

INSIGHT
(HELL ON EARTH)

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Based on, True Story of Klarisa Ananian

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OPENING TITLE SEQUENCE

EXT. ESTABLISHING SHOT: 1942 NOVOROSIYSK, HARBOR, RUSSIA.
DAY

SUPER: NOVOROSIYSK, RUSSIA

KLARISA ANANIAN V.O.

I remember the day the Germans
came, it was in the summer of 1942.
We lived near a harbor in
Novorossiysk. Me and my friends
were playing outside when we saw
the Nazi trucks coming, dozens of
them....

Caravans of German Military trucks and tanks descend the
curvy mountain roads into the harbor city.

INT. A SMALL ONE ROOM STRUCTURE MADE OF SALVAGED WOOD. DAY

KLARISA ANANIAN eight years old, skinny and awkward but
brimming with life. Her Mother, ANNA, blue eyes, beautiful
skin and hair serves a meager meal of fish and bread. ASHOT
early thirties, muscular build eats quickly from hunger.

ASHOT

The shoe factory laid off a hundred
workers today, Armen and I are
going to work on the fishing boats.
We have no choice.

His explanation is interrupted by the cries of his toddler
son EDDIE. Anna leans down and adjusts the bedding inside a
makeshift cardboard bed. Eddie's CRIES are interrupted by a
loud POUNDING on the front door. Before anyone can react, the
door is busted off it's hinges, SS SOLDIERS abruptly enter
terrifying the family. They brutally grab Ashot and force him
out into the street. SS CAPTAIN GUNTHER HERMAN, tall, blonde,
steely blue eyes stares at Ashot and asks questions in
German.

CAPTAIN HERMAN

Do you have your identification
papers? What nationality are you?
Are you a Jew?

Ashot stares back unsure but realizes they think he is Jewish. Tension mounts one of the SS Soldiers places a gun barrel to Ashot's head. Terrified he yells back in Russian.

ASHOT
I am not Jewish I am Armenian!

CAPTAIN HERMAN
You look Jewish!

Ashot pulls out his crucifix from around his neck and waves it in front of their faces. They still don't believe him forcing him down on to his knees. Ashot begs them in German.

ASHOT
Please don't kill me! I'm
Christian. I can prove it!

Captain Herman lets him get off his knee's. Ashot quickly pulls down his pants and shows them his uncircumcised penis. The tension quickly subsides the guns are withdrawn and Captain Herman starts to smile. Ashot smiles back relieved. Captain Herman commands his soldiers.

CAPTAIN HERMAN
Help his family onto the truck!

CUT TO:

EXT. LARGE ORNATE ESTATE OVERLOOKING THE MAIN HARBOR. DAY

A caravan of German military trucks pull up to the entrance of the home. Written in big red letters is the word JUDEN it crowns the entrance gates to the estate. Lying near the front door are the mutilated bodies of the Resident Family, HUSBAND, WIFE and TWO YOUNG CHILDREN spread prone on the floor in pools of blood. The soldiers quickly escort Anna, Klarisa and the baby into the home. An SS SOLDIER steps in front of Ashot blocking his path. Using his rifle he signals Ashot to help load the dead bodies onto the truck.

INT. ORNATE ESTATE HOME. DAY

The home is lavishly decorated and contains the trappings of a very affluent family. A group of FIVE SS OFFICERS have started to set up headquarters. Captain Herman enters they all stop to salute him.

OFFICERS
Hail Hitler!

CAPTAIN HERMAN

Hail Hitler!

Captain Herman turns to SERGEANT HANS GURLING, stocky, with a pit bull face.

CAPTAIN HERMAN (CONT'D)

Take the woman and baby into the kitchen and have her prepare supper for us. Have Officer Luxembourg and the child remove the family portraits from the walls.

SERGEANT GURLING

Yes Commandant immediately!

He grabs an empty box and hands it to OFFICER LUXENBOURG tall, dark hair, dark eyes, more benignant than the other officers.

OFFICER LUXEMBOURG

Ok sweetheart follow me.

Luxembourg heads towards the stairwell and begins to remove the family portraits from the walls. One by one he hands them to Klarisa as she carefully places them into the box. Another Officer rushes in and hands Klarisa a picture of Hitler. He points to an empty spot on the wall.

OFFICER

Hang this right there!

Klarisa fumbles trying to hang the picture. He leans in and helps her.

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. NOVOROSSIYSK HARBOR CITY CENTER. DAY

GERMAN SOLDIERS are herding the CITIZENS onto large military trucks. Many REFUGEES with different colored triangles sewed into their clothing are forced onto the trucks. Ashot and his muscular friend ARMEN are standing near a truck overloaded with REFUGEES marked with the Star of David. Captain Herman and his officers keep a keen eye on the operation. An OLD MAN on one of the trucks is frustrated he rebels and starts a skirmish disrupting the cramped occupants. Captain Herman signals a soldier to kill the man. A soldier violently pulls the old man out and shoots him in the head. Sergeant Gurling looks over to Ashot and Armen.

SERGEANT GURLING

Schnell!

Ashot and Armen run over and move the body to a nearby ditch.

ARMEN

God help us!

ASHOT

(In Armenian)

You know they are going to kill all these people on the truck. Where is God?

FADE TO:

INT. ORNATE ESTATE HOME. NIGHT

Ashot and Anna are staying in the servants' room adjacent to the children's bedroom. Ashot plays a very somber tune on his mandolin. They have all their belongings packed into a suitcase and a couple of pillowcases. Anna serves her husband some tea from an old copper kettle with a spoon attached by wire. The spoon CLANGS against kettle as she pours him a cup.

ANNA

(Yells toward the bedroom)

Klarisa, come here!

INT. CHILDREN'S BEDROOM. NIGHT

The room is expertly kept, beds made up with toys and dolls placed neatly throughout the room. Klarisa sits on the bed playing with a rag doll she found in the room. She gets up and heads towards her parents.

CUT TO:

INT. SERVANTS' ROOM NIGHT.

KLARISA

(Excited)

Mama, look, can I keep it?

Anna holds little Eddie in her arms.

ANNA

Ashot, play something happy!

Ashot stops playing and gestures Klarisa to come over he brings her close and gives her a loving hug.

ASHOT
Yes, you can keep it!

Her eyes gleam with joy as Ashot breaks out a lively dance tune.

The family moment is again interrupted by the high pitch SQUEAL of truck brakes. Ashot puts down the mandolin and looks out the window.

ASHOT (CONT'D)
They're back! Klarisa go to the room. We need to rest SERGEANT Gurling said we are leaving for Warsaw early tomorrow.

FADE OUT.

EXT. ORNATE ESTATE HOME. DAY

The SS officers are packing up their cars and trucks and are getting ready to move out. Ashot loads his family and belongings into the back of the truck. We hear the CLANGING from the tea kettle as he loads the last bag. Inside the truck bed Klarisa cries snuggling up to her mother and clutching the rag doll. Anna hugs her daughter.

ANNA
Remember whatever happens the Virgin Mary will protect you.

KLARISA
I know Mama.

FADE TO:

EXT. WARSAW POLAND A SUB STATION ADJACENT TO THE PASSENGER TRAIN TERMINAL. DAY

A couple of small run-down buildings used to keep track of livestock coming through the cargo terminal are now manned by Nazi officers. Dozens of military trucks pull up and drop off REFUGEES slated to be transported to labor camps. Hundreds of families of different descents line up and wait to be shipped out on arriving cattle cars. Ashot and his family are in line waiting with their belongings. Ashot steps away to survey the situation and find a clean place for his family. Ashot scans the row of cattle cars. A few moments pass and he returns to rush them on the train.

ASHOT
Come on I found a clean place
follow me!

He grabs a suitcase and realizes he needs to do two loads.

ASHOT (CONT'D)
Klarisa stay right here, I'm going
to take mamma and the baby. I'll be
right back, Ok sweetheart?

KLARISA
Okay Papa!

Ashot secures his Wife and Baby on the train and turns to retrieve Klarisa. People begin to push and shove as the soldiers command them onto the train. Ashot fights to exit the cattle car. A SOLDIER spots him trying to get off.

SOLDIER
Hey, you get back on the train!

Ashot continues to exit heading for Klarisa. The soldier raises his rifle.

ASHOT
I have to get my daughter she's
right there!

The soldier fires a warning shot above his head.

SOLDIER
Everyone on the train now!

He points the gun straight at Ashot's head. Ashot is stunned, he turns back still looking towards Klarisa. Klarisa stares back confused. The train starts to slowly pull away. Klarisa starts to cry. She screams out terrified.

KLARISA
Mama! Papa! Come back, don't leave
me!

She clutches the rag doll sobbing as she watches the train leave the station.

ASHOT
(Yelling)
I'm going to come and get you!

Anna panics she screams in horror.

ANNA
Stop the train, my daughter!

Ashot hugs Anna, tears well up in his eyes.

ASHOT

I'm going to find her! I know it.

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. WARSAW POLAND. A SUB STATION ADJACENT TO THE PASSENGER TRAIN TERMINAL. NIGHT

Hours have gone by, the train station is empty. Klarisa sits on a bench surrounded by the remainder of her family's belongings. In the distance she hears the RUMBLE of more military trucks nearing the station. As the trucks roll in we notice they are packed with REFUGEES marked with Stars of David or different colored triangles sewed into their clothing. The station begins to get crowded as people are unloaded and herded onto the arriving trains. A young woman notices Klarisa alone and sobbing. ELLA BERNSTEIN, Elegant, 29 years old, Red hair, green eyes, milk white skin. A bright white star is sewed into her expensive sweater.

ELLA

Where are your parents? Why are you here alone?

KLARISA

(Whimpers)

I don't know. The soldiers took them away on a train and left me here. Are you the Virgin Mary?

ELLA

No, sweetie. My name is Ella Bernstein. You can stay with me until we find your parents.

KLARISA

(Sobbing)

Thank you.

Ella reaches into her dress pocket and pulls out a piece of chocolate.

ELLA

You must be hungry. Here, have some candy.

Famished Klarisa quickly eats the candy.

ELLA (CONT'D)
 Is this all your stuff? I don't
 think we can carry it all.

The soldiers begin to usher people onto the train cars.

ELLA (CONT'D)
 We have to hurry sweetie, just get
 your clothes and what you need, the
 rest has to stay.

The crowd is now being forced to hurry. Klarisa places a few items in her pillowcase, she grabs hold of the rag doll. The crowd swarms as Klarisa and Ella are swallowed up by the multitude of prisoners.

CUT TO:

INT. BARRACKS MONOWITZ CONCENTRATION CAMP 85 MILES AWAY FROM
 AUSCHWITZ. NIGHT

Inside the cold and overcrowded barracks Ashot wanders around. He approaches different MEN asking where the trains in Warsaw were going. He approaches an OLDER GENTLEMAN.

ASHOT
 I was told you worked at the Warsaw
 station?

OLDER GENTELMAN
 Yes, for three months.

ASHOT
 My daughter was separated from us
 at the Sub station.

OLDER GENTELMAN
 What time did you get to the
 station?

ASHOT
 Nine am.

The old man's eyes glaze over.

OLDER GENTELMAN
 More than likely she got mixed up
 with the Jews. I'm sorry to say she
 was taken to Auschwitz for
 extermination.

(MORE)

OLDER GENTELMAN (CONT'D)
 If you are going to find her, you
 must leave soon. They won't kill
 her without a tattoo. But she could
 starve to death.

ASHOT
 (Overwhelmed)
 How am I going to get there?

OLDER GENTELMAN
 Once a week the Gestapo come
 through looking for workers to go
 to Auschwitz, you must volunteer.

FADE OUT.

EXT. MONOWITZ CONCENTRATION CAMP. DAY

Ashot and Anna meet at a barbed wire fence separating the men
 and women's barracks.

ASHOT
 Are they feeding you?

ANNA
 They have us working in the fields,
 so it's oranges for breakfast and
 potatoes for dinner.

ASHOT
 I found out Klarisa is in Auschwitz
 I have to get her out of there.

Anna starts to sob.

ANNA
 Please find her, bring my baby back
 to me. Please God help us!

Ashot is angry and frustrated.

ASHOT
 I don't think God cares but don't
 worry somehow I'll find her and
 bring her back.

ANNA
 Don't say that! You're alive
 because I pray for you.

One of the camp guards spots Ashot talking to Anna, he yells
 loudly from across the field.

GUARD
Hey you! Get back over here!

ASHOT
I better go, take care of my son. I
will be back.

Anna, crying now makes the sign of the cross.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. MENS BARRACKS MONOWITZ CONCENTRATION CAMP. DAY

The barrack door SLAMS open we hear the SOUND of Gestapo boots on the floorboards as they abruptly enter the room. Ashot quickly wakes up and puts on his shoes. He reaches into his pillowcase and pulls out a golden medallion kissing it and placing it around his neck. GESTAPO COMMANDANT MULLER Evil incarnate, leads three of his SOLDIERS into the barracks.

COMMANDANT MULLER
Achtung!! We need five strong men,
everyone stand up, please!

The soldiers quickly move around the barracks making sure the thirty or so men are all standing. Ashot stands at attention flexing his muscles. COMMANDANT Muller, inspecting the men, makes his way to Ashot.

ASHOT
(Meekly)
I'll go.

Commandant Muller turns and looks surprised.

COMMANDANT MULLER
What did you say?

ASHOT
I will go.

Commandant Muller smiles amused by his courage.

COMMANDANT MULLER
Did you hear that boys he wants to
help us!

The Soldiers all smile they can't believe it, no one ever wants to go.

COMMANDANT MULLER (CONT'D)
Well, alright then.

Commandant Muller points at Ashot and FOUR OTHER MEN.

COMMANDANT MULLER (CONT'D)
You, you, you and you come with us.

Ashot grabs his belongings and follows them out.

CUT TO:

AUSCHWITZ EXTERMINATION CAMP. DAY

Commandant Muller rides in his convertible Mercedes Sedan along with other GESTAPO OFFICERS, he is flanked by two military trucks full of LABORERS. In the distance Ashot can see the rear entrance to the camp. Barbed wire surrounds a large field, smokestacks from giant ovens spew out black smoke. Ashot turns to one of the TERRIFIED LABORERS.

ASHOT
Do you smell that? It's the smell
of burning flesh.

As they get closer we notice workers carting out dead skeletal bodies from the gas chambers to the ovens. As the trucks approach the laborers in the back of the truck are nauseated by the smell of dead bodies, a few start to vomit, others use their clothing to mask the smell. The trucks stop about a hundred yards from the ovens. Commandant Muller and his cronies branch off the road and enter the camp through it's main entrance. A few Soldiers wearing surgical masks exit the trucks brandishing their weapons. Officer Shultz, heavy set with a piggish face, directs the group

OFFICER SHULTZ
Everyone out of the truck! Schnell!

The prisoners are terrified, no one moves. The soldier fires a warning shot. The men quickly exit the truck bed a few still refuse. The soldier walks up and shoots one of them in the head.

OFFICER SHULTZ (CONT'D)
Anyone else want to stay on the
truck?

The stragglers quickly exit. Ashot and a few others stand at attention. In the distance, we see a MASKED, ARMED SOLDIER in a gray uniform. He supervises the other laborers moving the dead bodies. Officer Shultz signals for the man in the gray uniform.

OFFICER SHULTZ (CONT'D)
 You see the man in the gray uniform
 you report to him! Go to him now
 Schnell!

The men slowly begin to make their way towards the gas chambers.

CUT TO:

INT. AUSCHWITZ CONCENTRATION CAMP WOMEN'S BARRACKS. NIGHT

Klarisa And Ella are sitting on the floor, bundled up in one of the corners of the barracks.

ELLA
 Are you hungry sweetie?

Klarisa meekly nods yes.

ELLA (CONT'D)
 I'm going to give you some bread
 but don't let anyone see you eat
 it, understand?

Klarisa nods again. Ella slowly reaches into her coat pocket and hands Klarisa a small piece of bread. Klarisa turns facing the wall and quickly chews the stale bread. A few of the women in the barrack begin to hum a Yiddish folk tune. We hear a hand accordion begin to play the melody as the women begin to sing in unison. Ella stands up and in a beautiful commanding voice takes the lead. The mood in the barracks changes bringing a little tranquility to the unbearable situation. Klarisa looks up to Ella in awe as she crescendos through the lyrics. The barrack door slams open Officer Shultz enters accompanied by another soldier. The women stop singing. Officer Shultz approaches Ella.

OFFICER SHULTZ
 Ella Bernstein, come with me !

Klarisa grabs her dress trying to stop her from leaving.

ELLA
 It's alright sweetie I will be
 right back.

Klarisa starts to cry but releases her grasp. Ella is lead away as the door slams shut behind them.

