitled)

But how could he possibly—

SEBASTIAN

(German subtitled)

We can't let him escape!

Leon opens his car door.

MAN

(German subtitled)

But what about headquarters? Don't you need reinforcements?

Leon exits the car.

SEBASTIAN

(German subtitled)

Are you questioning our orders?!

MAN

(German subtitled)

Of course not, I only—

SEBASTIAN

(German subtitled)

Thank you for your assistance. We'll be sure to mention your patriotism at headquarters.

MAN

(German subtitled)

I was only doing my—

Sebastian rushes out of the car and slams the door behind him.

MAN

(German subtitled)

Duty.

The man and woman watch Sebastian and Leon run towards the woods and look to each other in confusion.

EXT COUNTRYSIDE NIGHT

Sebastian and Leon walk through the woods until they see the church they had passed earlier in the car. Leon stops to catch his breath. Sebastian pauses to be sure there are no cars on the road, then continues towards the church. Leon rushes after him.

LEON

Now where are we going?

They reach the church and Sebastian approaches the front door.

LEON

Let me guess, looking for sanctuary?

Sebastian shrugs.

SEBASTIAN

It's not like they'll be able to turn us out in these.

He gestures to his uniform and tries to open the front door. He realizes that the door is locked and walks to the back of the church. Leon follows after him.

LEON

(Under his breath) Bunch of fat cats doling out salvation...

INT CHURCH CHAPEL NIGHT

The church contains several rows of pews, an altar at the back, a row of confessionals, two large candlestick holders at the exits, and several stained glass windows on the walls. Sebastian and Leon enter through the back door. Sebastian and Leon enter the church. Sebastian searches for a light as Leon walks towards the altar. Leon removes a candle from the altar and signals to Sebastian. Sebastian follows Leon to the front of the church.

SEBASTIAN

(German subtitled)

Hello?

Sebastian hears a noise as he and Leon pass the confessionals.

SEBASTIAN

What was that?

LEON

What was what?

Sebastian shrugs and they resume walking through the church. Sebastian turns as he hears the noise again.

LEON

I heard it to. Probably rats with my luck.

They continue to walk ahead and Nicolae jumps Sebastian from behind. Nicolae is a gypsy in his early thirties and in excellent physical shape. He is wearing a work shirt and pants. Sebastian struggles to get Nicolae off of him, but is unable to release Nicolae's grip around his neck as Nicolae tries to choke him. Leon pulls Nicolae off Sebastian and punches him in the face as Sebastian regains his breath. Leon grabs the guard's pistol from his holster and tries to shoot, but the gun is empty.

LEON

(Trying to shoot) Piece of shit!

Leon tosses the gun aside. Nicolae grabs a large candlestick holder and hits Leon with it. He attempts to hit Leon again, but Leon grabs the candlestick holder. Sebastian raises his pistol, but is unable to aim as they continue fighting. Sebastian runs behind Nicolae and pistol whips him across the back of the head. Nicolae falls to his knees. Sebastian raises his pistol again as Father Rudolf enters carrying a gun. Father Rudolf is in his early fifties and wearing a priest's robe. One of his feet appears deformed and causes him to walk with a pronounced limp.

FATHER RUDOLF

(German subtitled)

Drop the gun!

Sebastian stops as he looks up and sees Father Rudolf pointing the gun at him. Sebastian looks to Leon and reluctantly puts the gun down on the floor. Nicolae struggles to stand and stumbles to Father Rudolf.

FATHER RUDOLF

(German subtitled)

This is a house of God.

Nicolae winces and raises his hand to his head.

SEBASTIAN

(Under his breath) You had me fooled.

Nicolae blinks repeatedly as his eyes attempt to focus. Father Rudolf looks Sebastian and Leon up and down contemptuously.

FATHER RUDOLF

(German subtitled)

My parishioners already have enough troubles to unburden; I don't need your kind bringing in more.

SEBASTIAN

(German subtitled)

We have some things of our own to unburden, Father.

Sebastian removes the guard's hat and tosses it aside.

SEBASTIAN

(German subtitled)

Ever hear of Anrath prison?

Father Rudolf hesitantly nods.

SEBASTIAN

(German subtitled)

You'll be hearing a lot more about it by tomorrow morning, (Pause) or tonight if our luck doesn't hold out.

Nicolae picks Leon's gun up off of the floor, then walks to the door and leans against it. Leon signals to Sebastian, but Sebastian ignores him.

FATHER RUDOLF

(German subtitled)

I don't understand.

SEBASTIAN

(German subtitled)

There was a truck bound for Anrath coming from the French border. One of the prisoners overtook the truck and the two guards were killed.

FATHER RUDOLF

(German subtitled)

I can assure you that there's no one in this building besides the two of-

SEBASTIAN

(German subtitled)

We're two of the condemned men, but we still have one shot at freedom. If you really are the man of God you say you are you'll give it to us. Father Rudolf slowly lowers the gun.

