

WAITING FOR KARMA

written and adapted

by

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FADE IN:

EXT. - P.O.V VIEW FROM CABIN OVER WOODS DOWN TO A WHITE VICTORIAN HOUSE AND GARDEN WITH A GREENHOUSE ON FIRE, ADDINGTON, DEVON, UK. - 1992 - AFTERNOON

A middle-aged man stands on the PORCH of his CABIN in the WOODS, looking through a gap between the trees and down a forested valley. This is EZRA FRANK, he is a HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR.

He sees black SMOKE rising from a GREENHOUSE down the hill in the distance.

He watches a TEENAGE GIRL shouting and swinging a bucket of water as she is putting out a FIRE raging inside the greenhouse.

CLOSE ON: on Ezra. His dark brown eyes are SAD.

EZRA (V.O.)

These people in their privileged homes, living the life I never got to live..

DISSOLVE TO:

INT.- VICTORIAN HOUSE 1990'S - TEENAGE BEDROOM - EVENING

SUPER: THE NIGHT BEFORE

CLOSE ON: BRONWYN MULLER as she sits ALONE on her bed, reading her NOTEBOOK which is embellished with Celtic SYMBOLS.

Her bedroom wall is decorated with posters of 1980's FINE YOUNG CANNIBALS and 1990's GRUNGE BANDS such as Nirvana, Pearl Jam and The Verve.

She is fourteen years old, naturally beautiful with sharp features, red-brown hair and she is athletically built.

BRONWYN (SOFT V.O.)

There are forces at play in the Universe. Forces of karma...no one can control.

CLOSE ON: Bronwyn's face as she READS to herself.

BRONWYN

(whispers)

Moon of finest silver, wane, Take  
with you bad luck and bane, as you  
fade into the night, bring new  
hope back into sight.

CUT TO:

INT.- ADDINGTON HIGH SCHOOL - CANTEEN - AFTERNOON

Standing at the doorway of the school CANTEEN is fourteen year old ABIGAIL SMITH. She is unusually pretty, with dark eyes, black hair and a tall, slim body. She is an archetypal GOTH.

CLOSE ON: Abigail's face as she smiles sheepishly at Bronwyn whilst they wait in line for their lunch.

Abigail and Bronwyn are BEST FRIENDS.

The school canteen is BUSTLING. Abigail starts talking to TESSA POTTS in the food line.

Tessa is extremely cute with blonde hair, a slender tall body and is impeccably dressed. Tessa is one of the school MEAN GIRLS.

ABIGAIL

(sneering)

Shame, Bridget and the other  
sidekick aren't following you  
around as usual...

TESSA

(shouting)

Ugh, shut up! You're such idiots,  
both of you!

BRONWYN

Talk to the hand!

Tessa shakes her head, ENRAGED at Bronwyn and Abigail as they slip away to a dining table.

Abigail and Bronwyn giggle together indifferently.

The other students in the CANTEEN are STARING at the girls with disdain.

ABIGAIL

Queen bee isn't so popular any more!

BRONWYN

(scoffing)

It's about time; I can't take her crap.

Bronwyn and Abigail sit at a table together in the canteen and they scan the room for the rest of the MEAN GIRLS.

They notice that Tessa is now sitting by herself, none of her SIDEKICKS have joined her for lunch.

ABIGAIL

Why's she sitting alone? Doesn't seem herself..

BRONWYN

(whispers)

Duh...She's no longer queen bee.

Bronwyn smiles to herself as she stares at Tessa sitting alone, her eyes VENGEFUL.

Bronwyn mumbles part of her home made SPELL, under her breath, silently targeting her words at Tessa.

BRONWYN

(under her breath)

...Take with you bad luck and bane...

ABIGAIL

I want to go talk to her.

BRONWYN

Why would you want to, after everything she's done?

ABIGAIL

Look around, no one cares, we're just as bad as she is.

CUT TO:

EXT.- VICTORIAN HOUSE 1990'S - GARDEN GREENHOUSE -  
AFTERNOON

We see a teenager RUNNING up the road towards a house with SMOKE rising from the garden. This is BRIDGET TURNER. She is plain, tom-boyish with blonde-brown hair and dresses in 1990's style GRUNGE clothing.

She has been FOLLOWING Bronwyn home from school and she is one of the MEAN GIRLS who is friends with Tessa.