CUT TO:

INT. GESTAPO HEADQUARTERS AUSCHWITZ CONCENTRATION CAMP. DAY

Officer Shultz leads Ella and THREE YOUNG BLONDE GIRLS dressed in sleepwear down the hallway towards the officers lounge. Officer Shultz turns to address Ella. Ella's piercing green eyes size him up.

OFFICER SHULTZ
Fräulein Bernstein I must ask your cooperation? Commandant Muller has asked for your company.

Ella looks back at the three young girls

ELLA
You promise me Officer Shultz these girls get fed and I will make your beloved Commandant very happy!

Officer Shultz signals to his SOLDIER.

OFFICER SHULTZ
Get these girls some food!

Officer Shultz opens the door to the officers Lounge. Through the doorway we see a GROUP OF SOLDIERS with uniforms unbuttoned and partially disrobed. Taking shots and smoking cigarettes the soldiers are in a very gregarious mood. They all turn to stare at Ella and the girls.

CUT TO:

EXT. AUSCHWITZ EXTERMINATION CAMP GAS CHAMBER. DAY

Dead gassed bodies are piled onto a large cart and transported from the gas chambers to the ovens. Ashot wearing a mask and gloves is accompanied by SIX OTHER WORKERS. Ashot uses dental pliers to remove the gold caps from the emaciated bodies. He pulls hard and a cap pops off, he places the gold cap into a small black bag tied around his waist. From the distance we see Officer Shultz approach the ovens with a couple of his SOLDIERS in tow.

OFFICER SHULTZ
(Shouting)

Golden Boy!

Ashot reluctantly looks up.

ASHOT
 (Under his tongue)
 Son of Satan!

Ashot puts down the pliers and walks over to Shultz.

OFFICER SHULTZ
 My Golden boy what do you have for
 me today?

Ashot pulls down his mask and then hands Shultz the black bag full of gold. Shultz opens the bag and smiles.

OFFICER SHULTZ (CONT'D)
 Very impressive Ananian!

Ashot pulls out a black and white picture of Klarisa he hands the picture to Shultz. Shultz glances at the picture.

OFFICER SHULTZ (CONT'D)
 What's this?

ASHOT
 Please Commandant Shultz, it's a
 picture of my daughter she was
 mistakenly put in the camp. Could
 you please find her?

OFFICER SHULTZ
 I can't guarantee you but I will
 see what I can do.

Shultz slides the picture into his coat pocket. Ashot puts on the mask and gloves and returns to the gas chamber.

CUT TO:

EXT. AUSCHWITZ EXTERMINATION CAMP. DAY

It has snowed the night before, Klarisa has wandered outside of the women's barracks, she starts down the row of barbed wire fencing. She begins to notice emaciated dead bodies buried in the snow. Klarisa approaches the end of the building and stops at the restricted area entrance. The guard is bundled up and asleep as she walks by unnoticed. About a hundred yards away Ashot works sifting through ashes. Just as she is about to turn and see him, Ella yells out.

ELLA
 Klarisa come here!

Klarisa turns and steps out of frame. Ashot feeling something looks up towards her but sees nothing. Klarisa walks back and meets Ella at the barrack's door.

ELLA (CONT'D)
Come inside sweetie it's dangerous
for you to be out here.

KLARISA
I was looking for my parents maybe
they are here somewhere?

ELLA
I know you miss your family but
there are very sick people here,
and if you get too close to them
you can get sick too. Do you
understand?

Klarisa nods and follows Ella back into the building.

CUT TO:

INT. AUSCHWITZ EXTERMINATION CAMP COMMANDANT MULLER'S OFFICE.
NIGHT

Commandant Muller sits at his desk going through his
paperwork. He picks up the phone and dials.

COMMANDANT MULLER
I need to send a message!

He slams the phone down as a YOUNG SOLDIER with pen and pad
enters the office.

YOUNG SOLDIER
Yes Commandant I am ready for the
message!

COMMANDANT MULLER
The message is for SS Commandant
Rudolf Hoess. The message is as
follows.... Dear revered
Commandant Hoess The Jewish problem
is solved, SS Reichsfuhrer Himmler
will be very pleased to hear we
have completed engineering and
construction of the new facility.
We will be in full operation within
twenty four hours.

(MORE)

COMMANDANT MULLER (CONT'D)

Please note the numbers will double from four thousand to eight thousand and in time an expected outcome of twelve thousand a day. All three Auschwitz locations will be working at full capacity. Hail Hitler. Your Loyal comrade, Commandant Ludwig Muller. End Message.

The young soldier steps backwards turns and quickly leaves. Sergeant Shultz stands at the open door.

OFFICER SHULTZ

Commandant Muller do you have a moment?

COMMANDANT MULLER

Yes, Officer Shultz what is it?

Commandant Muller gets up and puts on his Gestapo overcoat and military hat.

OFFICER SHULTZ

It is about Ella Bernstein Commandant?

Shultz hesitates not sure of himself. Muller picks up on it.

COMMANDANT MULLER

(Smiling)

It is quite a shame Officer Shultz, beautiful woman like her. Juden blood there is nothing we can do?

Muller heads for the door.

COMMANDANT MULLER (CONT'D)

Go ahead and give her what she wants, it will be their last meal.

CUT TO:

INT. AUSCHWITZ CONCENTRATION CAMP. WOMEN'S BARRACKS. NIGHT

Ella and Klarisa and two of the young blonde girls are huddled up together on the floor.

EXT. AUSCHWITZ CONCENTRATION CAMP. WOMEN'S BARRACKS. NIGHT

Officer Shultz stands at the entrance to the barracks with one arm around a paper bag, he pulls out the black and white picture of Klarisa from his overcoat and glances at it as he enters the barracks.

INT. AUSCHWITZ CONCENTRATION CAMP WOMEN'S BARRACKS. NIGHT

Officer Shultz enters and walks up to Ella and Klarisa he looks down at Klarisa to get a good look at her. Ella stands up to greet him.

ELLA

Good evening Sergeant Shultz!

OFFICER SHULTZ

Fräulein Bernstein compliments of
Commandant Muller.

Shultz hands her the paper bag with bread and vegetables.

ELLA

Thank you very much Sergeant, we
all appreciate your generosity.

Officer Shultz looks down at Klarisa specifically her arms.

OFFICER SHULTZ

This young girl, is she related to
you?

ELLA

She is not related to me she
shouldn't be in here!

OFFICER SHULTZ

Nichtjude?

Officer Shultz changes his demeanor.

OFFICER SHULTZ (CONT'D)

(Raising his voice)

Attention ! Attention Ladies! The
camp has had an outbreak of
disease. Tomorrow morning you
ladies are scheduled to take a
hygienic shower this is for
everyone's safety.

Officer Shultz turns and marches out the door.

EXT. AUSCHWITZ EXTERMINATION CAMP OVENS. DAY

Ashot is bent over using a metal screen to sift through the ashes from one of the ovens. A few moments go by and he is able to extract a couple of gold fillings. He looks up to see Shultz from the distance waving him over. Ashot thinking he might have news of his daughter, quickly drops the screen and runs over.

ASHOT

Hello Commandant Shultz, did you find my daughter?

OFFICER SHULTZ

No, not yet but I will be going to visit the other barracks at stations two and three in the next couple of days.

Ashot pulls out his black gold bag and hands it to Shultz.

ASHOT

Thank you, Commandant. I will be waiting for the good news!

Officer Shultz pulls out a pack of cigarettes and offers one up.

OFFICER SHULTZ

Go ahead Golden Boy, take one for later.

Ashot reaches out and takes one placing it in his pocket.

ASHOT

Thank you, Commandant!

Ashot turns and heads back to the pile of ashes and begins sifting for gold.

EXT. AUSCHWITZ CONCENTRATION CAMP WOMEN'S BARRACKS. DAY

Officer Shultz and FOUR SOLDIERS march through the snow and mud towards the women barracks. The Four Soldiers enter abruptly.

INT. AUSCHWITZ CONCENTRATION CAMP WOMEN'S BARRACKS: DAY

The Soldiers stand at strategic spots inside the barracks.
Officer Shultz enters.

OFFICER SHULTZ

Attention! Attention ladies! Its
time to go everybody line up in the
center isle.

The woman start to gather in the center isle. Officer Shultz
walks over to Klarisa and Ella he waves one of his Soldiers
to his side. Shultz leans over and whispers into the
Soldier's ear. Ella begins to move with the others Klarisa
grips her skirt to follow along. The soldier leans in and
stops Klarisa.

SOLDIER

You have to stay here!

Klarisa starts to cry, she grips Ella's skirt tighter.

ELLA

It's alright sweetie I'll take a
shower and I will come right back.

KLARISA

But why can't I take a shower too?

The soldier gets angry and kicks Klarisa away from Ella.
Klarisa falls back hitting her head. He gives Ella a quick
push into the line.

SOLDIER

Schnell!

Klarisa sobs as she watches the room empty out.

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. AUSCHWITZ EXTERMINATION CAMP GAS CHAMBER. DAY

A few men in gray uniforms supervise Ashot and four other
workers as they remove the bodies from the gas chamber. Ashot
and another worker carry Ella's lifeless body from the gas
chamber and load it onto a cart. Ashot notices how beautiful
she was. He stares at her as tears well up in his eyes.
Breaking down emotionally, he starts to back away from the
cart, he falls to his knees giving up. An armed German
soldier notices what's happening and starts towards Ashot
pointing his rifle.

SOLDIER
Hey you! Get back to work.

Ashot does not respond. The soldier places the rifle to his head.

SOLDIER (CONT'D)
I said back to work!

Ashot stares back stoic. The soldier cocks his rifle. From the distance Officer Shultz yells out.

OFFICER SHULTZ
Halt!

The soldier backs off. Officer Shultz sends another soldier in to escort Ashot back to the ash pile to continue sifting for gold.

CUT TO:

INT. AUSCHWITZ CONCENTRATION CAMP WOMEN'S BARRACKS. DAY

A few hours have gone by and the Barracks are now empty. Klarisa sits alone at an old wood burning stove whose fire is about to die. She gets up and decides to take a look outside.

CUT TO:

EXT. AUSCHWITZ CONCENTRATION CAMP WOMEN'S BARRACKS. DAY

Klarisa looks down the isle of barbed wire fencing and sees black smoke bellowing from the ovens on a backdrop of blood red skies. Klarisa holds up her rag doll and begins talking to it.

KLARISA
Alright Lucy, let's see if we can
find Papa?

She makes her way down the row of barbed wire and naively passes by the sleeping guard. Entering the restricted area she can now see the gas chamber and ovens. Ashot is bent over sifting through the ashes using a wire screen. Klarisa looks at Ashot but doesn't recognize him because of the handkerchief covering his face. Ashot stands up and removes the handkerchief.

KLARISA (CONT'D)
Papa! Papa!

Ashot looks over and sees Klarisa, he cant believe his eyes. He quickly drops everything and runs towards her.

SOLDIER

Now where is he going? Hey! Come back here!

Officer Shultz looks over and sees their reunion.

Ashot joyously yells out to Shultz.

ASHOT

Commandant, my daughter, it's my daughter!

Officer Shultz makes his way to where they are, he opens a nearby gate and lets Klarisa come through. Klarisa jumps into Ashot's arms they kiss and hug each other ecstatically.

KLARISA

Papa! I knew you would find me!

OFFICER SHULTZ

Take her to your barracks and hide her, no one can know, understand?

ASHOT

Yes, Commandant. Thank you!

Ashot holding Klarisa's hand make their way back to Ashot's barracks.

OFFICER SHULTZ

Keep her out of sight. Tomorrow you will go to work at our Stuttgart camp.

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. TWO LANE GRAVEL ROAD TWENTY MILES OUT OF AUSCHWITZ. DAY

A two lane road separated by a row of trees and bushes. One side of the road travels North while the other South. The snow and mud make the road difficult to transverse. The military truck Ashot and Klarisa are in has staled and is pulled over on the inside of the road. Ashot is working under the hood as the soldiers watch attentively. Just on the other side of the bushes, separating the road, are Anna and Eddie. They are walking in the opposite direction within a group of THIRTY WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

The group is lead and flanked by German trucks, a couple of foot soldiers keep an eye out as they slowly march through the snow and mud. Ashot, standing on the trucks front bumper looks through the bushes and sees the group of women heading towards him. Thinking nothing of it he continues working on the truck's engine. Anna struggles carrying Eddie and her few remaining possessions. Tied to a sack slung over her shoulder is the tea kettle with wired spoon. We hear it TINGLE as she maneuvers down the road. Ashot on the other side of the bushes hears the familiar TINGLE coming from the kettle.

ASHOT

Oh my God!

He looks through bushes and see, his Wife and Son.

ASHOT (CONT'D)
(Yelling out)

Anna! Anka!

Anna looks up and sees Ashot through the bushes standing on the truck bumper.

ANNA

Ashot?

Ashot joyously slams the hood down and jumps to the ground . He calls to one of the soldiers and points to the bushes.

ASHOT

My wife and son are there! Can I go get them?

The soldier looks back puzzled.

SOLDIER

What about the truck?

ASHOT

Truck is good!

The soldier signals the truck driver to try and start it. Ashot makes his way through the bushes. The soldier follows pointing his rifle.

SOLDIER

Hey, where you going? Come back here!

On the other side of the bushes Ashot is hugging Anna and kissing the baby. The soldier nearly trips as he makes his way through the bushes, upset he points the rifle.

SOLDIER (CONT'D)
Get back to the truck!

ASHOT
Please Captain, let my family come
too!

Just as Ashot finishes the sentence we hear the GROWL of the diesel motor come to life. Ashot smiles.

ASHOT (CONT'D)
I fixed it!

The soldier changes his demeanor and lowers his rifle.

SOLDIER
Alright hurry up!

Ashot grabs the sack off her shoulder and the kettle TINGLES again. They both smile as they make their way back to the truck.

CUT TO:

EXT. TWO LANE GRAVEL ROAD TWENTY MILES OUT OF AUSCHWITZ. DAY

The German Military truck plows through the snow and mud at close to forty miles per hour down the gravel road. Inside the rear of the truck are approximately TWENTY PEOPLE. Ashot, Anna, Klarisa and Eddie are huddled up together in a corner of the truck. Anna hugs and kisses Klarisa Ashot does the same to Eddie.

KLARISA
Papa where are we going?

ASHOT
We are going to Stuttgart Germany
to work at the Damlier Benz
factory. We will be good, Germany
has all the food.

Ashot quickly pulls out the medallion and kisses it. Anna notices what he just did, she looks back at him quizzically. Ashot still isn't sure about God but he gives in to Anna.

ASHOT (CONT'D)
Alright, Thank God!

Anna ecstatically hugs and kisses Ashot.

FADE TO BLACK.

SUPERIMPOSED:

EIGHTEEN MONTHS LATER.

EXT. STUTTGART GERMANY LABOR CAMP BEHIND MERCEDES PLANT. DAY

ESTABLISHING SHOT: The labor camp barracks are behind the factory flanked by fruit orchards. It's a hot day as the female workers toil in the fields picking fruit.

INT. LABOR CAMP BARRACKS. DAY

Ashot is dancing and playing his mandolin as the barracks' occupants gather round for the show. He strums the Mandolin as Anna breaks out singing a Russian song. Klarisa now a little older has gained weight and filled out. She Dances around holding hands with her brother Eddie.

CUT TO:

EXT. LABOR CAMP BARRACKS. DAY

Camp Guard OFFICER KRAUSE brown hair and green eyes, face pot marked with scars. He hears the MUSIC and decides to check things out. He turns and heads toward the barracks.

INT. LABOR CAMP BARRACKS. DAY

Officer Krause enters the barracks quietly and unnoticed. From a distance he stares at Klarisa dancing and spinning around.

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. LABOR CAMP APPLE ORCHARD. DAY

About TWENTY WOMEN are working in the fields picking apples. Anna, Klarisa and Klarisa's twelve year old friend GAYANNE are working in an area close to the barracks. Klarisa and Gayanne are wearing beautiful Sundresses. They run around chasing each other down the isles of trees.

ANNA

Klarisa don't go too far!

Klarisa nods but keeps running as Gayanne follows giggling. They come to a restricted area of the orchard. Barbed wire separates a group of mature trees loaded with large, bright, red apples. Klarisa and Gayanne crawl through a small break in the barbed wire. Klarisa jumps trying to grab an apple. With no luck she turns to climb the tree.

GAYANNE

Klarisa! I don't think you should do that!

Klarisa makes her way up the trunk and crawls out on one of the branches.

KLARISA

Don't worry Gayanne, just catch the apples!

From a distance Officer Krause sees Klarisa on the tree.

OFFICER KRAUSE

Hey! You! Get out of there!

He runs towards the girls.

GAYANNE

Get down Klarisa, he's coming!