FATHER RUDOLF

(German subtitled)

What were you imprisoned for?

SEBASTIAN

(German subtitled)

Let's just say I tried to speak the truth.

Nicolae looks skeptical and gestures to Leon.

NICOLAE

(German subtitled)

What about you?

Leon looks to Sebastian in confusion.

SEBASTIAN

(German subtitled)

He only speaks French; we hitched a ride here by pretending he was mute.

NICOLAE

(German subtitled)

And he was in for...

SEBASTIAN

(German subtitled)

Believing in a free France.

Father Rudolf turns to Nicolae. Nicolae shakes his head.

FATHER RUDOLF

(German subtitled)

And why should we believe you?

SEBASTIAN

(German subtitled)

If we were guards wouldn't we have threatened to arrest you by now?

Father Rudolf reluctantly nods.

SEBASTIAN

(German subtitled)

The Gestapo will be combing through the area, and they'll be sure to find us if we try to go any further tonight.

NICOLAE

(German subtitled)

And you'd rather lead them here so they can find all of us, right?

Sebastian clenches his fist in frustration then sighs and turns to Father Rudolf.

SEBASTIAN

(German subtitled)

I once read about a good man from Samaria. Are there any like him in Germany?

Father Rudolf sighs and takes the gun from Nicolae.

FATHER RUDOLF

(German subtitled)

There's a storage room downstairs; you can stay there.

SEBASTIAN

(German subtitled)

Thank-

FATHER RUDOLF

(German subtitled)

(Firmly) Just for tonight.

Sebastian nods. Father Rudolf turns around and walks to a staircase next to the door. He pauses and turns back around.

FATHER RUDOLF

(German subtitled)

Unless you'd rather wait here like sitting ducks...

Sebastian signals to Leon and follows Father Rudolf down the stairs. Nicolae stands by the door and reluctantly follows after them.

INT CHURCH STORAGE ROOM NIGHT

Later that night, Sebastian and Leon are lying on makeshift beds made up of donated clothes and blankets on the storage room floor.

The storage room contains a box filled with nativity pieces, several boxes of donated items, a harp missing several strings, and several sealed boxes. Leon sleeps as Sebastian lies back staring at the ceiling. Sebastian suddenly stands and walks to the door. He pauses to listen at the door a moment then walks back to his pile of blankets and lies down. Leon rolls over with an exasperated sigh.

LEON

Must you keep doing that?

Sebastian sits up, startled.

SEBASTIAN

I thought you were asleep.

Leon jumps up, clearly frustrated.

LEON

And how exactly was I supposed to manage that with you clomping around all night?

SEBASTIAN

I was just trying to keep a look out in case-

LEON

Look, if I know one thing about Germans, it's that they love a loud and clear message. Trust me; if they show up the whole damn town will hear it.

Leon lies back down.

LEON

Goodnight.

Leon puts a blanket over his head to muffle any further sound. Sebastian fidgets as he watches the door. He turns to Leon.

SEBASTIAN

Hey, um..

Leon puts another blanket over his head.

LEON

Let me guess, you want to know if I'm asleep yet, right?

SEBASTIAN

I just wanted to say thanks.

Leon removes the blankets from his head without opening his eyes.

LEON

For what?

SEBASTIAN

The truck. There were plenty of guys you could have—

Leon sits up with a sigh.

LEON

Not who could sprechen sie Deutsch like a local.

SEBASTIAN

So *that's* what it was.

LEON

Well, I sure as hell wasn't making eyes at you through the bars.

Sebastian shrugs.

SEBASTIAN

The point is; I owe you.

Leon rubs his eyes and readjusts his blankets.

LEON

Here's to hoping we live to see you pay it off.

Leon lies down and turns over to sleep.

SEBASTIAN

There's one thing still bothering me.

LEON

(Frustrated) What?

SEBASTIAN

Why'd you need a translator so badly? Didn't you take German in school?

Leon laughs.

LEON

Like I had time for that.

Sebastian looks confused.

LEON

Let's just say that sitting in front of a chalk board doesn't pay the bills.

SEBASTIAN

Oh, sorry, I didn't realize..

LEON

Sorry about what? None of that swill would've done me any good in here. Sure as hell didn't at the front.

SEBASTIAN

Good point.

LEON

But you wouldn't know much about that.

SEBASTIAN

What's that supposed to mean?

LEON

Word traveled fast at Cherche; especially for you society types.
(Pause) So how much did you pay to get out of enlisting?

SEBASTIAN

Where'd you get that bright idea?

LEON

Come on, I was born at night, but not last night.

Sebastian sighs and lies back on the blankets.

LEON

So how much?

Sebastian closes his eyes and takes a deep breath.