CLOSE ON: Bridget's shocked face as she RUNS quickly through the gate of Bronwyn's GARDEN where a greenhouse is in FLAMES.

Bridget stumbles frantically towards Bronwyn who is attempting to put out a raging fire on her own.

BRIDGET

What the hell...

BRONWYN

(shouting)

Can you help...Please!

Bronwyn is rushing to a nearby water butt to full up a bucket with water and then rushing back to the flaming greenhouse, throwing water at the FIRE.

She is confused and frightened. Bridget STARES in amazement and then grabs another bucket to help put out the fire.

LATER:

CLOSE ON BURNT DOWN GREENHOUSE: Bridget and Bronwyn stand together staring at the SMOLDERING remains of the greenhouse as the smoke rises.

They both sit down on the lawn, knees bent up and resting their heads in their hands. They're sweating and EXHAUSTED.

Bronwyn looks up slowly, lost in thought, her eyes TEARFUL.

Bridget turns sideways to look at Bronwyn quizzically.

BRIDGET

How'd it start?

BRONWYN

(shaking head)

Don't know how the hell it started, but thanks for helping..

BRIDGET

Just so you know, I'm not friends with Tessa anymore.

BRONWYN

Really? I thought you're one of her besties.

BRIDGET

Uh... yes I use to be. But not now, she's a thug.

Bronwyn shakes her head slowly and looks away.

Bridget GAZES out towards the pavement noticing someone walking quickly towards the house.

EXT.- OUTSIDE THE VICTORIAN HOUSE - ON THE PAVEMENT  
- AFTERNOON

We see a teenage BOY JOGGING up the pavement towards Bronwyn's house. He looks at the grey smoke rising from her garden. He approaches the gate of the house and sees the two girls talking.

This is ADAM EDSER, he is fifteen years old with dark eyes, black hair and handsome even features.

He has been exploring the area as he has just moved to the town of Addington, from LONDON, with his mother.

ADAM

Good job killin that fire, looked  
real scary from where I was...

BRONWYN

It was scary as flippen heck!

Bronwyn GRINS cheekily at Adam but then shyly avoids  
EYE CONTACT with him.

Bridget looks at both of them with ENVY, she notices  
the CHEMISTRY between them.

ADAM

Name's Adam, just moved here from  
London.

BRONWYN

(stammering)

Uh.. I'm Bronwyn and this  
is...Bridget.

BRIDGET

(giggling)

What brings you here to boring  
Addington...

Adam SMILES and then slowly walks around, SURVEYING  
the ground inside the BURNT down greenhouse.

Bronwyn and Bridget are talking and giggling, not  
seeing what Adam is doing.

Adam crouches down and picks up something SMALL - a  
VIAL bottle with a bubbling GREEN LIQUID inside.

He quickly places the vial into his trousers pocket  
without the girls noticing.

Bridget starts moving away from Bronwyn as she is  
about to LEAVE to go home.

BRONWYN

(timidly)

Leaving already? There's so much  
to talk about...

BRIDGET

Well... I'm just glad you're okay;  
remember what I told you about  
Tessa.

BRONWYN

Wait! So, we're friends now...?

BRIDGET

Yes, don't worry about Tessa, I'm  
not her sidekick any more...

Adam and Bronwyn stand watching Bridget WAVE back at  
them as she walks home.

ADAM

Sorry this happened...

BRONWYN

(unsure)

Must be arson... Dad will hopefully  
report it.

ADAM

Strange place to have a fire.

BRONWYN

True. But strange things always  
happen to me...

ADAM

What was in those vial's in the  
greenhouse?

BRONWYN

(smoothly)

Aah, just magic potions.

Bronwyn gazes up the HILL, frowning intently. Her  
eyes TEAR up a little as she plays with her hair  
trying to regain composure.

ADAM

(nervously)

Uh, better go, don't think your  
parents will like me hanging  
around...since we've just met.



BRONWYN

(smiling)

Thanks and um...it's just my Dad  
and I.

ADAM

No problem, nice meeting you..

Adam GRINS shyly and turns to walk away.

Bronwyn's smile fades.

BRONWYN

I'm at Addington Girls Secondary,  
you could walk me home one day...  
if you like.

ADAM

Cool, I'll be there after school  
tomorrow, we can walk and talk  
then.

Adam walks out the gate, down the road in the  
direction of town centre.

He turns to smile at Bronwyn who is standing  
WATCHING him.

