

DAMASK MEMORIES

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**FADE IN:**

**INT. WOMB - DAY**

An unborn FETUS rests curled up in a womb. All is quiet and the unborn child lies still, a dim light enters its space through the wall of the uterus.

**EXT. FIELD - DAY**

A vast, open field, covered in snow. The white is unblemished, but for a trail of footsteps that lead to a small COLUMN OF REFUGEES.

The group are covered in a variety of tracksuits and other clothes, all ill suited to the freezing conditions. They struggle onward in line, stumbling through the snow.

SUPER: Ljutovo, Serbia

At the tail we find a heavily pregnant woman. This is SAMIRA KOKASH (27), dark hair, green eyes, her naturally tanned skin infused with a rouge tint from the cold.

**INT. BARN - NIGHT**

In a tin roofed barn, the Refugees rest around an open fire.

An ELDERLY WOMAN (80's), pale skin, grey tied back hair, passes around blankets, whilst a TEENAGE BOY (17), offers out sandwiches and water.

Samira lies alone by a brick wall to the rear of the barn. Curled in a ball, her eyes twitch rapidly below her closed eyelids.

**BEGIN DREAM SEQUENCE:**

**EXT. ROOFTOP - NIGHT**

Samira, slim with no sign of pregnancy, sits on a sloped red tiled roof with a MAN (early 30's), wearing army fatigues. The two share a glass of wine and a cigarette.

The street lights of the city below them flicker.

Samira places the wineglass between her legs and reaches across to the Man, who kisses her hand and holds it to his chest.

BANG. The night sky is lit by a blinding light overhead as an explosion rings out. A ball of light trails through the air and lands a few miles away.

The street lights that were flickering die out. The Man slowly lets go of Samira's hand and gets to his feet.

**END DREAM SEQUENCE.**

**INT. BARN - NIGHT**

Samira opens her eyes to find the Elderly Woman kneeling down beside her, gingerly placing a blanket over her body.

The Elderly Woman, turns to face the now awake Samira. Startled, she holds her hand out in apology. The two lock eyes for a beat, before Samira takes the woman's hand and places it on her pregnant stomach.

The Elderly Woman grimaces and attempts a smile, but the fear in her eyes cuts through the gloom of the dark space.

**INT. WOMB - NIGHT**

In a now darkened space, we see the slight outline of the Elderly Woman's hand placed against the outside of Samira's stomach.

The Fetus, now awake, aims kicks towards the wall, causing the outline of the hand to draw away suddenly. A beat, before the Elderly Woman's hand slowly returns.

We hear a MUFFLED SHOUT from outside the womb, and the walls start to move around the fetus as Samira raises herself to her feet.

**EXT. BORDER FENCE - NIGHT**

The group of Refugees stand at a barbed wire topped fence. On a nearby post is a sign with a Hungarian flag on it, and written below: "ALLAMHATAR, STATE BORDER, STAATSGRENZE".

A MALE REFUGEE (30's) with BOLT CUTTERS slowly approaches the fence. There is silence as he places the bolt cutters against the wire.

The Refugee stops for a beat, as the rest of the group look to the other side, searching for any movement beyond.

SNIP. The bolt cutters snap shut and a cut metal wire dances in the air. Samira looks on, no emotion on her face.

Another beat, before the Refugee hurriedly starts to cut further rungs on the fence.

Suddenly, we hear a SIREN and the area is lit by floodlight as a group of BORDER GUARDS, with barking DOGS, approach from the other side. One GUARD sprints to the freshly made hole in the fence, and drags the Male Refugee through it.

Panicked, the Refugees scatter in all directions. Samira stops, looks down to her groin, and finds a wet patch growing around her tracksuit pants.

Panic spreads across her face. She looks around and finds the bolt cutters lying in the snow, which she grabs as she hobbles off into the darkness.

#### **INT. WOMB - NIGHT**

Intermittent light enters the womb from the floodlights outside. The Fetus, upset now its mother's waters have broken, rolls and kicks at the womb around itself.

The light and the noise fade as its mother escapes the chaos outside.

#### **EXT. BORDER FENCE - NIGHT**

In near pitch darkness we hear a series of hurried SNIPS as Samira, alone, hacks away at a piece of the border fence.

After a flurry of cuts, she flings the bolt cutters to one side and squeezes through the newly made hole.

In the distance we can hear the BARK of dogs. Samira puts her head down and hobbles towards a wooded area.

#### **BEGIN FLASHBACK:**

#### **INT. MORGUE - DAY**

Samira stands in a morgue. She weeps and rests her hand on a BODY BAG laid on a table in front of her.

A SOLDIER (50's) comes to her side and places his hand on her shoulder. He looks at Samira's tear covered cheeks, goes to his pocket and pulls out a tissue.

When he raises his hand to offer her the tissue he stops, as his eyes catch her hand resting atop a slight bump on her midriff.

**END FLASHBACK.**

**EXT. ROADSIDE - DAY**

The sun has broken over the horizon as Samira stands at the side of a busy tree lined road, knee deep in snow. With her left hand she clutches her midriff, and uses her right to try to flag down passing cars.

She stops for a moment and looks down at her pants, only to find a crimson streak running down the leg, flooding into the white snow below.

Panicked, she staggers onto the road in front of an ONCOMING CAR, and falls to her knees.

The car screeches to a halt and Samira stares into the blinding headlights for a beat, before she collapses head first onto the road.

**INT. HOSPITAL DAY**

Samira lies unconscious on a hospital trolley, a large wound on her head. The trolley is wheeled at pace by three NURSES down a brightly lit corridor.

A Nurse vainly squeezes Samira's hand as they rush her through a set of double swing doors.

**INT. WOMB - DAY**

A bright light pierces the wall of the womb, focusing on the fetus. It lies there, no movement, completely still.

Suddenly a line appears, and the womb is flooded with light and a gloved hand drags the lifeless infant from its home.

**FADE TO BLACK:**

Over black we hear the sound of cars speeding along a road.

**FROM BLACK:**

**EXT. ROADSIDE - DAY**

The snow has gone and the summer sun beats down on the same tree lined road that Samira crossed. There stands a YOUNG GIRL (9), with an MAN (40's).

The Young Girl has tanned skin, dark hair and green eyes, and holds in her hand a bunch of PINK DAMASK ROSES.

The Man ushers the Girl to a spot, where she gently places the flowers on the ground. The Man pulls the Girl to his side and embraces her.

**FADE TO BLACK:**

**END**