LEON

Come on, I'm curious.

SEBASTIAN

More like relentless. (Pause) Alright, one eye.

LEON

What?

SEBASTIAN

I was in an auto accident about eight years ago and I haven't been able to see out of my left eye since.

LEON

You do well with it; I never would have guessed.

SEBASTIAN

Anyway, the best they could offer was a desk job so I arranged to do some work on the home front instead.

LEON

What kind of work?

SEBASTIAN

It's my turn for a question. What's your name?

LEON

What's it matter?

SEBASTIAN

We might be stuck together a while.

LEON

Duval, Leon Duval.

SEBASTIAN

So what is it you do? I mean when you aren't breaking out of—
Sebastian suddenly sits up.

LEON

Not again. I already told you—

Sebastian signals to him to be quiet and walks to the door. Voices are heard arguing in German outside the door.

INT CHURCH HALLWAY NIGHT

Nicolae and Father Rudolph are arguing in the hallway outside of the storage room. Father Rudolf is wearing a bathrobe over a pair of pajamas and Nicolae is wearing a trench coat over his clothes. Nicolae is leaning against the wall with a fedora in his hand.

FATHER RUDOLF

(German subtitled)

It has to be done tonight! He'll be gone if we wait until tomorrow!

NICOLAE

(German subtitled)

And the plans with him; I know, Father.

FATHER RUDOLF

(German subtitled)

Are you sure he's under surveillance?

Nicolae shrugs.

NICOLAE

(German subtitled)

Are you willing to chance it?

Father Rudolf sighs in resignation and slowly shakes his head.

Nicolae puts a hand on Father Rudolf's shoulder.

NICOLAE

(German subtitled)

I'm sorry.

Nicolae opens the door to the storage room.

INT STORAGE ROOM NIGHT

Sebastian is standing by the door listening to Nicolae and Father Rudolf's conversation. He stumbles back as Nicolae opens the door and enters the storage room. Nicolae disdainfully looks from Sebastian to Leon walks across the room and moves one of the boxes aside. Leon jumps up from his pile of blankets. Father Rudolf rushes into the storage room.

FATHER RUDOLF

(German subtitled)

What are you doing?!

Nicolae taps on the floor underneath the box, nods, and removes the stone from the floor, revealing a hidden compartment in the floor. Nicolae removes a small box from the compartment and opens it. He removes a map from the box.

FATHER RUDOLF

(German subtitled)

It's a two man job, we talked about this.

Nicolae starts to walk to the door.

NICOLAE

(German subtitled)

We've done a lot of talking and it hasn't amounted to much.

FATHER RUDOLF

(German subtitled)

Nicolae-

Nicolae reaches the door and turns around.

NICOLAE

(German subtitled)

(Frustrated) Those prisoners are already being loaded onto the train while we sit around and-

SEBASTIAN

(German subtitled)

Prisoners?

Nicolae looks to Sebastian, surprised, and laughs bitterly.

NICOLAE

(German subtitled)

I almost forgot we're playing host for Hansel and Gretel tonight.

Sebastian walks to Nicolae.

SEBASTIAN

(German subtitled)

From the sounds of it you could use a Hansel or two. If your friend was really interrogated, they'll be watching his every move.

Father Rudolf steps between Nicolae and Sebastian as Nicolae raises his fist.

FATHER RUDOLF

(German subtitled)

(To Sebastian) This is a private matter.

SEBASTIAN

(German subtitled)

Since when is anything private in Germany?

Sebastian turns back to Nicolae.

SEBASTIAN

(German subtitled)

Look, you did us a favor by letting us stay; let me repay it.

NICOLAE

(German subtitled)

And why the—

Nicolae looks at Father Rudolf and clears his throat.

NICOLAE

(German subtitled)

Why should I trust you?

SEBASTIAN

(German subtitled)

You don't have any other choice unless you go it alone.

Father Rudolf puts his hands in his robe pocket and looks away.

FATHER RUDOLF

(German subtitled)

(Quietly) He's right.

Nicolae puts the map in his pocket.

NICOLAE

(German subtitled)

Do you think you have the stomach for this?

SEBASTIAN

(German subtitled)

I've got nothing left to lose.

Nicolae looks Sebastian up and down with contempt then turns around and opens the door. He starts to walk down the hall, then turns around.

NICOLAE

(German subtitled)

Are you coming or not?

Sebastian nods and steps towards the door. Leon grabs his arm and pulls him aside.

LEON

Would you mind telling me what the hell's going on?

Nicolae rolls his eyes and continues down the hall.

SEBASTIAN

Looks like the resistance needs translators just as much as you do.

LEON

What do you—

Father Rudolf looks anxiously down the hall.

FATHER RUDOLF

(German subtitled)

There isn't much time.

Sebastian nods and turns back to Leon.