CUT TO:

INT.- SMALL TOWN - VICTORIAN HOUSE - VIEW INSIDE -  
EVENING

We see Adam entering his HOME, dumping his school  
backpack onto the hallway floor and then calling out  
to his MOTHER.

CLOSE ON: MARGARET EDSSEN'S face as she walks quickly  
through the house to greet her son.

She is a handsome middle-aged woman with bright red  
hair, green eyes and strong features.

MARGARET

Hey...how was school?

ADAM

Cool. I mean, okay. I met a girl  
after school...

MARGARET

Aaah... Tell me about the girl!

ADAM

(timidly)

Her greenhouse was on fire so I  
ran to help her.

MARGARET

Wow, a burning greenhouse... What's  
her name and how'd you end up by  
her place?

ADAM

Her name's Bronwyn...It's so  
weird, like... I was just  
exploring the area, then I saw the  
smoke.

MARGARET

(softening)

She has a lovely name. So... a  
magic force pulled you there?

Margaret LAUGHS playfully at Adam, they both laugh  
together.

They share a close BOND as a nuclear family.

ADAM

Seriously Mom... I saw smoke  
rising from her garden so I ran to  
help.

MARGARET

Good boy and what a way to meet a  
girl!

ADAM

...She used a bucket to put the  
fire out, it was out by the time I  
got there.

MARGARET

Wow, that's an efficient and brave young lady.

ADAM

She's pretty and also different...

MARGARET

I'm so glad you're settled at school and you met a girl too... Now, aren't you glad we moved here?

CUT TO:

INT.- ADDINGTON HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY - LUNCH BREAK - AFTERNOON

Bronwyn is sitting at a table in the school LIBRARY, she is reading a book on HERBOLOGY.

She JOLTS up suddenly when Bridget approaches her.

BRIDGET

(whispering)

Hey, can we talk...

BRONWYN

Sure, what's up?

BRIDGET

(unsure)

Why you being unsociable?

BRONWYN

I'm not being unsociable... Just wanna be alone, to read.

Bronwyn SLAMS the HERBOLOGY book shut, gets up from the table and slowly walks out the library.

BRIDGET

(shouting)

Wait!

Bronwyn turns, tilts her head and GLARES at Bridget with agitation.

BRONWYN

(sneering)

What then?

BRIDGET

(timidly)

Did...did all the plants get burnt  
in the fire?

BRONWYN

We've got herb plants all over our  
garden.

BRIDGET

Just been wondering what caused  
the fire, that's all.

BRONWYN

Still figuring that out...

BRIDGET

But why are you growing weird  
herbs?

BRONWYN

Duh... They're my Dad's, nothing  
dodgy if that's what you're  
worried about.

BRIDGET

Uh... Okay.

BRONWYN

Gotta go; lunchtime's almost over.

BRIDGET

(voice quaking)

Uh... Okay, sorry for bugging you.  
We're still friends tho, right?

BRONWYN

Yip, still friends...

BRIDGET

Can I help you find out what  
caused the fire?

BRONWYN

I've an idea, just can't prove it yet...

BRIDGET

Who did it?

BRONWYN

I think it's a man... lives in the forest.

BRIDGET

Uh...the old recluse?

BRONWYN

Yip, him, he stares at me in the garden when he passes our house.

BRIDGET

Creepy...

BRONWYN

If you really want to help, meet at my house after school.

CUT TO:

EXT.- VICTORIAN HOUSE 1990'S - GATE - AFTERNOON

Adam and Bridget meet Bronwyn at the gate of her house, after school.

Abigail is RUNNING up the road towards them.

ABIGAIL

(loudly)

Hey!

BRONWYN

(excitedly)

Bestie! You've met Adam haven't you?

ABIGAIL

(giggling)

Nope... So, you're the guy she's raving about.

Bronwyn and Abigail HUG each other.

Bridget looks on nervously and notices Adam WATCHING Bronwyn.

BRONWYN

So... you guys wanna help me with the arson attack case?

ABIGAIL

Yes! Has your Dad told the police about it?

BRONWYN

No, no need for that...

ADAM

(smoothly)

I could go talk to the man you're worried about, find out whether he did it?

BRIDGET

But what makes you think it's him?

BRONWYN

(unsure)

He dislikes my Dad... because he's German.

BRIDGET

Because he's German? I don't get that...

BRONWYN

(sarcastic)

Duh, the Holocaust...WW2, remember?

