

IN ONE HOUR

Written by  
Fausto Lucignani

Copyright (c) 2016 This  
screenplay may not be used or  
reproduced

fauluc@hotmail.com

FADE IN

INT. HOSPITAL - ROOM - DAY

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

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

A soft neon light illuminates the room.

INT. HOSPITAL - ROOM - DAY

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

ELGA

Come in.

Surprisingly, her voice is clear and strong.

(She speaks with a heavy German accent)

INT. HOSPITAL - ROOM - SECONDS LATER

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

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

Sara takes a seat on a hospital chair beside Elga's bed.

SARA

Good morning Elga, how are you feeling today?

ELGA

Not too good doctor...I'm very anxious, you know...waiting for surgery.

SARA

(smiling)

Stay calm, we'll go in soon.

ELGA

I'm ready...do I have a chance?

Sara appears lost on words.

A long pause.

SARA

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

ELGA

Have you operated on elderly people  
before?

SARA

Yes I have, keep in mind that age is  
an important factor to consider. Your  
body is frail... but I'm confident.

Elga looks at Sara. A sickly smile appears on her face.

ELGA

Thank you.

Elga's eyes are fixed on the ceiling.

Sara notices her discomfort.

SARA

Do you have other questions?

ELGA

No questions... but--

SARA

Go ahead.

ELGA

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

SARA

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

ELGA

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

SARA

Okay, what you want to tell me?

Elga hesitates, it seems that she is collecting her thoughts  
to find the right words.

ELGA

Would you justify the killing of innocent people if the killer has been brainwashed?

SARA

A difficult question to answer...

Elga looks at Sara inquisitively.

ELGA

Would you?

Sara stares at Elga with a resolute expression.

SARA

No, killing is never justifiable. Why this question?

ELGA

It's a long story...in my youth, I was idealistic and I believed in racial hygiene, a perfect German Aryan race without Jews...in 1942, I joined the NAZI party.

SARA

It was sad period in history. Why you want to remember it?

ELGA

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

SARA

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

Elga stares at Sara while continuing her story. Her words sound robotic.

ELGA

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

SARA

Were you attracted to women before?

ELGA

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

SARA

What did you do with that woman?

ELGA

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

SARA

Did you want to make love to her?

ELGA

No, no...it was strange...I just wanted to admire her body...I felt a weird desire...but she refused, she ran to a corner of the room, curled up on the floor and started to cry and pray.

SARA

What happened then?

ELGA

I followed her, I was so mad--

SARA

Why were you angry?

ELGA

Because she had ignored my order...

SARA

What did you do to her?

ELGA

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

SARA

Were you ever punished for that?

ELGA

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

SARA  
Did you kill other Jews?

ELGA  
Yes, at AUSCHWITZ, many...many  
elderly Jews...they couldn't work...  
they were useless.

Sara remains stone-faced. Her eyes are tearful.

SARA  
Is this all you want to tell me?

ELGA  
Yes.

Sara's cell phone RINGS.

SARA  
Excuse me.

She steps outside the room.

INT. HOSPITAL - CORRIDOR - MORNING

Sara answer the phone.

SARA  
Hi Mom.

MOM  
Don't be late for the SEDER.

SARA  
I'm about to go in to operate on an  
old patient...a very difficult  
surgery. I hope to finish early.

MOM  
I understand, God bless you and your  
patient.

INT. HOSPITAL - ROOM - CONTINUOUS

A solemn silence permeates the room.

Olga lies in bed motionless.

SARA  
It was my Mom, tonight we have the  
Passover Seder.

ELGA  
I see...

SARA  
Your surgery is in one hour.

Elga turns her head in the direction of Sara. Her eyes are closed. Her voice trembles.

ELGA  
Are you going to kill me?

Sara doesn't answer.

FADE OUT