SEBASTIAN

Guess I've got another chance to get enlisted.

Sebastian runs down the hall after Nicolae. Father Rudolf blesses himself and begins praying under his breath as he closes the hidden compartment in the floor. Leon looks from Father Rudolf to the hallway in confusion.

EXT CAR NIGHT

Nicolae and Sebastian are driving through the countryside later that night.

INT CAR NIGHT

Sebastian is sitting in the passenger seat of the car examining the gun he stole from the guard as Nicolae drives.

NICOLAE

(German subtitled)

So all you have to do is stay at your post while I get the plans.

SEBASTIAN

(German subtitled)

What exactly are these plans?

Sebastian conceals the gun in his coat.

NICOLAE

(German subtitled)

I can't explain that now.

SEBASTIAN

(German subtitled)

I already put my ass on the line, the least you can do is tell me what it's for.

Nicolae turns to Sebastian.

NICOLAE

(German subtitled)

(Firmly) The less you know, the less the Gestapo can get out of you.

Sebastian anxiously looks out the window as Nicolae turns back to the road.

EXT CAR NIGHT

The car's headlights are turned off as it approaches a dirt road. The car pulls over to the side of the road as a massive mansion appears in the distance. Nicolae and Sebastian exit the vehicle. Nicolae removes a gun from his jacket.

NICOLAE

(German subtitled)

This way.

Sebastian nods and follows Nicolae down the dirt road into a wooded area. Nicolae stops as they reach a fence along the edge of the mansion grounds. Nicolae climbs the fence and jumps over to the other side. Sebastian struggles to make his way up the fence. As Sebastian nears the top of the fence, Nicolae opens the gate for him. Nicolae walks ahead as Sebastian climbs back down the fence.

Sebastian enters through the gate and closes it behind him. Sebastian runs after Nicolae. Sebastian trips but catches himself as he follows Nicolae. Nicolae turns around at the noise and signals Sebastian to be quiet. They reach the back of the mansion. Nicolae looks around the grounds to be sure they're alone, and approaches the door of the mansion. Sebastian watches intently as Nicolae picks the lock.

SEBASTIAN

(German subtitled)

Where'd you learn to do that?

Nicolae ignores him and opens the door slightly.

NICOLAE

(German subtitled)

You stay here while I go in. If you see anyone, give the whistle three times.

SEBASTIAN

(German subtitled)

What if you can't hear it from the inside?

Nicolae pauses to think.

NICOLAE

(German subtitled)

I'll keep a window open. If that doesn't work use the light twice, but only if you have no other choice; I don't need anyone recognizing us.

Nicolae removes a flashlight from his jacket.

NICOLAE

(German subtitled)

If I run into any trouble I'll do the same with the house lights. Got it?

Sebastian nods. Nicolae starts to open the door then turns around and sees Sebastian still waiting.

NICOLAE

(German subtitled)

Get to your post!

Sebastian nods and walks to towards the edge of the grounds. Nicolae enters the mansion.

INT MANSION PARLOR NIGHT

Nicole quietly enters one of the parlors of the mansion. The parlor contains several chairs, a coffee table, a record player, a telephone, and a chandelier hanging from the ceiling. He walks through the parlor down a long hallway.

INT MANSION HALLWAY NIGHT

The hallway floor is covered with elaborate rugs and the walls are lined with paintings. He reaches an ornate staircase at the end of the hall. Nicolae starts up the stairs but turns around as he hears a noise. He pauses and resumes walking up the stairs.

EXT MANSION NIGHT

Sebastian is waiting at his post by the fence. He looks up as he hears a loud thud from the direction of the mansion. He runs across the lawn and looks up to an open window as a crash is heard. He whistles three times and looks around the lawn, panicked. He whistles again and flashes the flashlight. He is about to flash the flashlight again when another crash is heard from the window. He runs into the mansion.

INT MANSION PARLOR NIGHT

Sebastian runs through the parlor and trips over the coffee table. He winces and looks around the parlor as his eyes adjust to the darkness. He gets up and runs into the hallway.

INT MANSION HALLWAY NIGHT

Sebastian continues to run down the hallway and proceeds up the staircase.

INT MANSION STUDY NIGHT

The study contains a large desk, a book case, two chairs, and a window overlooking the lawn. Nicolae is in the midst of a struggle with S.S. Captain von Falk. Captain Von Falk is in his late forties and wearing a bathrobe over his pajamas.

Nicolae grabs hold of Captain von Falk and starts choking him. Sebastian flings the study door open as Nicolae lets go of Captian von Falk, letting his lifeless body fall to the floor.

SEBASTIAN

(German subtitled)

I heard a crash and—

Sebastian looks at the body.

SEBASTIAN

(German subtitled)

But it looks like you have things under control.