BRIDGET

Oh, I see...but I doubt he knows your Dad is German. Anyway, how'd you know he's Jewish?

ABIGAIL

Sorry Bron but she has a point...

BRONWYN

It's just a feeling, people act funny towards us because of the whole German thing, you know...

BRIDGET

Yip, still don't have proof but  
I'll help you...

BRONWYN

Cool, it's nice being friends with  
you and uh... not worrying about  
Tessa.

BRIDGET

(timidly)

It's all in the past now anyway...

BRONWYN

Come inside if you like?

Bronwyn sighs wearily then glances at Adam, Bridget  
and Abigail.

BRIDGET

Neh, I've got to get home before  
my mom bites my head off.

BEGIN FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

EXT.- VICTORIAN HOUSE - GARDEN GREENHOUSE - VIEW  
FROM ABOVE - AFTERNOON - WE SEE THE SILHOUETTE OF A  
TALL FIGURE MOVING AROUND INSIDE THE GREENHOUSE. WE  
SEE THE GLISTENING OF GLASS VIALS. THE FIGURE RUSHES  
OUT QUICKLY AND RUNS OUT THE GARDEN GATE AND UP THE  
HILL.

CUT TO:

INT.- VICTORIAN HOUSE 1990'S - BRONWYN'S ROOM -  
AFTERNOON

Adam, Abigail and Bronwyn are talking whilst the  
song "Everybody wants to rule the world" by Tears  
for Fears is playing on the RADIO.

ADAM

(unsure)

You can't be sure he started it. I  
mean, it's a pretty serious thing  
to accuse someone of doing... It  
could've been anyone.

BRONWYN

I'm so sure he has it in for us,  
he wants us to move away.

ABIGAIL

You need proof Bron...

ADAM

What if you're wrong, I mean, what  
if like... it just got hot in the  
greenhouse? Maybe it just self-  
combusted or something?

BRONWYN

A greenhouse doesn't just self-  
combust. Anyway, it's just a  
feeling...

ADAM

Your Dad should sort this out...

BRONWYN

Hmmm, I'm not sure the adults CAN  
figure it out.

ABIGAIL

Alrightee then, well...I better  
head home.

BRONWYN

Come to the beach with us for a  
bit?

ABIGAIL

Nope, you love birds go, I'm  
tired...

ADAM

(smoothly)

I can't say no to you Bronwyn...  
Let's go.

BRONWYN

(loudly)

Dad! We're going to the beach!

Bronwyn and Adam walk out the house HOLDING HANDS.

Abigail is walking home in the distance.



CLOSE ON: VINCENT MULLER, a handsome, dark-haired middle-aged man, walking out of the house onto the PORCH.

He is Bronwyn's FATHER and her only FAMILY.

Vincent STARES at Bronwyn walking with Adam down the road towards the BEACH.

Vincent SHRUGS his shoulders, defeated.

VINCENT

(shouting)

Be careful! Adam - you bring her back for dinner, please!

ADAM

(laughing)

Come on, lets race to the beach!

CUT TO:

EXT.- ADDINGTON BEACH - AFTERNOON

Adam and Bronwyn CHASE each along the shore, they spend the afternoon swimming.

CLOSE ON: Adam and Bronwyn sitting on the BEACH talking.

ADAM

I'll talk to that man, if you're okay with it?

BRONWYN

As long as it's safe to...

PULLING BACK slowly as Adam and Bronwyn sit together on the beach until twilight.

CUT TO:

EXT.- THE WOODS LEADING TO A LOG CABIN - AFTERNOON

Ezra is standing on his PORCH looking out into the woods.

He FROWNS as he hears RUSTLING in the bushes.

EZRA

(loudly)

Aren't you sick of crawling around  
in there!

ADAM

(nervously)

Uh no, just trying out these  
blackberries...

Adam STAGGERS out of the vegetation and dusts  
himself off, looking around fearfully.

EZRA

(smoothly)

What you really doing there young  
man?

Adam stumbles towards the open CLEARING in front of  
Ezra's cabin.

ADAM

I think I'm lost...

EZRA

Looks like snooping to me...  
Anyway, I don't get many visitors  
so don't just stand there, come  
inside.

Adam walks tentatively towards the porch following  
Ezra into his CABIN.