Klarisa is stuck she tries to crawl backwards but almost falls off the tree.

KLARISA

Go get my Mom, hurry!

Gayanne runs away just as Officer Krause approaches. Klarisa looks down at Officer Krause.

KLARISA (CONT'D)

I'm sorry please don't kill me!

OFFICER KRAUSE

I'm not going to kill you. Come down from there!

KLARISA

I can't, I'm stuck.

Officer Krause reaches up and can almost touch her.

OFFICER KRAUSE

Don't be afraid, slide down the
branch. I will catch you if you
fall.

Klarisa shimmies down low enough where Krause has placed his
hand onto her buttocks. He fixates on her legs and underwear.

CUT TO:

EXT. LABOR CAMP APPLE ORCHARD. DAY

Gayanne, excited and winded, runs up to where Anna is
working.

GAYANNE

Auntie Anna, Klarisa is stuck in a
tree and a guard caught her!

Anna looks around and see's another guard standing nearby.

ANNA

Let's wait for this guard to leave
then you show me where she is.

CUT TO:

EXT. LABOR CAMP APPLE ORCHARD. DAY

Officer Krause has his pants off and is now on top of
Klarisa. He humps on her a few last times and gets off of
her. Krause pulls up his pants he looks down at Klarisa and
notices she is unconscious. He turns and walks away buckling
his belt. Anna and Gayanne hide behind some trees waiting for
him to leave. When out of sight, Anna and Gayanne run to
Klarisa's side. Anna kneels down and places her hands onto
Klarisa face. She notices a blood stain in Klarisa's crotch
area.

ANNA

Klarisa! Wake up! Mama's here!

GAYANNE

Is she dead?

Gayanne starts to cry.

ANNA

No, she just fainted.

Anna slaps Klarisa on the cheek and she finally comes to.

KLARISA

Mama?

ANNA

Yes sweetheart, I'm here. You are going to be alright. Gayanne, help me.

They help Klarisa to her feet.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Let's get you home, you need to lay down.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. LABOR CAMP BARRACKS. DUSK

DOCTOR GABRALIAN late forties heavy set with bushy eyebrows, he examines Klarisa's genitalia while Anna watches attentively.

DOCTOR GABRALIAN

Her hymen was torn the reason for the bleeding. But everything else looks alright. It will be sore for awhile so keep her off her feet a few days.

Anna covers Klarisa with a blanket and places the rag doll next to her. Klarisa takes the doll and hugs it.

ANNA

Take a nap sweetie.

Anna and the Doctor step back away from the bed.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Doctor Gabralian please keep this between us.

DOCTOR GABRALIAN

Absolutely!

ANNA

My husband knows nothing about this I'm afraid he'll kill that son of a bitch Krause.

DOCTOR GABRALIAN

Don't worry it will be our secret.

ANNA

Thank you Doctor for all your help!

CUT TO:

INT. DAIMLER BENZ FACTORY. NIGHT

The factory assembly line is buzzing with activity, hundreds of workers labor on machines, others struggle to keep up pace on the fast moving assembly lines. ARMED SOLDIERS are stationed throughout the factory keeping a watchful eye. Ashot perspiring works stretching leather onto a row of aircraft seats. Across the way is SIMON short, balding, good natured. He's wearing a stripped uniform with a Star of David sewed onto his sleeve. Simon struggles to get his stamping machine to work. OFFICER VOGEL, mid forties, looks like a rat, he notices the stop in work flow and approaches the worker.

OFFICER VOGEL

What's the problem?

SIMON

The machine isn't working I press the pedal, nothing happens!

OFFICER VOGEL

You stupid Jew!

The soldier grabs Simon by his arm and places his hand into the press. Holding his arm firmly in place, the soldier places his foot on the pedal.

OFFICER VOGEL (CONT'D)

You sure it doesn't work?

Simon is terrified. Ashot watching, hurries over.

ASHOT

Please Captain I can fix it!

The soldier stares into Ashot's eyes and then derepresses the pedal. The machine whirls, hesitates and then slams its piston down crushing Simon's hand. He screams out in pain as air raid sirens begin to WAIL. The factory goes silent as everyone stops working. They all look up and wait to hear if the bombs are coming. Officer Vogel's mood changes from angry to scared. Ashot, ignoring the sirens, rushes over and wraps up Simon's hand with a rag. Suddenly, the lights on one end of the factory start to go out and like a domino effect take the factory to darkness.

CUT TO:

EXT. ARIEL SHOT DAIMLER BENZ FACTORY. NIGHT

The last few lights go out placing the whole facility in darkness.

FADE OUT.

EXT. LABOR CAMP BARRACKS. DAY

It's five a.m. The sun is just about to rise. The guards are ushering about thirty women and children out of the barracks and to the apple orchards. As they leave, other guards are walking the men back from the factory night shift. Anna, Klarisa and Eddie are accompanied by Gayanne and her Mother ERIN, dark hair, brown eyes, Armenian descent. They wave to Ashot as they make their way to the orchards. Ashot smiles and waves back as he enters the barracks.

CUT TO:

INT. LABOR CAMP BARRACKS. DAY

Ashot sits at the edge of his bunk and removes his shoes. On the other side of the barracks, in the Jewish section Ashot spots Simon with his bandaged hand. Simon recognizes Ashot and waves to him using his good hand. Ashot waves back, he sees Officer Vogel enter and confronts another guard sleeping on his watch. Ashot watches Vogel slap the guard and then walk him out of the barracks. Ashot lays down on the bunk bed falling asleep from exhaustion.

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. LABOR CAMP APPLE ORCHARD. DAY

The sun is about to set Anna and Erin are placing their apple baskets onto a cart. The soldiers are now rounding up the women to head back to the barracks. Officer Krause approaches Anna and Erin. Klarisa stares at him terrified.

OFFICER KRAUSE

Alright ladies time to go.

Anna takes Eddie by the hand, they all turn to leave when Officer Krause steps in and stops Anna.

OFFICER KRAUSE (CONT'D)

You wait here.

Anna hands Eddie off to Erin. Klarisa and Gayanne are terrified.

KLARISA

(In Russian)

Mama, don't go with him, he will
kill you!

ANNA

(In Russian)

He will kill me if I don't. Go with
Erin and Gayanne I will be alright,
don't worry. Go now!

Erin leads the children back to the barracks.

OFFICER KRAUSE

Please come with me.

Officer Krause leads Anna to an abandon barn set on a small
hill about fifty yards away.

INT. LABOR CAMP APPLE ORCHARD BARN. DAY

Krause partially closes the barn door behind them. He starts
to unbuckle his belt.

EXT. LABOR CAMP BARRACKS. DAY

Erin and the children are entering the barracks when Klarisa
turns and quickly heads back to the barn.

ERIN

Klarisa come back here!

Klarisa nears the barn and peeks through the partially open
door. Officer Krause struggles with Anna trying to pin her
down. Sitting on top of her he slaps her into submission.
Klarisa spots an old, rusted, iron skillet on the floor. Just
as Krause positions himself for penetration Klarisa runs,
grabs the skillet and with all her might strikes him on the
back of the head. Officer Krause's body goes limp.

KLARISA

Mama are you alive?

Anna pushes the unconscious Krause off of her, she rolls over
and gets on her feet.

ANNA

Klarisa what did you do? I think
you killed him.

KLARISA
I'm sorry Mama, I thought he was
killing you!

Klarisa starts to cry.

ANNA
Oh my God! What are we going to do?

Klarisa starts to cry louder.

ANNA (CONT'D)
Stop crying let me think!

Anna dusts herself off she leans over and grabs Krause's
wrist feeling for a pulse. A moment passes, she picks up the
skillet and grabs Klarisa by the hand.

ANNA (CONT'D)
Lets go, I know what to do!

CUT TO:

INT. LABOR CAMP BARRACKS. NIGHT

Klarisa sits in a wooden chair near her bunk bed. Anna has
dressed Klarisa in boy's clothing, using scissors she makes
the final adjustment to Klarisa's new boy haircut.

ANNA
What's your name?

KLARISA
Klarisa.

ANNA
No!! You have to get it right, your
name is Harout!

KLARISA
Please Mama not Harout. What about
Michael?

ANNA
Alright Michael is good, just don't
forget if a guard wants to know
your name say Michael! You
understand?

KLARISA
Yes Mama, I understand. My name is
Michael.

Anna combs her hair and raises a broken piece of mirror for Klarisa to see herself. Klarisa looks at herself and begins to tear up. Anna smiles trying to hold back her laughter. Klarisa turns and looks at Anna who can't hold it anymore.

ANNA

(Laughing)

Don't worry, it will grow back. You make a very cute boy!

Klarisa smiles and they both start to giggle. Klarisa suddenly stops laughing.

KLARISA

Mama, I'm scared what if he's not dead? He's going to come and kill me.

ANNA

Don't be scared sweetie he doesn't know you did it. I just hope no one saw you go into the barn.

KLARISA

If I killed him, am I going to hell?

ANNA

Absolutely not! Officer Krause was a very bad man and you saved my life. You did good, sweetie I love you so much.

Anna in gratitude hugs and kisses Klarisa with all her being.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Tomorrow morning I start work in the factory. You stay with the baby and let Papa sleep. I will explain to him what happened, If he asks you what happened, tell him Officer Krause was going to kill me so you hit him on the head with the pan. Do you understand?

KLARISA

Yes, Mama, I understand.

Eddie, sleeping in the bunk next to them, wakes up and looks over to them. He stares at Klarisa very confused. Anna walks over and helps Eddie out of bed. He waddles over to Klarisa checking her out.

ANNA

Eddie this is your new brother
Michael!

Eddie reaches out asking Klarisa to take him in her arms.
Klarisa smiling picks him up hugging and kissing him.

CUT TO:

INT. DAIMLER BENZ FACTORY .DAY

The upholstery division of the factory. Dozens of women labor at sewing machines and cutting tables. Anna operates an old fashion, foot powered sewing machine. She lines up a stitch for a tattered and torn parachute. She pumps the machine and sews up the tear. Just as she cuts the thread, the air raid sirens start to WAIL. Again, the factory goes silent, the women look up waiting to hear planes coming or bombs falling. A few moments pass, nothing happens and the sirens go silent. Guards come around and order the women back to work.

CUT TO:

EXT. STUTTGART GERMANY DOWNTOWN. DAY

A battalion of THREE HUNDRED AMERICAN SOLDIERS infiltrate a city block of downtown Stuttgart. German soldiers are held up in various buildings throughout the street. American tanks roll up and begin to fire on a building across the way. LIEUTENANT COLONEL GUARDHOUSE New York Irish, red faced, no nonsense guy. Next to him is CAPTAIN RAMIREZ born in ELA, tough as nails.

LIEUTENANT GUARDHOUSE

Take Company B and surround the
back of that building, let's see if
we can flush those Nazi bastards
out.

CAPTAIN RAMERIZ

Yes sir, Colonel I'm on it!

Captain Ramirez takes about TEN SOLDIERS and heads towards the rear of the building. The Germans open fire with machine guns hitting a couple of American soldiers as they all scatter and head for cover.

Lieutenant Guardhouse ducks behind a tank.

LIEUTENANT GUARDHOUSE
 (Yells to Ramirez)
 Stay where you're at, I'm calling
 in artillery!

He gets on his radio to call in artillery support.

Alpha rover to fox trot three over!

ARTILLERYMAN VO.
 Go for fox trot three.

LIEUTENANT GUARDHOUSE
 Grid ES 923 945, fire for effect!
 Over

ARTILLERYMAN VO.
 Grid ES 923 945 firing for effect!

A barrage of shells hit the building blowing it to smithereens and silencing the German machine gun fire. Quartermaster GEORGE MARDIKIAN, mid-forties, handsome and formidable, approaches Lieutenant Guardhouse.

LIEUTENANT GUARDHOUSE
 Hello George!

GEORGE MARDIKIAN
 (Saluting)
 Colonel Guardhouse sir! My men have set up a mess tent behind a building about a hundred yards back.

LIEUTENANT GUARDHOUSE
 Very good George Thank you we appreciate your help.

George Mardikian turns and heads back to the mess tent. About fifty feet from the tent he notices a very young shell shocked AMERICAN SOLDIER sitting on the edge of a log with his helmet removed. George approaches him, lifts him on his feet from under his arm.

GEORGE MARDIKIAN
 Come with me son.

George walks him over to the mess tent where approximately ten chefs cook feverishly creating homemade meals for over three hundred soldiers. He walks the young soldier to an open spot at the table and orders a server to bring a meal.

The SERVER brings a turkey dinner with all the fixings. The young mans eyes light up as he digs in voraciously.

CUT TO:

INT. LABOR CAMP BARRACKS. DAY

Ashot is fast asleep snoring in his bunk. Klarisa and Eddie sit on the floor playing with some broken toys Klarisa has her rag doll sitting with them as they play. Gayanne walks down the barrack isle and approaches Klarisa.

GAYANNE

You look funny dressed as a boy.

Klarisa is not amused.

GAYANNE (CONT'D)

My Mom said we could play outside
as long as we stay close by.

Klarisa turns and looks at Ashot who's snoring away.

KLARISA

I guess it would be alright.

Klarisa grabs Eddie's hand and follows Gayanne outside.

EXT. LABOR CAMP BARRACKS. DAY

A barren field in front of the barracks. Gayanne, Klarisa and Eddie play kickball in a circle with THREE OTHER CHILDREN. Klarisa kicks the ball to Eddie who picks it up and runs away with it.

KLARISA

No Eddie! Kick it back.

From the distance we hear the DRONE of a squadron of Luftwaffe fighter planes. They approach quickly flying very low. Little Eddie drops the ball as he looks up to the planes flying overhead. The air raid sirens go off and start to WAIL. From a distance we see soldiers begin to usher the workers out of the factory and into nearby bomb shelters. Erin comes out of the barracks and leads the children into an underground bomb shelter fifty yards from the barracks.

ERIN

Come on children, let's go, hurry
up!

EXT. DAIMLER BENZ FACTORY. NIGHT

Anna and about thirty women laborers are lead out of the factory to a nearby bomb shelter. Anna and a few other women break off from the group and head for the barracks.

GUARD

Where are you going?

ANNA

To our children!

Anna from a distance sees Erin and the children enter the Bomb shelter, she breaks into a sprint towards them.

INT. BOMB SHELTER. DAY

The bomb shelter is a hole dug into the side of a hill it is approximately eight feet deep, fifteen feet wide by thirty feet long. Anna enters and approaches Erin and the children. Eddie runs up and hugs her scared by all the commotion. Anna looks over to Klarisa. From overhead we hear the ROAR of a squadron of B-52 bombers approaching.

ANNA

Where is your father?

KLARISA

He's still inside Mama!

In the distance, we hear the WHISTLE of bombs dropping from the sky.

EXT. BOMB SHELTER. DAY

Anna sprints back to the barracks and enters through the main entrance of the barracks.

INT. LABOR CAMP BARRACKS. DAY

Anna enters the barracks winded from sprinting, Ashot lies on the bunk fast asleep.

ANNA

Ashot wake up!

She leans over and gives him a quick shake , Ashot springs up in panic.

ASHOT
What? What happened?

A bomb falls and explodes near the barrack window. Ashot awake now realizes what's happening, he grabs Anna's hand and leads her out of the building.

CUT TO:

EXT. LABOR CAMP BARRACKS. DAY

A bomb has exploded destroying a section of the factory and setting everything ablaze. Ashot and Anna exit the barracks and run towards the bomb shelter. Just as they exit a bomb falls through the center of the barrack building and explodes. Ashot turns to see a fire burning inside the building, he turns around and heads back into the burning structure.

ANNA
Ashot! Where are you going? Come back here!

ASHOT
There are people still in there!

Ashot sprints back and enters the burning barracks.

INT. LABOR CAMP BARRACKS. DAY

The center of the structure is engulfed in flames. The bomb has left a giant hole in the roof. One of the remaining support beams is engulfed in flames. Ashot enters the building he looks down the center isle and sees Simon crawling using his elbows. Simon looks up through smoke sees Ashot.

SIMON
Ashot!

Ashot braves his way through the inferno of burning wood and collapsing roof structure. He approaches Simon helping him to his feet. Ashot lifts Simon over his shoulder and makes his way to the door. From back in the corner of the building we hear the SHOUTS of someone yelling out for help. Ashot sets Simon down on the ground outside of the barracks. He turns and heads back into the collapsing building. Officer Vogel is trapped and pinned down by a fallen wood beam.

OFFICER VOGEL
Help! Help, me please! I'm trapped!

Ashot tries to approach Officer Vogel but is stopped by a falling wood beam. Officer Vogel is now surrounded by flames. Ashot steps back.

OFFICER VOGAL
Please don't leave! Help me please!