Nicolae nods and opens the desk. He starts searching the desk drawers for documents. Sebastian starts searching the book case.

NICOLAE

(German subtitled)

Go back to your post.

SEBASTIAN

(German subtitled)

It'll save time if two of us look.

Nicolae continues searching through the desk.

NICOLAE

(German subtitled)

If you heard that noise someone else could have too.

SEBASTIAN

(German subtitled)

Right.

Sebastian walks out of the study into the hallway.

INT MANSION HALLWAY NIGHT

Sebastian rushes down the stairs into the hallway. He continues down the hallway, but stops when he hears footsteps. He pauses and follows the footsteps into the parlor.

INT MANSION PARLOR NIGHT

Captain von Falk's teenage son is dialing the telephone. He finishes dialing and waits for an answer. Sebastian quietly walks towards the parlor and looks around the corner into the room. Sebastian sees the Captain's son and runs into the room with his gun raised.

SEBASTIAN

(German subtitled)

Put down the phone!

The Captain's son turns around and glares at him.

SEBASTIAN

(German subtitled)

Just put down the phone, and no one gets hurt.

CAPTAIN'S SON

(German subtitled)

Hello, Herr Schmidt—

Sebastian shoots the Captains' Son and he falls to the floor, dead. The phone's receiver falls to the floor. Sebastian looks at the body in horror. Sebastian jumps and raises his gun as he hears Nicolae approach behind him. Nicolae looks from the Captain's Son to the phone receiver. He picks up the phone receiver, hangs up the phone, and turns to Sebastian. Sebastian looks nauseous as he continues to stare at the body.

NICOLAE

(German subtitled)

Did you hear any of the call?

Sebastian looks at him in a daze.

SEBASTIAN

(German subtitled)

No...I mean there was nothing to hear, I finished it before he got an answer.

Several dogs are heard barking outside. Sebastian resumes staring at the body. Nicolae grabs him by the arm and drags him to the door.

NICOLAE

(German subtitled)

Come on!

Sebastian snaps out of his daze and follows Nicolae out of the room.

INT MANSION HALLWAY NIGHT

Sebastian follows Nicolae into the hall and out the back door.

EXT MANSION NIGHT

Nicolae and Sebastian run across the lawn to the fence. Nicolae starts climbing the fence.

SEBASTIAN

(German subtitled)

What about the gate?

NICOLAE

(German subtitled)

There isn't time.

Nicolae reaches the top of the fence and jumps over. The sound of barking dogs resumes and grows louder. Sebastian climbs the fence and jumps over. Sebastian and Nicolae run into the woods as a car is heard pulling into the driveway at the front of the mansion.

INT CAR NIGHT

Nicolae breathes a sigh of relief as he sees the church ahead. Nicolae removes a stack of papers from his jacket as he opens the car door. Sebastian leans back in his chair with a sigh and closes his eyes. Sebastian jumps to attention when he hears Nicolae open the door to the church.

Sebastian quickly exits the vehicle and rushes to the door of the church. He looks around to be sure no one is watching and enters the church.

INT CHURCH STORAGE ROOM DAY

Late the next morning, Sebastian is lying on his pile of blankets trying to sleep while Leon is organizing the storage room. Organ music and muffled voices can be heard as Father Rudolf conducts mass upstairs.

LEON

(Under his breath) And then they send pretty boy to the front lines while I'm stuck playing housekeeper! Bunch of-

Sebastian sits up.

SEBASTIAN

I'm not deaf just yet.

Leon turns to him, surprised.

LEON

I was just making a simple observation-

SEBASTIAN

Then do your observing, or protesting against the system, or whatever the hell you want to call it somewhere else.

Leon starts to say something then shakes his head and resumes organizing the room. After a few moments Leon stops and looks at Sebastian curiously.

LEON

So what exactly was this enlistment of yours anyway?

Sebastian runs his hand over his face in frustration and sits up.

SEBASTIAN

God almighty, you really are relentless.

LEON

I think I have a right to know what the Gestapo's after when they finally drag us out of here.

Sebastian stands and dusts off his clothes.

SEBASTIAN

I don't even know that one; I was just the lookout.

Sebastian stretches and yawns as Leon resumes organizing. Leon stops and turns to Sebastian

LEON

So...

SEBASTIAN

So what?

LEON

So what happened?

Sebastian sighs in frustration.

SEBASTIAN

Nothing; I stayed at my post and kept watch.

LEON

You don't really expect me to believe—

SEBASTIAN

(Clenching his teeth) There's nothing more to tell.

Leon looks taken back. Sebastian clears his throat and regains his composure.

SEBASTIAN

(Jokingly) Sorry if it's not the thriller you were hoping for.

The voices grow louder and footsteps are heard upstairs as Father Rudolf ends mass.

LEON

Finally.

Leon steps onto one of the boxes and lifts himself up to one of the room's windows. He starts to open the window.

