

THE SOLDIER,  
THE CHILD AND THE DOG

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THE SOLDIER, THE CHILD AND THE DOG

FADE IN:

EXT. BATTLEFIELD - NIGHT

Bombs are exploding continuously far away on the battlefield covered by snow.

INSERT: 1914 - SOMEWHERE ON THE FRONT LINE

The explosions shine like lights in the dark sky. It's real hell!

EXT. BATTLEFIELD - DAY

The bombs stop exploding. The field is snow-covered. We can't see a soul, just a dead silence.

Far away we see a tiny wisp of smoke rising into the sky from the white top of the forest trees.

We hear repeated machine gun fire and a dog barking. Then they stop.

Silence.

EXT. CHALET - DAY

Four German soldiers come out of the chalet carrying some of the residents' belongs. They leave the place.

From the trees a dog approaches the chalet, sniffing around and barking. The dog sits down in front of the door, quietly.

A beat...

We hear a weak cry.

Slowly, we approach the window.

Through the window we see a great mess inside and two bodies lying on the floor.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

We follow a pair of military boot tracks in the snow. One track is deeper than the other is. Its owner has wounded his left leg. Now we see just the legs of a soldier walking. The Soldier is using his rifle like a walking stick to help him walk. He stops.

Now we can see his whole body.

His POV shows us the chalet from which we have just seen the Germans leaving.

The Soldier moves towards the chalet.

EXT. CHALET - DAY

The dog receives the Soldier with animosity bearing his white fangs.

The Soldier approaches. Suddenly, the dog attacks him. The soldier tries to defend himself. He beats bits it with his rifle butt. The soldier prepares to shoot but the dog runs away towards the trees.

Relived, the Soldier walks towards the chalet.

INT. CHALET - DAY

The door is open. The lock is broken. The soldier moves in cautiously carrying this rifle.

His POV shows us two bodies on the floor. A man and a woman.

The Soldier hears a cry.

He gently pulls the woman's body aside and under it there is a CHILD!

EXT. CHALET - LATER DAY

It continues to snow heavily. The Soldier has just finished burying the bodies near the chalet.

His POV shows us that the dog is standing, quietly near the trees.

The soldier seems tired. He feels his wounded left leg and hobbles back to the chalet.

INT. CHALET - NIGHT

The fire crackles in the hearth. The soldier is sitting in a rocking chair. He rocks a child's cradle.

We hear the dog howling outside.

INT. CHALET - MORNING

The fire has burned out. The soldier wakes up and raises himself from the chair. The child is still sleeping.

He walks towards the window. He looks out and sees the dog standing near the trees as the snow falls.

INT. CHALET - OTHER DAY

The Soldier seems to have recovered from his leg injury. It is much better. His beard has grown.

He gives some bread to the child.

INT. CHALET - OTHER DAY

Is very cold. The soldier puts some more logs on the hearth. He pushes the cradle with the child nearer to the hearth. They take advantage of the warmth that is coming from the hearth.

The child continues crying. Suddenly, we hear the dog-howling outside.

The soldier walks towards the window. The dog continues howling outside near the trees.

A gust of wind blows the door open. The Soldier walks to the door and puts a chair against it to keep it closed.

He walks towards a cupboard.

He opens it. It's empty. No food, nothing just a tin. He opens the tin and inside he finds just one piece of old, hard biscuit.

The child is crying.

The Soldier holds the biscuit and starts to look for something inside the cupboard. Finally he finds a plate and a spoon. He walks towards the table.

INT. CHALET- MINUTES LATER

The Soldier finishes mixing the biscuit with a little water.

The porridge is ready. The Soldier walks towards the child, who looks starving, carrying the plate and a spoon.

INT. CHALET - NIGHT

The Soldier is snoring beside the cradle where the child is.

EXT. FOREST - MORNING

The snow has melted. The sunlight is shining. The dog is standing in the same place as days earlier.

The Soldier goes out of the chalet. The dog runs into the trees. The soldier walks among the trees.

INT. FOREST - LATER

He continues walking.

After some yards, the soldier stops.

He takes the rifle and looks around. He is very tired. Suddenly, he hears a noise.

It is coming from a branch nearby.

The soldier points the rifle in the direction where the noise comes from.

POV of the soldier shows that there is nothing at all on the branch.

BACK TO THE SCENE

The Soldier lowers his rifle, disappointed and decides to walk back to the chalet.

The Soldier seems to be very tired. Then, he stops again.

POV the soldier shows something moving in the branches.

BACK TO THE SCENE

The soldier shoots two times and quickly goes towards it.

He returns with a RABBIT!

The bombs BLOW far away again.

The Soldier walks back to the chalet bringing with him the dead rabbit.

EXT. CHALET - MINUTES LATER

The soldier arrives at the chalet. The door is OPENED!

He looks outside where the dog was, but it isn't near the tree anymore.

INT. CHALET - DAY

The Soldier gets in, cautiously.

He senses that something is wrong.

POV the soldier shows that there is BLOOD all over the floor!

The Soldier moves back, cautiously.

He gets his rifle and walks, following the trail blood until the cradle.

It's DOWN!

He finds the dog standing near it.

Its snout is stained with BLOOD.

The dog looks at the soldier. It's GROWLING with his WHITE FANGS out.

Carefully, the soldier points the rifle to the dog.

His finger slowly squeezes the trigger.

A drop of sweat runs down the soldier face.

The dog looks at him as if he knows what is about to happen with him.

The soldier LOWERS the rifle.

He can't shoot the dog! He hesitates! He knows he has to do it before the dog attacks him.

The soldier RAISES the rifle again.

He points it at the dog as his FINGER squeezes the TRIGGER and...

A CRY!

The child cries near the hearth...

It is BEHIND the cradle.

The soldier approaches the hearth and pushes the cradle aside.

Nearby there is a WOLF DEAD!

The soldier's FINGER stops, squeezing the trigger.

A GRIN of relief comes across the soldier's face.

Immediately, he takes the child into his arms.

He is safe, no injuries.

The soldier puts the child back to the cradle and turns to the dog.

It gets up and moves crippled.

His SNOUT and his PAWS are wounded.

The Soldier bends down and touches the dog with affection.

EXT. CHALET - NEXT DAY

A group of allied Soldier starts to march.

The Soldier marches alongside them.

The child is on top of a horse drawn coach and the dog follows behind.

Everybody leave the chalet.

FADE OUT