Suddenly the main roof beam engulfed in flames breaks free and lands directly on Vogel crushing him to the ground. Ashot turns and heads for the exit. As he runs down the aisle, he grabs his sack with the tea kettle attached.

EXT. LABOR CAMP BARRACKS. DAY

Ashot comes barrelling out of the building just as the structure implodes . He runs through the field heading for the bomb shelter. Bombs explode on each side of him as he jumps feet first into the entrance of the shelter.

CUT TO:

INT. BOMB SHELTER. DAY

Ashot lands on his feet still holding on to the sack and kettle. Anna takes the sack out of his hand and hugs him.

ANNA
Are you alright?

ASHOT
I think so?

Ashot looks around the bomb shelter.

ASHOT (CONT'D)
Where are the guards?

KLARISA
They left! I saw them change their clothes.

Klarisa turns and points to the German uniforms piled up in the corner.

ASHOT
God Damn cowards! This means the Russians are here. We better go I don't want anything to do with those communist bastards. If they find us, they will kill us.

ANNA

Yes, but we were forced to work for them.

ASHOT

Do you think they care? They expect us to die before we help the Germans!

CUT TO:

EXT. BOMB SHELTER. DAY

Klarisa and Ashot have exited the shelter. From inside the shelter, Anna hands the baby to Ashot then climbs out onto the field. The factory has been hit with about a half dozen bombs. It burns in the background as Ashot and his family make their way to the main road.

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. STUTTGART GERMANY DOWNTOWN. NIGHT

A fly over traveling down the center of the street. Bombed out buildings are still smoldering. From the distance we see the street lampposts on fire lighting up the street like an airport runway. As we approach, we see Ashot and his family walking down the center of the street huddled together. Coming to street level, we notice an ELDERLY RUSSIAN SOLDIER blind in one eye. He is wrapping a torn up Nazi flag around a stick. He dips it into a vat of gasoline and lights it on fire. He turns with the makeshift torch and places the flames under the SS boot of a NAZI COMMANDER hanging by his neck from the lamp post. The gasoline soaked Commander explodes into a ball of flames. The burning street lamps are a row of German soldiers hanging by their necks engulfed in fire. Ashot and Anna cover their children's eyes as they walk quickly past the burning corpses.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF STUTTGART GERMANY. NIGHT

Ashot and family are a few miles out of the city limits . Most of the houses along the road have been destroyed or have been abandoned by their occupants. Exhausted from walking all day Ashot stops in front of an abandoned farmhouse.

KLARISA
Papa I'm hungry!

ASHOT
I know sweetie. I'll find us some
food.

Ashot looks over to the farmhouse and then back to Anna

ASHOT (CONT'D)
This is a good place to get some
rest. I'm going to go take a look,
wait here.

Ashot runs to the back of the farmhouse. He notices a kerosene lamp placed on the ground near the door. He lights the lamp and enters through the back door.

CUT TO:

INT. ABANDONED FARM HOUSE. NIGHT

The house has been ransacked, furniture toppled over, cabinet doors left open. Ashot clears a path to the front door he opens the door and waves Anna and the children to come in.

Anna, Klarisa and Eddie enter the house.

ASHOT
I'm going to check the kitchen for
some food.

Ashot enters the kitchen and begins checking the cabinets, he finds all of them are bare. He opens the pantry door to find more of the same. Frustrated he sets the kerosene lamp on the floor and falls to his hands and knees. His medallion hangs out of his shirt he grabs it and secures it back under his t-shirt. Looking down at the pantry floor he notices a gap in the wood floor. Pressing on a corner of the pantry floor a wood plank raises up exposing a secret compartment filled with canned food. He pulls out a couple of cans of beans.

ASHOT (CONT'D)
Anna come here I found some food.

Anna enters the kitchen with the children.

ANNA
Oh my God! Thank you Jesus!

Ashot looks around the kitchen and finds a wood burning stove.

ASHOT
I'll get some wood.

Anna finds a candle and lights it.

ANNA
I'll see if I can find a pot or something.

EXPLOSIONS and GUNFIRE can be heard outside near the house. Ashot turns off the kerosene lamp and Anna quickly blows out the candle.

ASHOT
(whispering)
No one make a sound!

FADE TO BLACK:

FADE IN:

INT. ABANDONED FARM HOUSE. NIGHT

Ashot and Anna have brought the kitchen to a somewhat better condition. The wood stove is now burning at full force. The children are laid out on blankets sleeping on the kitchen floor. Anna pours a cup a tea with her kettle.

ANNA
Where are we going to go? The food will run out in a couple of days.

ASHOT
We have to find out where the Armenians are? The workers at the camp said their were over two thousand Armenians working at Dauchau. All those people have to be somewhere around here?

ANNA
How are we going to find them? We don't even know where we are!

ASHOT
I saw an American jeep, tomorrow we ask the American soldiers. They will know where they are.

ANNA
I hope you're right!

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF STUTTGART GERMANY. MORNING

Ashot, Anna and children are walking on the side of a gravel road. It's a rural area with a few farms spread out throughout the locality. It is very quiet, all that's heard is the sound of their shoes CRUNCHING the gravel as they walk. Ashot hearing something suddenly stops.

ASHOT
Be quiet do you hear that?

ANNA
I don't hear anything!

ASHOT
Shush!

From the distance, we faintly hear the SQUEAKS and RUMBLE of tank tracks traveling on the road.

ASHOT (CONT'D)
Tanks are coming! We have to hide
if it's the Russians they will send
us to Siberia!

Ashot leads his family towards the nearest farm house. Approaching the rear of the house he looks for a storage cellar to hide in. He sees some large bushes between the house and the barn. Hidden between the bushes is a wooden trap door. He lifts the wooden door exposing a set of wooden steps leading to the storage cellar. Ashot leans in to take a look inside.

ASHOT (CONT'D)
Hello anyone in there?

Ashot hears some RUSTLING down from inside the cellar.

ASHOT (CONT'D)
I can hear you! Come out with your
hands up!

Ashot hears the VOICE of a YOUNG GERMAN SOLDIER.

YOUNG GERMAN SOLDIER
Please don't shoot, I'm unarmed!

We see the blonde, blue eyed teenager as he emerges from the darkness of the cellar.

ASHOT
It's alright, I'm not going to hurt
you. Come out of there!

The young soldier climbs out into the daylight wearing oversized civilian clothing.

ASHOT (CONT'D)
What's your name?

YOUNG GERMAN SOLDIER
Ludwig.

ASHOT
My name is Ashot.

Ludwig extends his hand. Ashot firmly shakes hands.

LUDWIG
Nice to meet you.

ASHOT
I'm going to need your help Ludwig,
the Russians will be here in a few
minutes and if I could find you I'm
sure they will too.

LUDWIG
What do you want me to do?

ASHOT
See that big bush over there, pull
it out and bring it over here.

Ashot waves Anna and the children to come over to the cellar. As they approach, Anna pulls out a candle from her bag and lights it as she enters the cellar.

ASHOT (CONT'D)
Anna see if you can find some rope
or twine.

Ludwig comes back with the bush. Anna climbs the steps out of the cellar and hands Ashot a piece of rope. Ashot quickly ties the rope around the roots of the bush. He places the end of the rope through a hole in the wooden cellar door. He hears the VOICES of the Russian soldiers as they approach.

ASHOT (CONT'D)
Hurry up get inside be very quiet!

RUSSIAN SOLDIER #1 Exits the rear door of the house brandishing his rifle while RUSSIAN SOLDIERS #2 and #3 approach from around the side of the house.

RUSSIAN SOLDIER #1
The house is all clear!

From inside the cellar Ashot pulls the rope drawing the bush over the cellar door and camouflaging the entrance. Russian soldiers #1 and #2 walk right up to the bush and start to look around.

RUSSIAN SOLDIER #2
Let's take a look in the barn

Russian soldier #1 heads towards the barn.

CUT TO:

INT. STORAGE CELLAR. DAY

A few beams of sunlight shine through cracks in the cellar door. Eddie starts to fidget and begins to sob. Just as he lets out a cry, Anna covers his mouth.

CUT TO:

EXT. REAR OF FARMHOUSE. DAY

RUSSIAN SOLDIER #3
Did you hear that? It sounded like a baby.

RUSSIAN SOLDIER #2
You're hearing things!

RUSSIAN SOLDIER #3
I swear I heard a baby cry! You didn't hear it?

Russian Soldier #1 returns from the barn.

RUSSIAN SOLDIER #1
The barn is all clear. What's going on?

RUSSIAN SOLDIER #2
He thinks he heard a baby cry.

RUSSIAN SOLDIER #1
I didn't hear anything.

RUSSIAN SOLDIER #2
Fuck the baby let's get out of
here!

The Russian soldiers return to their battalion, we hear the tank's engine ROAR back to life as they continue down the road.

CUT TO:

INT. STORAGE CELLAR. DAY

Inside the cellar Ashot has his finger to his mouth shushing the Baby. Eddie stares back confused but conforming. Anna removes her hand from his mouth. Eddie takes a deep breath and remains quiet. Ashot waits a few moments as the sound of TANK TRACKS dissipates. He pushes the cellar door open and exits.

CUT TO:

EXT. REAR OF FARMHOUSE. DAY

Anna hands Eddie up to Ashot. They all exit the cellar. Ludwig humbly looks down when Anna looks at him.

ASHOT
This is my wife Anna, my children
Klarisa and Eddie. This is Ludwig.

Ludwig graciously puts out his hand.

LUDWIG
Pleasure to meet you Frauen.

ANNA
Nice to meet you Ludwig.

ASHOT
Ludwig you should hide here for the
next few days eventually the
Russians will leave.

Ashot takes the sack off of Anna's shoulder, opens it and hands Ludwig a can of beans.

ASHOT (CONT'D)
Here take this, it should last a couple of days.

Ludwig refuses signalling with his hands.

LUDWIG
Oh no, I couldn't, you have young children!

Ashot tosses the can at him forcing him to catch it.

ASHOT
Take it, we have more.

LUDWIG
Thank you very much! God bless you!

ASHOT
God bless you. You're going to need it!

LUDWIG
Where are you going?

Ashot swings the sack over his shoulder, grabs Klarisa's hand and turns to leave.

ASHOT
I have to find my people.

Klarisa turns and waves goodbye as they head back to the road. Ludwig meekly waves back.

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. RURAL ROAD OUTSKIRTS OF STUTTGART GERMANY. DAY

The road is wet from the morning dew, temperatures have dropped. Ashot, Anna and Children are bundled up and back on the road. Little Eddie is being led by Klarisa, she holds his hand as he struggles to keep up. They approach an intersection in the road. One arrow points to Munich another points to Nuremberg.

ANNA
You have no idea where you are going! Look we are almost out of food.

Anna opens the sack and shows him the last can of food.

ANNA (CONT'D)

You have us wandering aimlessly
around the countryside.

ASHOT

Alright if you know so much you
choose which way to go.

She looks up and points to the Munich sign. Ashot smiles.

ANNA

What's so funny?

ASHOT

You know how far it is! At least a
hundred miles

ANNA

That's not funny!

ASHOT

We have to find the Armenians let's
go towards Nuremberg it should be
much shorter going there?

ANNA

Alright but I still feel we should
go the other way.

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. SMALL VILLAGE TOWN NEAR NUREMBERG GERMANY. DAY

Eddie asleep is being carried by Ashot. They are coming to
the end of the town's main drag, they pass a general store
whose windows have been broken out and shelves emptied. About
a hundred yards away TWO MEN in their mid-thirties approach
Ashot and his Family.

ASHOT

Look Anna, these guys are Armenian!
Maybe they know where to go?

Ashot approaches the two men who have the same facial
characteristics as he does. He hands the baby over to Anna.

ASHOT (CONT'D)

(In Armenian)
Are you Armenian?

The two men look back at him confused. Ashot extends his hand.

ASHOT (CONT'D)
My name is Ashot, so you're not
Armenian?

TURKISH MAN ONE
(Extends his hand)
No, my name is Addai and my friend
is Haluk. We are Turkish!

As their hands touch Ashot's eyes glaze over as if in a trance.

FLASH BACK:

INT. ONE ROOM SHELTER BUILT FROM ROCKS AND A GRASS ROOF. DAY

The room is a converted livestock shelter and has a large wooden door. FIVE YEAR OLD ASHOT is being laid down by his pregnant Mother, HASMEEK. She places him in a bed made of hay and a few blankets. She turns and heads towards her Husband HAKOB large mustache, early nineteen hundred's clothing. Hakob sits in the center of the room at a small table having tea from a "copper kettle". Suddenly the door is busted wide open by a black horse ridden by a TURKISH HUN. Hakob stands up as the Turk advances aiming his sword at Hakob's chest. The sword's main thrust is defused by a medallion dangling from his neck. Hakob falls to his knees and drops forward. Ashot hiding under his blanket looks up just in time to see his Mother stabbed in her pregnant belly by the Hun's sword. Ashot focuses in on the face of the Hun. The horse turns and gallops out of the house. Hakob still alive crawls over to his wife, lifting and holding her in his arms.

CUT TO:

EXT. SMALL VILLAGE TOWN NEAR NUREMBERG GERMANY. DAY

Ashot releases Addai's hand as he comes back to reality. He focuses on Addai's face. The resemblance to the Hun is uncanny.

ADDAI
Where are you going? You're headed
in the wrong direction.

ASHOT
I need to find the Armenians, do
you know where they might be?

HALUK

No we don't but you should come
with us we've been finding a lot of
gold!

Addai opens a leather satchel full of gold coins and jewelry.

ADDAI

Here take a couple of coins, you
might need them.

ASHOT

Oh no that's blood gold!

Ashot disgusted by them turns and abruptly leaves, Anna and
children follow him as he continues down the road.

FADE OUT.

EXT. GRAVEL ROAD TO NUREMBERG. DAY

The weather has turned to an on and off drizzle. Ashot, Anna
and children are huddled together under a canvas tarp as they
transverse the muddy road. Approximately two hundred yards up
the road Ashot spots a battalion of Russian tanks and
soldiers pulled over to the side of the road.

ASHOT

God Damn it! Russians.

ANNA

Ashot! You don't have to curse!

ASHOT

We have to go around them. Let's
cut through the forest.

ANNA

We need to find some place to get
out of the rain.

Ashot leads them into a forest of dense foliage. After a few
minutes of maneuvering through the trees. They come near a
clearing. We hear the VOICES of Russian soldiers yelling and
commanding people. Ashot leads his family towards some
bushes.

ASHOT

Wait here. Be very quiet.

Ashot makes his way to the clearing. He hides behind some
rocks trying to get a view. TWENTY RUSSIAN SOLDIERS have at
gunpoint a group of TEN GERMAN SOLDIERS.

They dig holes for their own graves. RUSSIAN COMMANDER VLADIMIR CLACHENKO, scar-faced with a brutal disposition. He watches as TWO SS SOLDIERS shovel mud onto a fellow SS Captain. The few last shovels of mud suffocate the soldier as he disappears into his argillaceous grave. Commander Clachenko turns towards another SS soldier.

COMMANDER CLACHENKO

(In Russian)

Get inside the hole you Nazi
asshole, son of a bitch.

The German Soldier is reluctant he hesitates. Vladimir viciously hits him on the back of the head with the butt of his rifle, propelling the German face first into the muddy hole. Ashot has seen enough he turns and heads back to Anna and his children.

ASHOT

We need to leave now.

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. FOREST ADJACENT TO FARM FIELD . NIGHT

The rain comes down hard as Ashot and family exit the forest and into a farm field. They head for a bombed out barn in the middle of the field. Part of the barn roof is missing they enter looking for a dry spot.

ANNA

We have very little food left.

ASHOT

Tomorrow with God's help we will
find some food.

ANNA

Oh now you're with God?

ASHOT

I hope there is God, all I see is
the devil, no God around here!

Ashot clears a corner of the barn, Anna pulls a blanket out of her sack spreading it out over some hay. Ashot picks up Eddie and places him on blanket.

ASHOT (CONT'D)

You and Klarisa lay down here.

Eddie nods back in agreement. Ashot gathers some nearby hay and wood and starts a small fire.

KLARISA

Can't we go back to our house Mama?

ANNA

Ashot, she's right we should go back.

Ashot ignites the fire.

ASHOT

Never! I will die before I go back to those Communist bastards! We are traitors in their eyes. I'm not going to take that chance with our lives. Go to sleep tomorrow we will find the Armenians. Then we have a chance to leave this Hell behind us!

Ashot places his arms around his family as they huddle around the small fire.

CUT TO:

EXT. GRAVEL ROAD TO NUREMBERG. DAY

The sun shines brightly, storm clouds have cleared revealing a beautiful landscape. POLISH REFUGEES in groups of five and six transverse the road going both ways. Ashot approaches a blonde haired, POLISH FAMILY, HUSBAND, WIFE and THREE CHILDREN.