SEBASTIAN

What are you doing that for?

LEON

(Sarcastically) Because I hate fresh air.

Sebastian shakes his head and starts looking through one of the boxes lying on the floor. Leon slips as he struggles to open the window and falls to the floor. Sebastian bursts out laughing as Leon remains sitting on the floor, stunned.

LEON

Oh yea, laugh it up.

Sebastian laughs even harder as Leon glares at him. Sebastian turns as the door opens. Leon stands and dusts off his clothes as Nicolae enters with Anton. Anton is in his mid-forties, well dressed, and speaks with a Russian accent.

NICOLAE

(German subtitled)

(To Anton) We managed to get things back on schedule for now, but I don't know how much longer this can last.

ANTON

(German subtitled)

I know it's not easy for any of us, but—

Nicolae sees the window open and looks panicked. He crosses the room, steps on one of the boxes and closes the window. He climbs back to the floor and glares at Sebastian and Leon.

NICOLAE

(German subtitled)

Who opened that window?!

LEON

(To Sebastian) What's he saying?

NICOLAE

(German subtitled)

Are you trying to get us all carted off?!

Sebastian starts to answer, but Anton steps between them to intervene.

ANTON

(German subtitled)

That's enough, Nicolae.

NICOLAE

(German subtitled)

But—

ANTON

(German subtitled)

If anyone was close enough to overhear, they would have been close enough to see me walk in too. We've all made mistakes.

NICOLAE

(German subtitled)

All the more reason—

ANTON

(German subtitled)

I'm well aware of the situation. Now can you please bring Rudolf down?

Nicolae storms out of the room and slams the door behind him. Anton sighs in exasperation and turns to Sebastian and Leon.

ANTON

So, you're the fugitives Rudolf was telling me about?

Leon looks surprised and grins.

LEON

Finally someone I don't need to translate.

Anton laughs to himself.

ANTON

When I first started out my French was better than my German.

LEON

No kidding?

Anton nods and sits down on one of the boxes.

ANTON

But that's a story for another time. Tell me, which one of you went with Nicolae last night?

SEBASTIAN

That was me.

LEON

Either one of us could have done it, but he needed someone who could get by in German.

Anton looks skeptically at Leon and extends his hand to Sebastian.

ANTON

It was fine work you did; thank you.

Sebastian shakes Anton's hand.

SEBASTIAN

Glad I could help.

Father Rudolf opens the door and walks to Anton. Nicolae enters and stands back leaning against the door.

ANTON

(German subtitled)

You have the maps?

Nicolae nods and holds up the papers he stole the night before. Father Rudolf walks back to Nicolae and takes the papers from him. He takes the papers and hands them to Anton.

ANTON

(German subtitled)

(To Father Rudolf but glaring at Nicolae) Thank you.

Anton takes the papers and spreads them out across one of the closed boxes. The papers are maps of the transportation routes to and from concentration camps throughout Germany. Anton stares at the maps, occasionally nodding and muttering to himself. He suddenly looks up and smiles.

ANTON

(German subtitled)

Looks like we aren't so bad off after all.

He removes a pencil from his pocket and starts marking various places on the maps.

ANTON

(German subtitled)

We need to be far enough away that they won't suspect...

He marks a place on one of the maps.

ANTON

(German subtitled)

But close enough that we can ship the supplies. So that leaves us with
—

Father Rudolf clears his throat.

FATHER RUDOLF

(German subtitled)

Don't you think we should wait to discuss this?

Anton looks up, confused. Father Rudolf signals to Leon and Sebastian.

FATHER RUDOLF

(German subtitled)

(Awkwardly) At least until we...get more details?

ANTON

(German subtitled)

You mean you want to keep this a private party, eh?

Father Rudolf anxiously wrings his hands.

FATHER RUDOLF

(German subtitled)

Well I...

Anton laughs to himself and resumes marking the map.

ANTON

(German subtitled)

I think it's a little late for that, don't you?

NICOLAE

(German subtitled)

I'm sure you'll be laughing just as hard when the Gestapo starts sniffing around here asking questions.

Anton shrugs without looking up.

ANTON

(German subtitled)

It wouldn't be the first interrogation we've had.

NICOLAE

(German subtitled)

And by 'we', would that include your new friends?

Anton looks up.

NICOLAE

(German subtitled)

Because, if I were a gambling man, I'd put a bet on how long Frenchie here (points to Sebastian) lasts until he spills his guts.

ANTON

(German subtitled)

Didn't he already prove himself last-

Nicolae crosses the room to Anton.

NICOLAE

(German subtitled)

I think I'd put a safe wager on oh...a half hour.

ANTON

(German subtitled)

Look-

Nicolae sits down on one of the boxes across from Anton.

NICOLAE

(German subtitled)

An hour, if I'm feeling lucky.

