

North of the Cenotaph

by

Léo Major

FADE IN:

EXT. LONDON, ST JAMES PARK - 2006

A beautiful Saturday. A LITTLE BOY pilots a toy airplane across a park pathway.

He bumps into GRAYSON SMITH (80's) WW2 Vet in ceremonial dress. Grayson looks to the silly boy, roughs his hair, little scamp.

VOICE (O.S.)

Billy!

The boy waves up at Grayson who returns the wave with a smile, he runs to his parents...

MOTHER (30's) and FATHER (30's) They wave at Grayson, sorry about that.

Grayson returns a wave and makes his way to a park bench close by, takes a well deserved rest.

A beat...

VOICE (O.S.)

Excuse me...

EXT. LONDON, ST JAMES PARK - 1937

LILY SULLIVAN (20's) long red curls, a Geena Davis smile with an armload of books blows a tuft of air out of her face.

GRAYSON SMITH (20's) a full head of hair, face in a book. He looks up from the bench he's sitting on, a genuine smile.

INT. CHURCH - 1938

Lily and Grayson stand at the alter, A MINISTER stands between them, the WEDDING PARTY looks on, tears of joy. It couldn't get any better, They kiss.

INT. APARTMENT - 1939

Warm light shines through lace sheers, MUSIC plays on a record player. Grayson swings Lily around, they dance and then embrace, Lily has a baby bump.

INT. APARTMENT - 1941

TIMMY SMITH (3) stares into a mirror, Lily holds him close, in the background Grayson stands at the foot of the apartment entrance, suitcase in hand, dressed for deployment. Churchill addresses the nation over the RADIO

WINSTON CHURCHILL (V.O.)

At this solemn hour for the life
of our Country, of our Empire, of
our allies, and above all of the
cause of freedom--

Lily puts Timmy down, he runs to his father, they embrace.

Grayson's face fills with sadness.

Lily watches father and son, she covers her face in despair.

EXT. TRAIN STATION - 1941

Lily stands holding Timmy, that Geena Davis smile. A large group of women and young children see the soldiers off to war. A couple banners drape the side of the train:

HERE WE COME ADOLF BERLIN OR BUST

Lily stands in the middle of the large group of women and children, Their faces full of sadness, This may be the last they see of each other.

EXT. ALLY CAMP - 1941

Grayson sits in a service tent looking over a letter from Lily.

INSERT LETTER:

DEAREST GRAY, THE EVACUATIONS HAVE BEGUN. I DON'T KNOW
WHAT TO THINK OF IT--

EXT. LIVERPOOL, PORT - 1941

Lily Stands with Timmy in a line of people, several servicemen stand close by, a large sign in the background reads: CHILDREN'S OVERSEAS RECEPTION BOARD

A CLERK looks to a clipboard, checks off Timmy Smith.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Timmy is led up into a ship by another serviceman. Lily watches him go, she falls to her knees in despair, SEVERAL WOMEN comfort her.

EXT. LONDON STREET - 1941

Lily walks the empty street, she comes to a bill taped to a pole, then to a large wall adorned with the same poster adorned with smiling uniformed women, A bold font reads:

CIVIL DEFENSE, WOMEN WANTED FOR EVACUATION SERVICE OFFER YOUR SERVICES.

Lily's face fills with determination.

EXT. BATTLEFIELD - 1941

A group of ALLIES rush the field, bombs drop around them kicking up mud and dirt, in the background plumes of smoke cover the horizon, some large explosions throw figures into the air like rag dolls.

Behind a rampart, Grayson takes cover.

His face fills with fear.

With a menacing war face, he jumps up from cover, aiming his rifle.

EXT. LONDON SUBURB - 1941

Air Sirens BLARE, Lily in a Women's Volunteer Service uniform. A YOUNG BOY hangs out a partially bombed garden home, the last standing in the row. A line of enemy bombers fly overhead.

BOY

Help me!

Lily is determined, not this boy.

INT. GAREN HOME - 1941

Lily appears from a doorway with the young boy on her back.

BANG

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

An explosion close by shakes the house, Lily looks over her shoulder to the boy, that smile. She works her way across a partially collapsed hallway and down the stairs.

EXT. ALLY CAMP, SOCCER FIELD - 1941

A jeep approaches, comes to a stop at the field. SEVERAL SOLDIERS running by stop in their tracks, they've seen this before.

Grayson kicks a ball, takes notice and stares at the jeep.

A OFFICER in full uniform steps out of the jeep, hands together as if in prayer, pale, shaken.

Grayson's face fills with fear.

EXT. LONDON SUBURB - 1941

The sky is filled with enemy bombers. Lily and the young boy come to a bombed out part of the road, a W.V.S. Truck idles.

TWO WOMEN in W.V.S. uniform reach up and help the young boy down the incline of broken concrete and asphalt.

One of them helps the young boy into the back of the truck, the other grabs a hold of Lily tries to help her, it isn't easy.

EXT. SKY, ROW OF BOMBERS - 1941

A bomber drops a payload.

Several bombs fall down towards the London suburb.

EXT. LONDON SUBURB - 1941

Lily is almost down...

FALLING BOMB

Lily's face fills with fear.

Service Woman's face fills with desperation.

In the side view mirror of the truck, the driver looks on in despair.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Lily looks to the driver.

LILY

GO

The service woman holds Lily tight.

The Driver's face fills of tears.

The Truck kicks up dirt, hits the gas, leaves them behind.

Lily waits for impact.

BANG

A massive explosion.

INT. TRUCK - 1941

The drivers eyes stream with tears as smoke rises behind the truck, and then more explosions. They just made it.

EXT. WHITEHALL, LONDON - 2006

Grayson stands at the foot of the Women of World War 2 memorial, his family at his side.

He places a single rose at it's foot.

Steps back, surrounded by generations of his family, he sticks his hand in his pocket, pulls out a locket, opens it up.

INSERT LOCKET:

An old picture of Grayson, Lily and little Timmy, a time long past, a former life.

EXT. LONDON, ST JAMES PARK - 2006

Grayson arm and arm with his family head down the path and over the horizon, a big beautiful sky.

EXT. LONDON, ST JAMES PARK - 1940

Grayson and Lily sit on blanket admiring the sunset, a baby carriage rests beside them, what a view.

FADE OUT.