ASHOT

(In Russian)

Greetings!

POLISH HUSBAND

Hello!

ASHOT

By any chance do you know where the Armenians may be?

POLISH HUSBAND
Armenians?

ASHOT
Yes, the Armenians!

POLISH HUSBAND
No, no Armenians. We saw Americans
maybe a mile up the road.

The Polish family all agree, the husband turns and points up the road.

ASHOT
Alright! Thank you very much! Good
luck!

Ashot, Anna, Klarisa and Eddie grab each other's hands and continue up the road.

ASHOT (CONT'D)
Let's find the Americans, maybe
they know where they are?

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. OUTSKIRTS NUREMBERG PAVED ROAD. DAY

Ashot and family are yet again at a crossroads.

The signs point to HEIDALHIEM, NERESHIEM and NUREMBERG.

ANNA
So now which way?

Ashot looks down each road trying to decide. From the distance he sees a cloud of dust.

ASHOT
We better hide. I think it's a jeep
because it's coming very fast.

They move to a forest area about twenty yards away from the road and hide behind some trees. Ashot watches the vehicle as it nears them. The Jeep gets close enough to see an American flag attached to its front hood.

ASHOT (CONT'D)
It's alright, they're Americans!
Come on we have to stop them!

They near the road Ashot steps out into the middle of the roadway and starts to wave them down.

INT. JEEP GRAVEL ROAD. DAY

Inside the Jeep driving is Lieutenant Guardhouse next to him is Captain Ramirez smiling and happy the war is over.

LIEUTENANT GUARDHOUSE
What the hell is this guy doing?

CAPTAIN RAMIREZ
I don't know but you better slow
down or you're going to kill him!

Guardhouse downshifts and applies the brakes. The Jeep comes to a sliding halt a few feet in front of Ashot.

LIEUTENANT GUARDHOUSE
What are you crazy? You almost got
killed!

ASHOT
I'm sorry but we need your help.

Guardhouse is upset with the distraction.

CAPTAIN RAMIREZ
How can we help you?

ASHOT
We are looking for the Armenians?

LIEUTENANT GUARDHOUSE
(Frustrated)
The Armenians.

ANNA
We are Armenians!

Ramirez nudges Guardhouse.

CAPTAIN RAMERIZ
Why do you always have to be so
ornery? Sorry Mam'am for my
friend's rudeness. We know about
the Armenians?

ASHOT
Yes the Armenians do you know where
they might be?

CAPTAIN RAMIREZ
Bill what was the name of that
military academy? We were there a
few days ago.

LIEUTENANT GUARDHOUSE

You mean the Nazi school? It had some weird name Funka something?

CAPTAIN RAMIREZ

That's right Funka? Funkkaserne! That's it! Your people are there. But you're going the wrong way.

Captain Ramirez pulls out a map.

CAPTAIN RAMERIZ

Let's see we are here. Funkkaserne is over here! Alright you have to go back that way and you'll see a sign pointing to Munich it's a couple of miles from there.

Anna stares down Ashot.

ANNA

(Pointing)

So we have to go back that way.

CAPTAIN RAMIREZ

Yes, Mam'am! A few hours on foot and you'll be there!

Anna continues to stare at Ashot.

ASHOT

Thank you very much you saved our lives.

ANNA

Yes, thank you for your help.

CAPTAIN RAMERIZ

You're very welcome! Good luck.

Guardhouse revs the engine and takes off in a cloud of dust.

ANNA

What did I tell you? You never listen to me! You were taking us completely in the wrong direction!

ASHOT

Alright, I was wrong .

ANNA

Say it! I was right! And you
were...

ASHOT

You were right. I was wrong.

Anna smiles.

CUT TO:

EXT. ESTABLISHING SHOT FUNKKASERNE SS ACADEMY. DAY

Large iron gates protect the entrance to the massive facility of buildings and training areas. A small guard shack adjacent to the entrance is manned by PRIVATE WILSON, late twenties brown hair ,green eyes, Southern mannered. He leaves the guard shack and opens the gate for a Red Cross military truck. The Truck pulls in and Private Wilson closes the gate behind them. Red Cross DOCTOR STEVEN MILLER late forties, salt and pepper hair exits the truck and approaches Private Wilson.

DOCTOR MILLER

Who is in charge here?

PRIVATE WILSON

Yes Sir! That would be Lieutenant
Guardhouse.

DOCTOR MILLER

I need to speak to him immediately!

PRIVATE WILSON

Unfortunately Sir, Lieutenant
Guardhouse is on a survey at
another camp about thirty clicks
west of here.

DOCTOR MILLER

Well, we need to get a hold of him,
my doctors here at the camp have
informed me there is an outbreak of
TB. We might have to evacuate a
section of the camp.

PRIVATE WILSON

Yes Sir I will radio him
immediately!

Private Wilson heads back to the guard shack and gets on the radio.

PRIVATE WILSON (CONT'D)
Eagle one to Alpha rover, do you
copy?

EXT. GRAVEL ROAD THIRTY CLICKS WEST OF FUNKKASERNE .DAY

Guardhouse and Ramirez are pulled over putting water into the radiator of their overheated Jeep.

LIEUTENANT GUARDHOUSE
Go for Alpha Rover over. Is that
you, Private Wilson?

PRIVATE WILSON
(Voice coming over radio)
Yes, Sir, Wilson here!

LIEUTENANT GUARDHOUSE
What is it Wilson?

PRIVATE WILSON
(Over radio)
Lieutenant Sir there is a Doctor
here from the Red Cross says there
is a TB outbreak in the camp. He
wants you to evacuate.

CUT TO:

EXT. GRAVEL ROAD THIRTY CLICKS WEST OF FUNKKASERNE .DAY

LIEUTENANT GUARDHOUSE
What? No way, there are almost
three thousand people in that camp.
Is this guy out of his mind? Do not
evacuate do absolutely nothing! Do
you understand, Wilson?

PRIVATE WILSON
(Over radio)
Yes, Sir! Do not evacuate do
absolutely nothing.

LIEUTENANT GUARDHOUSE
I will be there in thirty minutes
Alpha Rover over and out!

Captain Rameriz slams the hood on the Jeep and jumps into the driver's seat.

CAPTAIN RAMIREZ
I'll drive.

CUT TO:

INT. FUNKKASERNE CAMP INFIRMARY. DAY

The twenty bed infirmary is full of patients with different degrees of tuberculosis. NURSE MURIEL, mid forties, dark Italian look, she wears a surgical mask. Nurse Muriel pulls a white sheet over the face of a middle aged ARMENIAN WOMAN with dark hair and chestnut eyes. Her husband, KREKOR, sits on the edge of a bed next to her watching her die. He clutches his dying FIVE YEAR OLD DAUGHTER tight to his chest. The young girl's skin has turned blue, she coughs up blood splattering it on her father's face. Nurse Muriel takes a few steps over to the next bed where Krekor's thirteen year old son ARTUR takes his last breath. Nurse Muriel turns and looks across the room for NURSE MARY NIXON, mid twenties, light skin, southern belle, also dressed with a surgical mask.

NURSE MURIEL
Nurse Nixon, could you come here
and give me a hand please?

NURSE NIXON
Yes Mam'am, be right there!

Doctor Steven Miller enters the infirmary.

DOCTOR MILLER
Nurse Muriel, Nurse Nixon please
come with me.

The nurses walk over to Doctor Miller and they all exit the infirmary.

CUT TO:

EXT. GRAVEL ROAD THREE KILOMETERS FROM FUNKKASERNE. DAY

The road sign arrow points 3 kilometers to Funkkaserne.

ANNA
Thank God, we are almost there!

KLARISA
Mama, are their other kids there?

ASHOT
There are a lot of kids there! Come
on let's go.

Klarisa takes off running.

ANNA
Klarisa come back here!

CUT TO:

INT. FUNKKASERNE CAMP INFIRMARY. DAY

Krekor has made a makeshift noose out of the bed sheets and his leather belt. With noose tied to a sewer pipe located on the ceiling, Krekor hangs, his neck swinging back and forth. His daughter's lifeless body lays on the bed next to him. Nurse Muriel and Nurse Nixon return to the infirmary they spot Krekor. Nurse Muriel runs over to Krekor and feels for a pulse.

NURSE MURIEL
Oh my God! Go get help.

Nurse Nixon runs out the door.

CUT TO:

EXT. FUNKKASERNE SS ACADEMY. DAY

Private Wilson has opened the entrance's iron gates . Lieutenant Guardhouse and Captain Ramirez driving the Jeep, speed dangerously into the camp barely missing the rear of the Red Cross truck. Guardhouse jumps out and approaches Private Wilson.

LIEUTENANT GUARDHOUSE
Where's the Red Cross guy?

Doctor Miller exits the building and nears the two soldiers.

DOCTOR MILLER
(Extends a hand.)
Lieutenant Guardhouse? Doctor
Steven Miller Red Cross.

Guardhouse is a little reluctant to shake hands but does anyway.

LIEUTENANT GUARDHOUSE
How can I help you Doctor?

DOCTOR MILLER
We have a problem. The Doctor here
at the camp feels we have an
epidemic of TB.

LIEUTENANT GUARDHOUSE
Look Doctor Miller, there is no way
we can evacuate this camp, their
are over twenty five hundred people
in there with nowhere to go!

DOCTOR MILLER
We'll if we don't do something half
of them will be dead in a few
weeks.

LIEUTENANT GUARDHOUSE
Give me a few moments I need to
call my commander.

Guardhouse turns and heads for the administration building.

CUT TO:

EXT. FUNKKASERNE CAMP ENTRANCE. DAY

Ashot, Anna, Klarisa, and Eddie have arrived and near the guard gate. Klarisa is giddy with excitement, as they near the guard shack Klarisa can hear the SOUND of children playing. As they walk by the entrance, Klarisa catches a glimpse of TWENTY CHILDREN playing kickball in the center courtyard. Private Wilson is at his post. He exits the Guard shack and greets the family.

PRIVATE WILSON
(In Armenian)
Hello, welcome!

ASHOT
You speak Armenian?

PRIVATE WILSON
No, not really, that's all I know.

ASHOT
This is my wife Anna, my daughter
Klarisa and my son Eddie.

PRIVATE WILSON
 (In Armenian)
 Hello.

ANNA
 Nice to meet you!

Klarisa waves enthusiastically.

KLARISA
 Hi! Are you an American?

PRIVATE WILSON
 Yes, Missy. I'm from North
 Carolina.

ASHOT
 We are Armenian refugees. We have
 no place to go and our people are
 inside the camp. We also would like
 to stay with them here.

PRIVATE WILSON
 I'm sorry but the camp is full and
 there is a tuberculosis outbreak we
 might have to evacuate the camp
 sorry it's for your own safety.

The family's excitement dissipates and quickly turns to
 despair. Ashot steps back in disbelief.

CUT TO:

EXT. FUNKKASERNE CAMP INSIDE ENTRANCE GATE. DAY

Doctor Miller stands near the Red Cross truck. Lieutenant
 Guardhouse and EIGHT SOLDIERS escort Krekor's dead family on
 stretchers into the Red Cross truck.

LIEUTENANT GUARDHOUSE
 Okay, Doctor Miller, my commander
 says there is an abandoned military
 warehouse about a quarter mile up
 the road. He wants you to set up a
 quarantine area in the warehouse.

DOCTOR MILLER
 What about beds or cots? I need
 supplies!

LIEUTENANT GUARDHOUSE
I will personally make sure you get
what you need.

DOCTOR MILLER
The problem is we have no idea how
many are infected?

LIEUTENANT GUARDHOUSE
Look, Doctor I can't tell you how
to do your work but this is the
best we can do for you now.

DOCTOR MILLER
Alright, we can start by
transporting the rest of the
patients in the infirmary.

LIEUTENANT GUARDHOUSE
Let me find Sergeant Lewis we'll
get you the manpower you need.

Guardhouse turns and heads to the gate shack.

LIEUTENANT GUARDHOUSE (CONT'D)
Private Wilson!

PRIVATE WILSON
Yes Sir!

LIEUTENANT GUARDHOUSE
Get Sergeant Lewis on the radio,
tell him I need his boys to help
the Red Cross.

PRIVATE WILSON
Yes Sir, right away Lieutenant!

A work truck passes by and downshifts causing a loud
BACKFIRE. Guardhouse turns quickly investigating the source.
As the truck drives by, Guardhouse spots Ashot and his family
bundled up meekly on the corner. Guardhouse crosses the road
and approaches them.

LIEUTENANT GUARDHOUSE
Why are you out here?

Ashot's eyes light up.

ASHOT
Hello Commander! I'm so happy to
see you. We were told the camp is
full.

LIEUTENANT GUARDHOUSE
Who told you that?

ASHOT
The nice American boy at the guard
house.

LIEUTENANT GUARDHOUSE
Come with me.

Guardhouse walks back to the guard shack with Ashot and family in tow. As they near, the Red Cross truck backs out.

LIEUTENANT GUARDHOUSE (CONT'D)
Private Wilson, help these people
check into the camp.

PRIVATE WILSON
But I thought you said the camp was
full and you couldn't take anyone
else Sir!

The Red Cross truck grinds its gears as it drives away.

LIEUTENANT GUARDHOUSE
We have the room now. Let them in.

ASHOT
Thank you very much Commander!

Ashot looks down at Lieutenant Guardhouse's worn-out boots, Guardhouse notices and also looks down.

ASHOT (CONT'D)
I will make you new boots, size
eleven?

LIEUTENANT GUARDHOUSE
Eleven and a half, but that's not
necessary! I'm leaving in a couple
of weeks.

ASHOT
No problem, that's plenty of time!

CUT TO:

EXT. FUNKKASERNE SS TRAINING FACILITY. DAY

ESTABLISHING SHOT:

The quartering buildings are three stories high with Bavarian style architectural accents.

Eight large buildings previously house up to a thousand cadets. The facility has an Assembly hall, Cafeteria, Shooting range, Equestrian center and a large Courtyard in the middle of it all.

INT. FUNKKASERNE CAMP SOLDIER HOUSING UNITS. DAY

Armenian female camp worker, HEPSEME, early thirties, dark hair, green eyes, leads Ashot, Anna, Klarisa and Eddie down a long hallway toward their new home.

KLARISA ANANIAN V.O.
Our lives in the camp got much better. We finally got a roof over our heads. It was a place we could call home. We even had our own toilet.

They enter a small eight by ten room with a toilet room and sink. Ashot walks up to the toilet.

KLARISA
What is it Papa?

ASHOT
It's a toilet! Look Anna we have a toilet!

Ashot pulls the chain and the toilet loudly FLUSHES, he jumps back startled. Anna has walked over to the window giving way to a view of CHILDREN playing kickball in the center of the courtyard. Klarisa runs up to the open window and sticks her head out.

KLARISA
Mama, look at all the kids! Can I go play?

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. FUNKKASERNE CAMP COURTYARD. DAY

Close to fifty families Men, Woman and Children fill the courtyard, Men playing board games and cards. Woman sorting food and clothing amongst themselves.

KLARISA ANANIAN V.O.

There were over twenty five hundred people living in the camp. There were reunions.

MONTAGE:

In the courtyard, Ashot approaches a wooden bench with a GROUP OF MEN playing "Nardi" (Backgammon). Standing watching is Ashot's friend, Armen. Armen turns and sees Ashot.

ARMEN

Ashot? Oh my God, it's really you!

Armen reaches out grabbing and hugging Ashot with all his might.

DISSOLVE TO:

On the courtyard field, Klarisa and her friend Gayanne recognize each other. They run and jump into each other's arms.

KLARISA ANANIAN V.O.

New friends were made, we were happy again!

DISSOLVE TO:

In the courtyard, Anna greets Erin, they hug and kiss.

ERIN

Come with me, I want to introduce you to the girls.

Erin takes Anna by the hand and leads her to a wooden table surrounded by Armenian Women. They all smile and joke around as they are introduced to a very happy Anna.

KLARISA ANANIAN V.O.

We all had to work but it was for ourselves. The men made furniture and shoes. The women sewed clothes and worked in the fields growing fruits and vegetables. We weren't hungry anymore!

MONTAGE:

INT. FUNKKASERNE CAMP CONVERTED ARMORY. DAY

The Armory has been converted to a small factory on one side MEN cut and stretch leather while others sew and stitch them into shoes. On the other side men cut wood and fabricate tables chairs and other furniture pieces. Ashot works on a shoe horse stretching and forming the leather into a boot.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. FUNKKASERNE CAMP WAREHOUSE. DAY

The WOMEN have set up a sewing center on one side of the warehouse. Cutting tables and foot-operated sewing machines are busy as the women create new clothing to sell to the local Germans. Anna sits at a sewing machine applying the final stitches to a wool coat.