Anton stands.

ANTON

(German subtitled)

Until I'm back in commission it's just you and Rudolf, and let's face it, he's in no position to be laying down explosives.

Father Rudolf instinctively puts his foot out of view under his robe.

NICOLAE

(German subtitled)

I could-

ANTON

(German subtitled)

You could what?!

Nicolae stands and glares at Anton.

ANTON

(German subtitled)

Oh right, I forgot, you're the big bag maverick. Well get this straight; it's going to take more than one man to unload the equipment in time.

NICOLAE

(German subtitled)

All they do is show up on our doorstep and you're already-

ANTON

(German subtitled)

And it's going to take more than one man to bring down the Reich.

Anton sits down and starts looking at the maps again. Nicolae shakes his head in disgust and walks to the door. Anton looks up.

ANTON

(German subtitled)

As I recall, there was a time when you needed me and Rudolf's hospitality.

Nicolae turns around.

ANTON

(German subtitled)

And we had nothing to go on but your word.

Nicolae opens the door.

NICOLAE

(German subtitled)

I'll lock up the collection money; we don't need any *rats* getting into it.

He walks out of the room and closes the door behind him. Anton shrugs and resumes marking places on the maps.

ANTON

(German subtitled)

The gypsy's a fine one to talk about stealing..

Father Rudolf anxiously looks to the door then at Sebastian and Leon.

ANTON

(German subtitled)

(Without looking up) Don't worry, he'll get over it.

Anton makes a final mark on the map and looks up.

ANTON

(To Sebastian and Leon) Sorry about that, Nicolae's the delicate type.

SEBASTIAN

That's one way of putting it. What's all this about train tracks?

ANTON

Those plans you got last night were the routes they're using to transport prisoners.

SEBASTIAN

And how do the explosives tie in?

Leon looks at Sebastian confused.

LEON

Explosives? Is that what they were just...

ANTON

The trains are taking the prisoners to camps. If we derail the train-

SEBASTIAN

Derail the train? But you'll kill them!

ANTON

If we derail the train, some of them will be killed, yes. But if we let the train get to the camp, the majority of them will be dead in a matter of months, or wish they were. (Pause) It's a risky bit of business all around; do you think you're up for it?

Leon holds out his hand.

LEON

Beats getting on one of those trains ourselves.

Leon enthusiastically shakes hands with Anton. Sebastian anxiously looks at the maps.

ANTON

And you, Monsieur?

Sebastian swallows hard and shakes hands with Anton.

ANTON

Welcome aboard!

Anton turns to Father Rudolf.

ANTON

(German subtitled)

I was just explaining the plan to them.

FATHER RUDOLF

(German subtitled)

I thought so. And?

ANTON

(German subtitled)

Meet our newest members.

Father Rudolf nods with a sigh.

FATHER RUDOLF

(German subtitled)

In that case, I'd better show them where we keep the supplies.

Anton stands. Sebastian and Leon follow Anton to the door. Anton turns as he opens the door.

ANTON

I'm Anton by the way. Dr. Anton Marinov.

SEBASTIAN

Sebastian Moreau.

LEON

Leon Duval at your service, comrade.

Anton looks at Leon, surprised, and exchanges a glance with Father Rudolf.

ANTON

And I trust you've met Father Rudolf?

Sebastian looks to Father Rudolf and gives him a nod of acknowledgment. Father Rudolf nods to Leon and Sebastian.

ANTON

Well gentlemen, shall we?

Leon and Sebastian follow Anton out of the room. Father Rudolf takes the maps and hides them in the compartment in the floor. He looks around the room to make sure everything is in order and exits the room.

INT CHURCH STORAGE ROOM NIGHT

Several nights later, Sebastian, Leon, and Nicolae are listening to their final orders from Anton before departing for their mission. Anton stands at the front of the room as he talks, Sebastian and Leon sit on two closed boxes, and Nicolae stands leaning against the wall.

ANTON

Once the bombs are loaded onto the track set the timer. Don't touch the timer until it's in place on the track. Understood?

Sebastian and Leon nod as Nicolae absentmindedly picks at a hangnail on his hand. Anton removes two maps from his pocket. He hands one to Sebastian to share with Leon and one to Nicolae.

ANTON

These maps are for your line and your line only. Take the back roads I marked and you shouldn't run into too much trouble.

Anton walks back to the front of the room. Father Rudolf enters through the door.

FATHER RUDOLF

(German subtitled)

The trucks are ready whenever you are.

ANTON

(German subtitled)

Good.

FATHER RUDOLF

(German subtitled)

Did you tell them about the drive back?

Anton looks anxiously at Sebastian and Leon then back to Father Rudolf.

ANTON

(German subtitled)

I was hoping Max would bend.

Father Rudolf shakes his head.