EXT. FUNKKASERNE CAMP GROWING FIELDS. DAY

Erin, Gayanne, Klarisa and Eddie are in the vegetable garden harvesting red ripe tomatoes.

KLARISA ANANIAN V.O.

Of course we had our problems. A lot of the men were shell shocked so they drank vodka all day, some just passed out, others went completely crazy!

EXT. FUNKKASERNE CAMP COURTYARD SNOW LINED. NIGHT

View from Klarisa's window. A MIDDLE AGE MAN, drunk and shirtless runs aimlessly around the courtyard yelling at the top of his lungs.

MIDDLE AGE MAN

Mama Jan why did you leave me? Why?
Why?

He runs in circles, babbling incoherently. Running out of steam, he trips and falls face first into the mud.

CUT TO:

EXT. FUNKKASERNE CAMP CHURCH BUILDING. DAY

ESTABLISHING SHOT:

A large assembly building near the courtyard has been converted into a church. A wooden cross crowns the entrance. A BRIDE and GROOM are carried on chairs out of the church doors. They are accompanied by about TWO THOUSAND GUESTS as they make their way to the center courtyard.

KLARISA ANANIAN V.O.

Every time there was a wedding a couple of thousand people showed up. It was the same with funerals.

MONTAGE:

Everyone is now wearing black it's the same shot as before except now SIX PALLBEARERS carry a wooden coffin over their heads. They exit the church and two thousand camp members follow as they walk towards the exit of the camp.

KLARISA ANANIAN V.O. (CONT'D)

Our best parties were when a baby was born. It would take almost two days for everyone in the camp to personally congratulate the parents and family. After a few births we figured out a better way.

The center courtyard is full of guests. The NEW PARENTS are on stage holding the NEW CHILD. The father takes the baby from its mother's arms and holds it up for the crowd to see. The camp members CLAP and HOLLER creating an ear numbing ROAR.

KLARISA ANANIAN V.O. (CONT'D)

We had our own school where we learned to read and write in Armenian. They taught us history, math and geography. Our favorite lessons were about the United States of America. All our hopes were that we might get to someday live there, to us it was the promised land.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. FUNKKASERNE CAMP SCHOOL BUILDING. DAY

Approximately three hundred students sit quietly paying attention to their TEACHER who is pointing at a map attached to a chalkboard.

TEACHER
Alright, who knows the Capital of
The United States of America?

Klarisa enthusiastically raises her hand.

TEACHER (CONT'D)
Yes Klarisa.

KLARISA
Washington, D.C.

TEACHER
Correct! Washington D.C.

CUT TO:

INT. FUNKKASERNE CAMP CONVERTED ARMORY. DAY

Ashot works diligently creating a new set of boots for
Lieutenant Guardhouse. He applies some black wax and gives
the boots their final polish. He puts down the rag and wax
grabs the boots and heads out the door.

CUT TO:

INT. FUNKKASERNE CAMP ASHOT'S LIVING QUARTERS. DAY

Ashot enters his room to find Anna bent over changing a
blanket on one of the beds.

ASHOT
Hello, my love!

He puts the boots down and starts to hug Anna from behind.

ANNA
What are you doing?

She breaks away and walks over to the window. Gazing out the
window, the sun shines through her hair. Ashot approaches, he
places his hand gently on her cheek appreciating her beauty.

ASHOT
Have I told you how beautiful you
are?

ANNA
Stop it! I haven't been beautiful
for quite some time.

ASHOT

Well you are, where are the children?

ANNA

They went to Erin's house. Did you see the new blanket I got for Eddie?

Ashot turns her around and starts to passionately kiss her.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. FUNKKASERNE CAMP LIEUTENANT GUARDHOUSE'S HEADQUARTERS DAY.

Ashot knocks on the partially open door leading to Guardhouse's office.

LIEUTENANT GUARDHOUSE

Come in!

Ashot enters with boots in hand.

ASHOT

Hello Commander I have those boots I promised you!

Ashot proudly holds them up and hands them to Guardhouse. Guardhouse is completely overwhelmed at how well-made they are.

ASHOT (CONT'D)

They will last forever, your son Will wear them.

LIEUTENANT GUARDHOUSE

No kidding they are absolutely beautiful, you made these here at the camp?

ASHOT

Yes Sir! I want to thank you for helping me and my family!

Guardhouse puts the boots down and walks up to his desk.

LIEUTENANT GUARDHOUSE

I want to do something for you. I'm going to write a letter of recommendation for you.

(MORE)

LIEUTENANT GUARDHOUSE (CONT'D)

When you go to America you can use it to get a job. How do you spell your name?

ASHOT

America? USA?

LIEUTENANT GUARDHOUSE

Yes, the USA. Now spell your name!

CUT TO:

EXT. FUNKKASERNE CAMP ASHOT'S LIVING QUARTERS. DAY

Ashot, Anna, Klarisa and Eddie are sitting around a small table in the middle of the room. Anna is serving them a hot meal of chicken, potatoes and a variety of vegetables.

ASHOT

The American Commander said we might get a chance to go to America! He gave me this letter.

He hands Anna the letter.

ASHOT (CONT'D)

He said I can get a job in the USA with that letter. Make sure you hide it Anna

ANNA

Don't worry, I will put it in my Bible.

KLARISA

We are going to America? Can we go to Washington, D.C.? The President of the United States lives there!

ASHOT

Yes if we get to go I'll take you to Washington D.C.

ANNA

The girls heard an American Armenian is coming to our camp they said his name is George Mardikian. He is suppose to be very rich. Maybe he will help us?

ASHOT

Oh my God, freedom! Please if there
is a God? Please help us!

EDDIE

America!

Ashot surprised, picks up Eddie kisses him and begins to spin
around the room with Eddie raised above his head.

CUT TO:

INT. 1940 CHEVY MILITARY SEDAN. DAY

GENERAL HAIG SHEKERJAIN and GEORGE MARDIKIAN are sitting in
the rear of a 1940 Chevy military sedan.

CUT TO:

EXT. FUNKKASERNE CAMP ENTRANCE. DAY

The military sedan is being escorted by a Jeep with two high
ranking, uniformed, soldiers. The gates open and the vehicles
pull in. They exit the sedan and see a church a school and a
theater. The camp members all twenty five hundred have
assembled on the courtyard. They are dressed in their best
outfits every one seems to have some sort of gift in their
hands. Flowers, candy, cookies, and bottles of alcohol. They
all face the camp entrance waiting for their esteemed guests.
George Mardikian's eyes well up with tears.

GEORGE MARDIKIAN

I'm taking all these people back to
the States!

GENERAL SHEKERJIAN

All of them?

GEORGE MARDIKIAN

All of them!

George opens a camera case strapped over his shoulder, he
pulls out his Kodak Retina camera and takes a snapshot.

CUT TO:

EXT. CIRCA 1948 POWELL STREET SAN FRANCISCO OMAR KHAYYAM'S RESTAURANT. DAY

Establishing Shot: OMAR KHAYYAMS sign crowning George Mardikian's famous basement restaurant on Powell street. First lady Eleanor Roosevelt's 1936 Ford Phaeton convertible is parked out front of the buildings entrance. The car's front licence plate reads FDR1.

INT. OMAR KHAYYAMS BASEMENT RESTAURANT. DAY

We descend into the cavernous, lavishly decorated restaurant below. On the left at the bottom of the stairs is the Rubaiyat lounge with velvet banquettes, low Persian lamps, and a gleaming chrome cash register. Tables in the restaurant are contained in curtained chambers straight out of the Arabian Nights. The walls are decorated with framed inscriptions from "The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam". A large table covered with an overwhelming amount of Mediterranean food and drink is set in the middle of the room. Eleanor Roosevelt sits at the head of the table surrounded by FIFTEEN OF HER FRIENDS and high ranking GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. George Mardikian, wearing his chef hat, brings to the table a large rack of lamb plate with all the fixings.

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

Oh my ! George you have definitely outdone yourself. Absolutely divine!

GEORGE MARDIKIAN

I cooked all of this especially for you, Eleanor!

She turns to focus on George.

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

Alright George what is it? You need a favor or something?

GEORGE MARDIKIAN

Well now that you mention it Eleanor I do. Something very close to my heart.

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

You know if I can help, you can consider it done. What is it?

George pulls out a black and white picture of the twenty five hundred Funkkaserne camp members. He hands it to Eleanor. Eleanor takes a good look and passes it around the table.

GEORGE MARDIKIAN

These are my people. They are currently in a refugee camp near Stuttgart Germany. I have been trying to get them to come to the United States for close to two years with no help from the government.

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

Congress recently signed the Displaced Persons Act and according to Harry Truman and I quote, "In its present form this bill is flagrantly discriminatory. It mocks the American tradition of fair play". And he is absolutely correct! But, as flawed as it is, he signed it because these people need help now! At the very least it, opens the doors to help your people, George.

GEORGE MARDIKIAN

I will do whatever it takes to help them!

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

You need to get sponsors for each family. I'm sure the people at this table can help you, after all, they are very popular. Isn't that right, Senator Cain ?

She glances around the room with an omnipresent stare. They all react positively. SENATOR CAIN tall, dark and handsome. He smiles at Eleanor.

SENATOR CAIN

Yes, Eleanor we are blessed. George I would be honored to help you. My family owns orange fields in SANTA PAULA Valley. We can get them jobs and housing. I'm sure through our church we can get you the sponsors you need!

GEORGE MARDIKIAN

I would be deeply indebted to you Senator Cain!

SENATOR CAIN

It is absolutely not a problem.

He glances at Eleanor, she's content.

GEORGE MARDIKIAN
 (Smiling ear to ear)
 I want to thank you all! And
 tonight the dinner is compliments
 of Senator Cain. Please everyone
 eat, drink and be happy.

Senator Cain is surprised but goes along with it as everyone acknowledges his generosity. George signals to the stage where his band begins to play a lively Armenian TUNE. George walks over to Senator Cain, shakes his hand, and leans in to whisper in his ear.

GEORGE MARDIKIAN (CONT'D)
 Don't worry. The dinners is on me.

SENATOR CAIN
 I love you George, you're the best!
 By the way, may I keep this
 picture?

GEORGE MARDIKIAN
 Of course!

George catches Eleanor's eye and throws her a kiss across the table. She smiles back in her preeminence.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. FUNKKASERNE CAMP ASHOT'S LIVING QUARTERS. DAY

The song's HARMONY from the band in the restaurant blends into Klarisa sitting on a chair in the middle of the room practicing her accordion. Ashot stands by her playing his mandolin and continuing the HARMONY. Suddenly Ashot stops playing.

ASHOT
 Stop playing!

Klarisa stops and looks up to her father.

ASHOT (CONT'D)
 Try playing in a higher note.

Klarisa pulls back on the accordion and hits a higher note.

ASHOT (CONT'D)
 That's it you got it!

They continue to harmonize the lively Armenian song. The front door opens Anna enters with Eddie in tow. She walks up to Ashot and whispers in his ear.

ANNA
I'm pregnant.

Ashot stops playing and contemplates her remark.

ASHOT
Are you sure?

ANNA
Yes
I'm sure.

ASHOT
Oh my God we're going to have a new baby!

He puts the mandolin down and picks Anna up off the ground.

ANNA
Ashot! Put me down.

Ashot sets her back on her feet.

CUT TO:

INT. FUNKKASERNE CHURCH. DAY

Anna and Erin kneel near the alter praying with their heads bowed. Anna holds a Bible in her hands. She makes the sign of the cross and raises the bible to her lips.

ERIN
Anna, could you lend me your Bible?

ANNA
Gladly Erin. May God answer your prayers.

Anna hands her the Bible.

ERIN
I'm praying we get to raise our children in America.

ANNA
From your lips to God's ears!

CUT TO:

EXT. FUNKKASERNE CAMP COURTYARD. DAY

ESTABLISHING SHOT: The camp gates open to a large celebration. The Twenty five hundred camp members have assembled in the center courtyard.

Sitting at a table overstuffed with food and libation are George Mardikian and his beautiful wife NAZELY. They are accompanied by General Haig Shekerjian and a couple of CAMP LEADERS. A few feet in front of them the camp members have erected a stage in the courtyard. A complete orchestra has been assembled on stage for entertainment. FOUR FEMALE CAMP MEMBERS bring plates of skewered meats to the table and distribute it among the Guests. Klarisa appears on stage and approaches a microphone stand center stage. Ashot with Mandolin in hand comes on stage. Anna enters along with the other Musicians as they all take their places.

KLARISA

(In Armenian)

Dear honored guests we welcome you
with open hearts and open minds. In
the spirit of our ancestors, in the
love of Jesus Christ we accept you
into our home, our camp
Funkkaserne!

Klarisa steps back and the band plays the song Klarisa had been rehearsing. She heads to her accordion, picking it up and joining in. Anna steps up to the microphone and joins in with vocals. Ashot, playing the mandolin begins to dance in the traditional Armenian style. He circles Anna as if serenading her. The audience ROARS in appreciation. Anna smiles, amused, as she belts out the lyrics. They finish the song with the final notes being played by Klarisa on the accordion. The audience breaks out in applause. Ashot steps up next to Anna addressing the microphone. He waits a beat as the applause stops.

ASHOT

Now, I have the honor of
introducing our esteemed guests,
Mr. And Mrs. George Mardikian.

The crowd breaks out into a tremendous ROAR as George and Nazely make their way to the microphone.

GEORGE MARDIKIAN

Thank you Thank you!

George pauses waiting for the crowd to settle down. People begin to CLANG on their glasses using a fork. The crowd goes silent.

GEORGE MARDIKIAN (CONT'D)
 I brought my beautiful wife Nazely,
 with me this time. And we are very
 honored to be your guests. Thank
 you for all your hospitality..
 Today is a very special day for all
 of us here. Today is the day I am
 happy to announce we now are able
 to get visas to America for all
 your families.

The crowd claps waiting to hear more.

GEORGE MARDIKIAN (CONT'D)
 Now, you need to understand this is
 a long process and it could take
 months for your paperwork to be
 ready. But, I can assure you each
 and every one of you will
 eventually become American
 citizens!

The crowd ROAR becomes overwhelming

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. FUNKKASERNE CAMP INFIRMARY. DAY

The crowd ROAR blends into Anna SCREAMING at the top of her lungs. She lays in a bed with her legs spread and going through painful labor contractions. Doctor Gabralian is examining her cervix as Ashot stands near Anna holding her hand.

DOCTOR GABRALIAN
 The baby is not breached but the
 head is facing the wrong way!

Anna's contractions subside.

ANNA
 Something's wrong Doctor, she won't
 come out!

The contractions start and so do her SCREAMS.

DOCTOR GABRALIAN
I can see her head, push! Push
Anna!

Anna screams louder pushing as hard as she can. Again, the contractions subside. Anna seems to be slipping out of consciousness.

ASHOT
Doctor Gabralian something's wrong
with her?

Doctor Gabralian panics, he gets up and grabs a glass of water and throws it in her face.

Anna reacts opening her eyes

DOCTOR GABRALIAN
Anna stay with us. I'm going to
pull her out this time You push as
hard as you can! You with me ?

She nods in agreement as the contractions start again. She pushes with all her might.

ASHOT AND DOCTOR GABRALIAN
(In unison)
Push Anna!

The baby finally exits to everyone's relief. Nurse Muriel runs over with a water basin and towels. BABY RIMA starts to cry as the nurse cleans her up.

NURSE MURIEL
It's a girl!

CUT TO:

INT. FUNKKASERNE CAMP ASHOT'S LIVING QUARTERS. DAY

Klarisa is sitting in a chair cradling her baby sister in her arms. Eddie who is now a little older and matured, stands in front of them staring at Baby Rima in amazement. Anna prepares dinner in the background.

EDDIE
What's her name Mama?

ANNA
Rima.

Ashot bursts into the room like a hurricane, he has a large manila envelope in his hand, he runs around Klarisa and the baby holding the envelope above his head.

ASHOT

We got it! We really got it!

ANNA

Got what?

ASHOT

We got our freedom! These are our Visas.

Ashot opens the manila envelope and pulls out the documents.

ASHOT (CONT'D)

We are going to a place called...
Santa Paula, California!

They all look back at Ashot with blank stares.

We hear the FAINT PISTON CYCLE of a steamship.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ESTABLISHING SHOT ATLANTIC OCEAN OFF THE NEW YORK COAST.
DAY

USS GENERAL MACRE, American troop transport vessel, capacity three thousand plus cargo. As we near the ship the sound of PISTON CYCLE becomes more audible. Over the deck we enter the bowels of the ship where the PISTON CYCLE SOUND multiplies into a hostile drone.