FATHER RUDOLF

(German subtitled)

The Lord himself doesn't have the time to change that one's mind.

Anton nods with a sigh.

ANTON

(German subtitled)

Nicolae?

Nicolae looks up.

ANTON

(German subtitled)

You're all set, unless you have any questions.

Nicolae shakes his head and walks to the door. Nicolae shakes Father Rudolf's hand.

NICOLAE

(German subtitled)

Thanks for the help, Father.

FATHER RUDOLF

(German subtitled)

Good Luck.

NICOLAE

(German subtitled)

Say a few prayers if you think of it.

Anton turns around, surprised.

ANTON

(German subtitled)

And since when are you such a believer?

Nicolae shrugs and exits into the hallway. Anton watches Nicolae leave in disbelief.

ANTON

(German subtitled)

I never will figure him out.

Anton turns back to Sebastian and Leon.

FATHER RUDOLF

(German subtitled)

(Under his breath) Maybe because you haven't tried.

Anton turns to Father Rudolf and starts to say something to him, but Father Rudolf exits through the door. Anton turns back to Sebastian and Leon.

ANTON

As for you two, there's been one slight change of plans.

LEON

How slight?

Anton anxiously scratches at the back of his neck.

ANTON

Everything up to putting on the timer is the same.

SEBASTIAN

And the way back?

Anton stops scratching at his neck and forces a weak smile.

ANTON

How well can you two ride bikes?

Sebastian and Leon turn to each other and back to Anton.

LEON

You've gotta' be kidding me.

SEBASTIAN

What about the truck?

ANTON

We have the truck but the owner doesn't want to chance it being traced back to our network.

LEON

So...

Anton sighs.

ANTON

So, you'll have to drop off the truck at a designated location after you leave the tracks. There will be a pair of bicycles waiting for you to take the rest of the way.

Leon

What do we look like, boy scouts?!

SEBASTIAN

What are we supposed to say if the cops drive by?

Leon pretends to be riding a bicycle.

LEON

Hello officer. Nice evening for a jaunt on the old bike isn't it?

ANTON

It's the best I could do! (Pause) There's a path through the woods; if you take that you'll be off the road and get back in half the time. (Pause) Alright?

Leon shakes his head in disbelief as Sebastian stands.

SEBASTIAN

It'll have to be.

Sebastian and Leon exit through the door.

ANTON

(Calling after them) Good Luck!

Anton anxiously watches them leave, and walks through the door into the hallway.

INT TRUCK NIGHT

Leon is driving a truck provided by a local resistance member. Sebastian is sitting in the passenger's seat reading the map aloud.

SEBASTIAN

Then it looks like you take another left...

EXT ROAD NIGHT

The truck continues down the countryside road then stops and turns off its lights as it approaches a set of train tracks. Sebastian and Leon exit the vehicle, but leave it running. They lift a large box from the back of the truck, and remove a time bomb from the box. They place the bomb onto the tracks. Sebastian takes a rope from his pocket and ties the bomb to the tracks.

SEBASTIAN

(Whispering) Get back behind the wheel. I've got this from here.

LEON

(Whispering) You sure?

SEBASTIAN

(Whispering) Just get going!

Leon reluctantly climbs back into the truck as Sebastian finishes tying down the bomb. Sebastian stops as he hears a stick breaking behind him and grabs a gun from his jacket. He raises the gun as he turns around and sees a rabbit run by. He breathes a sigh of relief and puts the gun away. He turns back to the tracks, puts on the bomb's timer, and rushes into the truck. The truck turns around and drives back the way it came.

INT TRUCK NIGHT

Leon is driving as Sebastian reads the alternate route on the map. Sebastian tries to focus on the map as Leon laughs loudly.

LEON

A grown man scared of a goddamn rabbit!

Sebastian forces himself to focus on the map.

LEON

What were you gonna' do, hold his Easter eggs hostage?!

Leon continues laughing. Sebastian rolls up the map and smacks Leon over the head with it. Leon tries to grab the map from Sebastian while still looking at the road.

LEON

Give me that you son of a-

Leon and Sebastian pause as they see a checkpoint ahead of them.

LEON

Bitch.

EXT ROAD NIGHT

The truck continues down the road to a checkpoint where several officers are waiting. The truck comes to a stop at the checkpoint. One of the officers approaches the driver's side window.

CHECKPOINT OFFICER

(German subtitled)

What are you two doing out at this hour?

Leon gives Sebastian a panicked look.

SEBASTIAN

(German subtitled)

I'm sorry officer, but my brother lost most of his hearing in the blitz while he was fighting in France.

CHECKPOINT OFFICER

(German subtitled)

A veteran?

SEBASTIAN

(German subtitled)

I told him he should stay off the road, but he insists and-

The Checkpoint Officer shakes Leon's hand. Leon looks confused.