INT. STEAMSHIP ENGINE COMPARTMENT. DAY

The ship's engine department is damp and dimly lit. Soiled CREW MEMBERS work diligently maintaining the engine's operations. We move through the engine compartment and into a cargo hold separated by a watertight door. Inside the cargo hold are approximately TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY REFUGEES. People are spread out across the cargo hold some laying on cots others on the ship's floor. Ashot lays on a cot fast asleep, Klarisa cradles the baby sitting on a wooden crate near Anna and Eddie. Ashot starts to SNORE when a few drops of water trickle onto his face. He stops snoring and moves to wipe his cheek when even more water splatters on his head. Waking up annoyed he looks up to see where it's coming from. He stands up and examines the ship's hull. A rivet joining two steel plates is spurting out an intermittent stream of water.

ASHOT

Oh my God, the ship has a hole in it!

ANNA

You better tell some one!

ASHOT

Move our stuff before it gets wet our Visa papers are in there. I'll go get someone!

Ashot exits through the watertight door and into the engine room. He waves down one of the ENGINEERING PERSONNEL. The Engineer nears Ashot yelling over the engine NOISE.

ENGINEER

What's the problem?

Ashot points to the cargo bay. He signals the engineer to follow him. They enter the cargo bay and Ashot leads him to the water leak.

ENGINEER (CONT'D)

Don't worry it's not bad, I'll send someone to fix it.

The engineer turns and heads back to the engine compartment. A PREGNANT WOMAN sitting nearby turns green from sea sickness, she leans down and vomits.

ASHOT

Anna I think we need some fresh air let's go up to the deck.

They all quickly get up and leave.

CUT TO:

EXT. USS GENERAL MACRE TOP DECK . DAY

Ashot and his family are standing on the bow of the ship enjoying a beautiful sunset. In the distance, we can begin to make out the United States coastline.

KLARISA

Look Papa, I can see it! America!

ASHOT

Yes it is!

The sun sets as darkness falls and cloaks the view of land in the distance.

ANNA

We better get back.

They all turn and head for the stairway heading down to the cargo hold. As they near the stairwell Ashot sees a stream of refugees exiting carrying their belongings up the stairs onto the deck. Ashot approaches a REFUGEE.

ASHOT

What's happening, where is everyone going?

REFUGE

It's flooded down there, we're moving to the front of the ship.

ASHOT

God damn it! Our visa papers!

Ashot rushes down the stairs pushing by others trying to get out. He enters the cargo hold and sees TWO ENGINEERS working trying to shore up a gushing hole. Ashot steps into knee-high water. He wades around the floating debris of personal belongings looking for his things.

ENGINEER 1

You need to get out right now!

ASHOT

I need my visa papers!

The Engineer working on the leak turns and heads to the stairwells water tight door, he closes it and moves toward the engine compartment. He grabs Ashot by the arm.

ENGINEER 2

Let's go we need to seal the compartment!

Ashot sees the tea kettle floating and still attached to the pillowcase. He reaches out and snags it as they exit the cargo compartment. The watertight door SLAMS and CRANKS shut.

CUT TO:

EXT. USS GENERAL MACRE TOP DECK. DAY

CREW MEMBERS move all the REFUGES toward the bow of the ship. The ship has now taken on a substantial amount of water in it's stern compartments lifting the bow ten feet out of the water. Anna, Klarisa, Eddie, and baby Rima have been placed on a life boat.

CUT TO:

INT. USS GENERAL MACRE NAVIGATION DECK. DAY

The navigation deck is chaotic, NAVY PERSONNEL are running around performing their duties in panic mode.

CAPTAIN LESSER, late fifties, pale, white, skin, piercing, blue eyes, an excellent captain with a big problem. He turns to his FIRST LIEUTENANT THOMAS JOHNSON, mid-forties square-jawed, handsome.

CAPTAIN LESSER

How long until the Coast Guard get here!?

LIEUTENANT JOHNSON

ETA is sixty-five minutes, Sir!

CAPTAIN LESSER

Get all the women and children off first. I'm not taking any chances!

LIEUTENANT JOHNSON

Lifeboats are being loaded as we speak, Captain!

CAPTAIN LESSER

Unbelievable! Just a few more miles and she would have made it home!

CUT TO:

EXT. USS GENERAL MACRE TOP DECK . DAY

The SHIP'S CREW MEMBERS are about to lower the lifeboat into the choppy sea. Ashot has approached the life boat. Klarisa stands up and yells.

KLARISA

Papa!!! Papa!

CREW MEMBER

Go ahead, Bring it in!

The life Boat starts its descent. Ashot tosses Klarisa the Copper Kettle attached to the pillowcase, she reels it in just as the life-boat hits the water. Ashot looks down the side of the ship contemplating jumping overboard. He looks back towards the length of the ship noticing the ever-increasing slope of the deck. He turns to remove a flotation device strapped to the ship's deck rail.

CREW MEMBER (CONT'D)
Hey you! Don't do that the Coast
Guard is coming!

Ashot throws the flotation ring, climbs the rail and jumps feet first into the water and out of sight. The crew member runs over to the guardrail and looks over waiting for Ashot to emerge. A few moments pass and no Ashot. The crew member climbs to the top of the guardrail.

CREW MEMBER (CONT'D)
Where did he go?

The crew member spots a SHARK FIN circling ominously around Ashot's submersion. Ashot abruptly emerges from the depths of the ocean. Getting his bearings, he swims towards the lifeboat with shark in tow.

CUT TO:

INT. LIFE BOAT. DAY

Klarisa leans over the edge of the lifeboat waving her hands in desperation.

KLARISA
Hurry Papa! Swim as fast as you
can! There's a big fish following
you!

Ashot turns and sees the shark getting closer, he turns and starts swimming at an adrenaline fueled pace. Reaching the lifeboat, he reaches out trying to grab on to the edge of the boat. An ELDERLY MAN and his TWO TEENAGE GRANDSONS move into position reaching out and clutching Ashot by his arms. They all strain to pull Ashot out of the water and into the boat.

ASHOT
(Breathing heavy)
Thank you! I thought I was going to
die!

We see in the distance an armada of Coast Guard vessels traveling at full speed towards the USS GENERAL MACRE.

CUT TO:

INT. COAST GUARD VESSEL. DAY

Ashot has changed out of his wet clothing and is now wearing a borrowed Coast Guard uniform. He sits next to Klarisa with his arm around her happy to be alive. Anna, Eddie and Rima sit on a bench nearby. The Coast Guard Cutter is approaching The Statue of Liberty. Klarisa jumps up from her seat and points as the Coast Guard Cutter cruises by Liberty Island.

KLARISA

Mama, look it's the Virgin Mary!
She's here in America!

ANNA

(Smiles)

No sweetie, that is the Statue of
Liberty. She stands for Freedom in
the United States of America.

KLARISA

She's beautiful!

ASHOT

Yes, she sure is!

CUT TO:

INT. ELLIS ISLAND IMMIGRATION BUILDING. DAY

HUNDREDS OF IMMIGRANTS are crammed into the central waiting room, most have their Visa papers in hand. Ashot, Anna, Klarisa, Eddie and Rima are sitting in the center of the room waiting their turn. Anna turns around to look at the crowd behind her, she spots Erin and her family a few rows behind. Erin recognizes her as they wave to each other.

ASHOT

(Glances around the room)
Everyone has their Visa papers but
us!

ANNA

Whose fault is that?

ASHOT

It's not my fault! How was I supposed to know the ship was going to sink?

ANNA

You should have kept them on you.

Sitting at a desk at the front of the room is the MAIN CLERK late sixties gray hair no nonsense attitude. He writes 39 on a piece of paper and raises it up in the air.

MAIN CLERK

Thirty Nine anybody Thirty nine?

Ashot looks down at his ticket.

ASHOT

That's us!

Ashot raises the ticket above his head. The Clerk waves them over. Ashot and family are lead into an interview room.

CUT TO:

INT. ELLIS ISLAND IMMIGRATION INTERVIEW ROOM DAY.

IMMIGRATION OFFICER DONALD HENDERSON, mid forties, light brown hair, hazel eyes, insensitive disposition. Ashot and his family sit quietly humbled by the officer's presence.

OFFICER HENDERSON

Can I please see your Visa papers?

ASHOT

I'm very sorry sir my papers are on the bottom of the ocean.

OFFICER HENDERSON

You were on the General Macre?

ASHOT

Yes sir we lost almost all our belongings.

OFFICER HENDERSON

Well this makes things very difficult for us to process. Do you have anything that will tell us who you are?

ASHOT

No sir.

Officer Henderson stands up and moves towards the door.

OFFICER HENDERSON

Please wait here I need to speak to
a supervisor.

Officer Henderson leaves the room closing the door behind
him.

ASHOT

Oh my God they are going to send us
back to Russia!

ANNA

Thanks to you!

Anna has a revelation she jumps up out of her chair handing
baby Rima to Ashot and heading for the door.

ASHOT

Where are you going?

ANNA

To save us!

Anna rushes out to the hallway where she is noticed by a
SUPERVISOR IMMIGRATION OFFICER. He watches her as she runs
into the waiting area.

CUT TO:

INT. ELLIS ISLAND IMMIGRATION OFFICE WAITING AREA. DAY

Anna enters the waiting area and approaches Erin and Gayanne.
She leans in and kisses both of them on the cheek.

ANNA

Hi Erin, Gayanne, how's everything
going?

ERIN

Everything is alright God heard us
and here we are in America! How
about you?

ANNA

We have a big problem, please tell
me you have my Bible?

ERIN

Oh my God, I forgot to give it back to you! I'm so sorry!

ANNA

It's okay, Erin please say you still have it!

ERIN

I do, it's right here in my bag.

She opens her bag and hands Anna the Bible. Anna opens the Bible and finds Commander Guardhouse's letter.

ANNA

Erin, you saved our lives! Thank you!

Anna rushes back towards the interview room.

CUT TO:

INT. ELLIS ISLAND IMMIGRATION INTERVIEW OFFICE. DAY

Officer Henderson is now back at his desk shuffling through papers. Baby Rima is agitated, she WHIMPERS and CRIES as Klarisa tries to comfort her.

OFFICER HENDERSON

We are searching for your application. Unfortunately, this can take quite awhile. We need to have some proof of who you are before we can let you in to the country.

Ashot slumps into his chair in despair when suddenly the door swings open. Officer Henderson is taken aback as Anna swoops in with Bible in hand. Ashot jumps to attention and approaches the desk.

OFFICER HENDERSON (CONT'D)

What is this?

ANNA

It's proof of who we are!

Anna opens the Bible and removes the letter handing it to Officer Henderson.

ASHOT

The American Commander at the camp gave it to me as a recommendation for a job. It has my name on it!

Henderson opens the letter and puts on his reading glasses.

OFFICER HENDERSON

Well, let's take a look. Can I ask why he gave you this letter?

ASHOT

I made him a pair of new boots.

Officer Henderson scrutinizes the letter he stops a moment to look over his glasses at Ashot and then back to letter.

OFFICER HENDERSON

I've seen these letters before most of them are fake.

SUPERVISOR JOHN WALLACE stern and authoritative enters the room and observes the situation.

SUPERVISOR WALLACE

What's the problem here?

OFFICER HENDERSON

They apparently have a letter from a U.S. Commander.

SUPERVISOR WALLACE

Let me have a look at the letter.

Officer Henderson hands him the letter. The Supervisor reads through it, he notices the Colonel's military seal stamp on the bottom of the letter, using his thumb he feels the embossed seal.

SUPERVISOR WALLACE (CONT'D)

Lieutenant Colonel William Guardhouse! Unbelievable you know this man is a war hero! He single-handed took out a German artillery unit saved hundreds of our soldiers. This letter is authentic! Go ahead Donald start the paperwork, I'll approve it!

Officer Henderson shakes his head in disbelief. He shuffles the papers together, pulls a stamp and ink pad from his desk drawer. He folds up the letter and hands it to Ashot.

OFFICER HENDERSON
(Stamping the papers)
Welcome to America !

CUT TO:

EXT. SANTA PAULA CALIFORNIA ORANGE GROOVES. DAY

ESTABLISHING SHOT:

Thousands of Orange trees create the seemingly unending groves. They sweep through the valley's two thousand acre site. As we near, we notice the trees are overflowing with huge ripe oranges. In the distance is a development of two hundred American bungalow style homes. Most contain two bedrooms with small front and backyards. We stop at one of the homes in the center of the street.

CUT TO:

INT. SMALL TWO BEDROOM AMERICAN BUNGALOW HOUSE. DAY

A large pot of soup stews on a small four burner stove. Anna lifts the pot lid and gives it a quick stir. Klarisa and Eddie are sitting on the living room floor playing with Baby Rima. Anna exits the kitchen with a baby bottle full of milk. She picks up Rima and begins to feed her the milk.

ANNA

Put Eddie's shoes on, we are going into town. Papa said they have stores with anything you can think of.

CUT TO:

INT. 1949 FORD SEDAN. DAY

Ashot sits in the passenger seat with his new friend, NISHAN KERKORIAN. Built like a boxer, dark eyes, five o'clock shadow. They drive through the housing development on an asphalt paved street.

NISHAN

The orange picking season will be over soon. You need to come to Los Angeles with me, more work and more money!

ASHOT

I don't know anybody in Los Angeles.

NISHAN

Don't worry my younger brother Krekor is a big shot in Los Angeles. Believe me, he can get you a job.

ASHOT

Thank you so much! Mr. Kerkorian. My family will be indebted to you.

NISHAN

Please call me Nishan and you have to understand when my parents came here from Armenia, they were like you broke with just their clothes on their backs. When your ready to come you call me!

Ashot glances over to the houses.

ASHOT

It's coming up here on the right. Thank you so much for doing this!

Nishan pulls up and parks in front of the small house. Ashot jumps out and closes the door. He runs and enters through the front door.

INT. SMALL TWO BEDROOM AMERICAN BUNGALOW HOUSE. DAY

Ashot enters to see his family are ready to go.

ASHOT

Everybody ready? My friend Nishan is going to give us a ride in his new car.

KLARISA

I'm ready Papa let's go!

EDDIE

Me too! I'm ready!

ASHOT

Alright let's go!

He opens the door as they all move outside towards the car.

CUT TO:

EXT. DOWNTOWN SANTA PAULA MAIN BOULEVARD. DAY

Nishan pulls his Ford sedan up to a large supermarket on the corner of the street. Ashot jumps out and opens the rear door letting everybody out. The car door slams shut as Nishan drives away. They stand in front of the large glass double doors. Ashot pushes the door open and they all enter a massive grocery store with over fifteen isles of shelves stacked high with a variety of different foods.

ASHOT

Oh my God! It's like a museum of food!

They all have expressions of amazement. Ashot spots the butcher department on the right side of the store. Klarisa and Eddie spot the snack isle. Anna gazes at all the fruits and vegetables. She quickly makes the sign of the cross.

ANNA

Thank you, God for bringing us to America!

Nishan enters the store and approaches Ashot and his family.

ASHOT

Let's get what we need, we only have eight dollars!

Nishan steps up behind Ashot and places his hand onto Ashot's shoulder.

NISHAN

You kids go ahead and get whatever you want! Uncle Nishan is going to take care of it!

ASHOT

Oh no, we can't take your money.

Klarisa and Eddie hesitate.

NISHAN

If you don't I will be very upset.

He stares back seriously a moment and then smiles.

NISHAN (CONT'D)

Don't worry, you can pay me back with your new job in Los Angeles.

ASHOT

Alright, you have a deal. Thank
you!

Ashot firmly shakes his hand and gives him a hug. Klarisa
comes over and hugs him too.

KLARISA

Thank you, Uncle Nishan!

NISHAN

You're welcome Sweetheart, now go
ahead and get what you want.

KLARISA ANANIAN V.O.

When we saw that Supermarket with
shelves on top of shelves all full
of food, we knew we came to
paradise! This was the United
States of America. We dreamed about
it and we had finally made it! We
stayed in Santa Paula a few more
months then we moved to Los
Angeles.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. LOS ANGELES CALIFORNIA CIRCA 1950. DAY

Aerial view of Down town on a hot summer day. We fly over
palm trees and American Bungalow homes as we reach its
tallest building, the L.A. City Hall. We descend to the
street and enter The Garment District. The main drag is busy
with cars and trucks moving in both directions. MERCHANTS
push racks of clothing down the sidewalks trying to avoid
hordes of SHOPPERS. We move past a row of small dress shops
and stop at a large warehouse on the corner.

CUT TO:

INT. FABRIC RECYCLING WAREHOUSE. DAY

Piles and piles of various types of fabric scraps are spread
out over the ten thousand square foot facility. Flatbed
trucks full of old clothing and fabric scraps pull into the
docking area. Ashot waits for a truck to back in and drop its
load of bundled clothing. The TRUCK DRIVER exits the cab and
pulls down on a lever. Ashot watches as the bed tilts back
and drops its load. He runs over and quickly drags the
bundles over to a sorting area.

The truck leaves and Ashot opens the bundles as he starts to separate the cotton from the wool. A man's coat, a woman's dress, children's clothing he quickly identifies the material and throws it into the appropriate pile. Ashot works at a feverish pace he begins to perspire. The clothing flying through the air blurs the picture as Ashot flash backs to the Auschwitz extermination camp.

FLASH BACK. AUSCHWITZ EXTERMINATION CAMP. DAY

The clothing is flying into a giant oven. Ashot stand near a cart overflowing with holocaust victims clothing. He grabs an arm full of clothing and throws it into the raging furnace as he turns to the cart for more he notices a blue velvet, lace trimmed, baby vest clinging to his chest. He peels it off holding it in his hands, a moment passes and his eye's tear up. He breaks down and falls to his knees.

CUT TO:

INT. FABRIC RECYCLING WAREHOUSE. DAY

Ashot is on his knees in tears amongst the piles of fabric and clothing. His boss, URI MARKARIAN, six feet three a large man with a big heart. He walks up to Ashot and shakes him back to reality.

URI MARKARIAN

Ashot!

Ashot looks up, eyes full of tears.

URI MARKARIAN (CONT'D)

Ashot! You alright?

Ashot realizes where he is and jumps to attention.

ASHOT

Yes, I'm alright.

Uri helps him to his feet.

URI MARKARIAN

Come with me.

Ashot a little skeptical follows him. Uri leads Ashot to his run-down office They enter as Uri moves to his desk opens a drawer and pulls out a bottle of Vodka and a couple of shot glasses. He pours the shots and hands Ashot the glass.

URI MARKARIAN (CONT'D)
Nishan told me what happened to you
in Germany. Let's drink to our
health

ASHOT
To our health!

Uri CLINKS Ashot's glass, they swallow the shots whole and
SLAM the glasses back down on the table.

URI MARKARIAN
I need you to take the truck and go
see Margo. Again she called and
said she has another shipment for
us.

ASHOT
No problem, I'll go right now!

URI MARKARIAN
No not now, one more shot for the
road!

Uri pours another round, they CLINK again and down their
shots.

CUT TO:

EXT. CATALINA SWIMWEAR FACTORY LOS ANGELES GARMENT DISTRICT.
DAY

Ashot backs the truck into one of the many loading docks.
MARGO MURKIJANIAN mid-forties, blue eyes, red hair,
curvaceous, Armenian, she walks over to greet Ashot as he
exits the truck.

MARGO
Hello Ashot, how are you?

ASHOT
Good day Margo, I'm doing alright.

MARGO
How's the family? Your daughter
Klarisa must be all grown up now!

ASHOT
She's nineteen years old and wants
to get married. I think she's too
young for marriage!

MARGO

I know it's so hard you raise them
worry about them, and then they
leave you.

ASHOT

I don't know who he is or who his
parents are? And I'm supposed to
say it's fine?

MARGO

Your wife Anna how old was she when
you married her?

Ashot hesitates and changes the subject. He points to a large
pile of bundled sewing scraps sitting on the dock.

ASHOT

Is this it?

Margo senses his stubbornness.

MARGO

Well, don't feel bad Ashot, my son
has a girlfriend I've never seen.
And he's also talking about
marriage.

Ashot doesn't want to hear it he leans over and starts
loading the buddles onto the truck.

ASHOT

She's still a child.

MARGO

Whether you like it or not, she
will eventually become a woman.

CUT TO:

EXT. UNION PACIFIC AVE CIRCA 1956 LOS ANGELES. DAY

Ashot's 1951 Chevy Skyline is parked in the driveway of a
small, two bedroom, nineteen twenties, wood sided home. We
hear Klarisa SCREAMING and CRYING from outside the house.

KLARISA V.O.

But Papa, I love him!

CUT TO:

INT. NINETEEN TWENTIES, SMALL, WOOD SIDED, HOME. DAY

Rima sits in a high chair next to Eddie in a small dining area in the kitchen. Klarisa is sitting on the couch sobbing. Ashot paces back and forth while Anna stands between them refereeing the situation.

ANNA

Why are you being so stubborn!
She's in love! Or did you forget
about love?

ASHOT

What love? She's too young to get
married! That's it, I don't want to
talk about it!

Klarisa's sobbing elevates quickly to balling.

KLARISA

I'm not a baby anymore! I'm going
to be twenty years old. Mama was
nineteen when you married her!

Anna grabs Ashot's arm and pulls him into their bedroom.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM. DAY

Anna gets into Ashot's space, her face reddens with anger.

ANNA

Now, you are going to listen to me!
Klarisa's life up to now has been
"Hell on Earth". We have to thank
God we made it this far! Now she
has a chance for some happiness,
I'm not going to rob her of that
and neither are you!

Ashot stares back dumbfounded.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Now you go out there and tell her
you'll meet the Boy's family. Go!

Anna pushes him out the door and into the living room.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM . DAY

Ashot walks up to Klarisa sitting on the couch, head in hands, sobbing. She looks up curiously.

ASHOT
I will meet his family.

KLARISA
Really!

Ashot nods in agreement. Klarisa jumps up excited, she hugs and kisses him. Anna watches from the doorway.

KLARISA (CONT'D)
It's just him and his mother he
lost his father during the war.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT. UNION PACIFIC AVE. DAY.

Margo and her son, PETER, mid-twenties, tall, dark haired and handsome. He sport's an Elvis Presley hair style and drives a 1953 Cadillac Coupe Deville. They drive by the original Quaker Oats Factory.

MARGO
Are you sure you're ready for
marriage?

PETER
I just got a raise at the Ford
company. I'm ready!

MARGO
That's not what I'm talking about.
Are you in love?

PETER
Yes Mother I love her! Here it is
3520 Union Pacific.

Peter pulls up and parks in front of Klarisa's house.

INT. LIVING ROOM KLARISA'S HOUSE. DAY

Klarisa peeks out the living room window and sees the Cadillac pull up.

KLARISA
Mama, Papa they're here!

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM. DAY

Anna has laid Rima in her crib and she's fast asleep. Ashot finishes buttoning up a dress shirt.

ANNA
(Whispering)
You better be nice to these people!
Start by smiling, don't ruin this,
do you understand?

Ashot forces a smile and nods in agreement.

ANNA (CONT'D)
Alright, let's go.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM. DAY

Ashot and Anna enter the living room, a table for six has been set in the middle of the room. It is stocked with an overwhelming amount of salads, cold cuts, and Armenian food. They all move past the table and exit the house.

CUT TO:

EXT. UNION PACIFIC AVE. DAY

Klarisa excitedly bolts ahead of Eddie and her parents. Peter has exited the car and is helping Margo out of her seat. He opens the car's rear door and removes a bouquet of flowers and a bottle of cognac. They all gather on the sidewalk and wait for Margo to exit. Margo turns to face them, she looks up straight at Ashot. Ashot looks back in amazement.

ASHOT
Margo?

MARGO
Ashot Jan!

Anna and Klarisa are surprised.

ANNA
You know each other?

ASHOT

Margo works at Catalina swimsuits.
Its part of my route. Margo this is
my wife Anna and my son Eddie.

Margo extends her hand.

MARGO

Pleasure to meet you Anna! This is
my son, Peter.

Peter extends his hand to Anna and then to Ashot, Eddie walks
over and shakes hands with Peter in a very manly way.

EDDIE

Nice to meet you.

Peter is impressed.

PETER

Nice to meet you Eddie.

Peter turns to Klarisa and grabs her hand.

PETER (CONT'D)

Mom this is Klarisa.

Klarisa approaches Margo, she kisses her on both cheeks and
gives Margo a big hug.

MARGO

What a beautiful girl!

ASHOT

Please everyone let's go inside we
have a big dinner waiting for us!

They all move up the walkway towards the house.

CUT TO:

EXT. LOS ANGELES CIRCA 1955, OUR LADY QUEEN OF MARTYRS
ARMENIAN CHURCH. DAY

A small Catholic Church at 1339 Pleasant Ave. The Church
built in the thirties is nestled into a hillside with a view
of downtown from its entrance. A steep driveway leads to a
large parking lot located near the side of the church. We
move up the driveway into a parking lot full of late model
Cadillas and Lincolns. We move through a walkway leading to a
set of double doors. The doors open.

MOVE TO:

INT ARMENIAN CHURCH BANQUET HALL.

The hall is occupied way over capacity, approximately five hundred people are seated or standing around the dance floor. Familiar faces from the Funkkaserne DP camp are dotted throughout the crowd. Klarisa And Peter sit at the main table. Klarisa's family sits on her right side and Peter's extended family sit on the left. Directly behind them on stage are MAESTRO EDWARD HOCHARIAN mid-forties, jet black hair. He's a composer and looks it. His eight piece Armenian ORCHESTRA is tuning up preparing to play. Ashot, Anna and Margo stand near the entrance greeting GUEST as they enter. Simon, who was injured at the Damlier company in Stuttgart enters wearing an expensive suit. With his beautiful wife, SERA by his side, he approaches Ashot.

SIMON

Ashot Jan!

Ashot recognizes him, they hug as Simon kisses Ashot on both cheeks.

ASHOT

Simon, my friend ! I'm so glad you came, I want you to sit with me.
Anna!

Ashot waves Anna over.

ASHOT (CONT'D)

Anna, you remember Simon And Sera?

ANNA

Of course I do! Sera, Simon..

They shake hands Simon puts out his left hand. Anna acknowledges she knows about his injured hand.

ASHOT

Sit them at our table!

ANNA

Absolutely, please come with me!

Anna leads them to the main table. Ashot turns around and is now face to face with his friend Nishan Kerkorian.

NISHAN

(In Armenian)

Ashot Jan! Light to your eyes!

They hug, Ashot respectfully kisses Nishan on both cheeks.

ASHOT

Nishan jan, you look good!

NISHAN

Thank you I've been training for a big fight coming up.

The PA system SQUEALS as Eddie Hocharian nears the microphone.

EDDIE HOCHARIAN

Ladies and Gentelman your attention please!

The CROWD continues a mild CLAMOR, GUESTS start to CLANG their utensils on the drinking glasses.

EDDIE HOCHARIAN (CONT'D)

(In Armenian)

Honored Guests your attention please!

The crowd quiets down. Ashot and Nishan turn towards the stage.

EDDIE HOCHARIAN (CONT'D)

We come together today to celebrate a very special occasion. The marriage of Peter and Klarisa Murkijanian!

Drum beats fill the air as the orchestra builds up momentum.

EDDIE HOCHARIAN (CONT'D)

Let's start the celebration with the Shabash dance!

Clarinets begin to SQUEAL as Klarisa and Peter stand up and enter the dance floor area. The crowd roars in appreciation. Peter starts to dance Armenian style as he circles around Klarisa accenting the mood. Ashot walks over to the table and stands next to Anna. Nishan reaches into his jacket and pulls out a large roll of money, he runs over to the bride and groom showering them with hundreds of dollar bills. Klarisa waves to her Parents inviting them to join in on the dance. Ashot and Anna enter the dance floor as the crowd roars to a louder level. Ashot begins to circle around them doing the famous Hopak Cossack Dance. The crowd roars even louder as he flies through the air kicking and extending his arms in perfect Cossack style.

A series of characters from the camp, one by one appear and shower money upon them. Armen, Doctor Gabralian, Simon, and a host of familiar faces take part. Guests start to flood the dance floor, they dance around the family pinky fingers entwined. The line grows so large it extends into the table area. Eddie Hocharian and the orchestra speed up the pace of the song adding to the spectacle unfolding on the dance floor.

EDDIE HOCHARIAN (CONT'D)

Opah! Tashi !

Maestro Hocharian turns toward his orchestra with baton in hand. He motions to raise the tempo and finally crescendo to the songs finale.

EDDIE HOCHARIAN (CONT'D)

Thank you! Thank you very much!

The guests clap and cheer as things wind down on the dance floor.

EDDIE HOCHARIAN (CONT'D)

Ladies and Gentelman, can I please have your attention!

The guests all turn and face the stage.

EDDIE HOCHARIAN (CONT'D)

It is my pleasure to introduce a man you all know well! The father of the bride, Ashot Ananian. Ashot, please come up here.

Ashot, a little reluctant, makes his way to the microphone.

ASHOT

Thank you, Maestro Hocharian!

Ashot stares out into the crowd of familiar faces. He loves these people and they all know it. He looks down at Klarisa, her loving gaze says it all. He pauses a beat and looks back to the crowd.

ASHOT (CONT'D)

Well here we are all together again! I see everyone looks good and healthy. My wife says I have to buy a Cadillac she says all the DP's drive a Cadillac .

The men in the audience of guests smile, proud of themselves.

ASHOT (CONT'D)
God bless America!

Ashot's boss Uri Markarian stands up and raises his shot glass into the air.

MAN
Ashot jan! I will drink to that!
God bless America!

The guests all raise their glasses into the air. Some one hands Ashot a shot glass filled with Vodka.

ASHOT
God bless America!

He throws the drink back quickly and sets the glass down.

ASHOT (CONT'D)
My new in-law Margo Murkijanian.

He glances over to Margo who smiles and waves back.

ASHOT (CONT'D)
She said one day my daughter would
become a woman and whether I liked
it or not it was going to happen.
Well it did!

Everyone turns and smiles at Margo.

ASHOT (CONT'D)
At first I couldn't accept it,
after all she is my little girl, I
would give my life for her!

Ashot looks down into Klarisa's eyes. She gazes back with tears of joy.

DISSOLVE TO:

FLASH BACK MONTAGE:

INT. GERMAN MILITARY TRUCK. DAY

Klarisa clings to her mother sobbing in the back of the German Army truck as they are driven from their home.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. WARSAW, TRAIN TERMINAL. DAY

We watch from the moving train as Klarisa is left alone at the train station.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. AUSCHWITZ CONCENTRATION CAMP. DAY

Ashot's POV, Klarisa standing alone, clutching her rag doll amongst barbed wire and dead corpses.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LABOR CAMP BARRACKS. DAY

Klarisa pouts dressed like a boy.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. UNION PACIFIC HOUSE LIVING ROOM. DAY

Ashot's POV, Klarisa sits on the couch sobbing, she looks up to him with tearful, imploring eyes.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CHURCH RECEPTION HALL. NIGHT

Ashot tearing up continues his speech.

ASHOT

But now I see the happiness in her heart the Joy in her spirit. I see myself and my beautiful wife.

He looks over and acknowledges her.

ASHOT (CONT'D)

I remember how we fell in love and how happy we were.

ANNA

How happy we are!

The guests love it! A wave of laughter moves through the room.

ASHOT

Yes, she's right how happy we are!
And now, today, how happy Klarisa
and Peter are! I want everyone to
drink to their health and
happiness!
Salute!

Ashot and the guests throw back their shots. The guests start to CLAP and CHEER. Eddie Hocharian approaches and hands Ashot his mandolin, Ashot surprised takes it into his hands.

ASHOT (CONT'D)

Thank you Maestro!

EDDIE HOCHARIAN

Ashot Ananian everyone!

The crowd CHEERS. Eddie Hocharian raises his baton, the band on his cue starts to play the same song Ashot played for George Mardikian at Funkkaserne. Ashot begins to play the mandolin, he brings the instrument close to the microphone accenting his strumming. A procession of GUESTS enter the dance floor and synchronize themselves as they begin to dance with intricate traditional moves. We spin around with them in the center as women and men dance precisely around the perimeter of the dance floor.

KLARISA ANANIAN V.O.

My wedding was fantastic, we
celebrated until five o'clock in
the morning. My father got so drunk
we had to carry him to the car!

DISSOLVE TO:

INT DINNING ROOM MODERN HOME CIRCA 2016. DAY

Close up: KLARISA ANANIAN eighty years old frail but alert.

KLARISA

Pete and I worked hard and bought a
house. In 1957, Joe was born and
three years later Gregory came. And
now, here I am with my beautiful
grandchildren.

The camera pulls out to a dining table full of food. Klarisa reaches out and grabs the handle of the famous KETTLE, she pours hot water into a teacup. The camera pans the table showing her TWO SONS and THREE GRANDCHILDREN.

KLARISA (CONT'D)

So when I die I want you to
remember what we had to go through
so you can have a better life. And
remember, when you have a problem
the power of God is inside of you,
all you have to do is ask for his
help!

YOUNGEST GRANDCHILD

Grandma, you're not going to die!

KLARISA

(Smiling)

Don't worry, not today!

END TITLES ROLL mixed with outtakes of cast and crew during
filming .