CUT TO:

INT. A SMALL, COZY LOUNGE INSIDE EZRA'S LOG CABIN -  
AFTERNOON

EZRA

Cup of tea, chap?

ADAM

(clears throat)

Sure, thanks...

Adam SLOUCHES down into a musty old chair. He is  
making himself at home, his fear of Ezra has  
dissipated.

EZRA

(sarcastic)

So, you're here to investigate me,  
chap?

ADAM

I was exploring and got  
lost...Just moved here from  
London.

EZRA

(sneering)

Those idiots in the village... They  
like to gossip.

ADAM

This town seems full of gossips...

EZRA

Ja, so... when did you move here?

ADAM

Uh... a few weeks ago.

EZRA

Ja, so, strangers who keep to  
themselves, like me... It scares  
them.

ADAM

There's real jerks at my school  
who like bothering me, I'm the new  
kid.

EZRA

Aaah, don't worry, it's just for a  
while. It's a tough lesson to not  
trust humans, most are  
untrustworthy...

ADAM

I want to ask you something...

EZRA

(Excitedly)

Ja, sure! What?

ADAM

Well, your neighbours down the road... do you know them?

EZRA

No, I don't, but I see them when I walk home, the old man and his daughter... Why?

ADAM

I'm curious because you're here on your own. Like...if something happens, it would help if you knew your neighbors..

LATER

Adam and Ezra are sitting in a small rustic lounge drinking tea in SILENCE.

The sound of WIND blowing through the forest outside can be heard as the sun sets.

EZRA

Sorry...I didn't get your name, young man.

ADAM

I'm Adam.

EZRA

That's a good name, Jewish...

ADAM

It's like... biblical.

Adam puts the cup down and gets up off the sofa to leave.

EZRA

Ja... now sit down, I'm no psychopath.

ADAM

I'm late... don't want my mom to worry.

EZRA

She shouldn't, you're almost an adult.

ADAM

Alright, but I do need to know your name.

EZRA

Ja, it's Ezra Frank. I'm not from here you know.

ADAM

Sounds Middle Eastern...

EZRA

It's Jewish, like yours. But I'm from Germany.

ADAM

Hope you don't mind me asking, but like... are you a Holocaust survivor?

Adam notices the NUMBER TATTOOED on Ezra's lower arm.

EZRA

(gulps)

Ja, I am... thanks to the Russian liberators.

ADAM

(nervously)

Sorry for being rude, I'll go.

EZRA

No-no, stay, I'm not offended young chap.

ADAM

You know your neighbor... he's also German?

EZRA

He's about the same age as me... from what I can see.

ADAM

You must've been young during the war.

EZRA

Ja it's a long story, I'll tell you another time.

ADAM

I'll go, nice to meet you Mr. Frank...

EZRA

Ja likewise, get home safe young chap.

Adam walks slowly back into the forest, he looks back at the CABIN before making his way home.

CUT TO:

INT. VICTORIAN HOUSE 1990'S - BRONWYN'S ROOM -  
AFTERNOON

Bronwyn and Adam are sitting by the WINDOW in her bedroom talking intimately.

BRONWYN

Why you acting so weird?

ADAM

Can we talk about your neighbor.

BRONWYN

Uh, okay...

ADAM

He's not who you think he is.

BRONWYN

You spoke to him?

ADAM

I visited him, his name's Ezra, he was a kid during the Holocaust.

BRONWYN

(voice quaking)  
Oh no, the Holocaust.

ADAM

I watched his house, to see if he's crazy or something, because of what you said.

BRONWYN

That's brave... what happened?

ADAM

He's not out to get you, your Dad...or anyone.

BRONWYN

Dad doesn't talk about what happened; it upsets him.

ADAM

I think it's painful for Ezra to talk about too.

BRONWYN

Okay, I get what you're saying.

ADAM

Meet the man; you'll see what I mean, then you can judge.

BRONWYN

But now how do you want me to meet him?

ADAM

He doesn't bite, we go there, knock on the door and say hello.

BRONWYN

You know my Dad doesn't talk about his childhood or the "Hitler Youth".

ADAM

What happened then isn't your fault, we weren't alive then.

BRONWYN

But there is such a thing as inherited karma, family karma...

ADAM

Good old karma. I wanted to ask,  
how's your new buddy?

BRONWYN

Uh... You mean, Bridget?

ADAM

I think so, the sidekick.

BRONWYN

She's okay I suppose...

CUT TO:

EXT. EZRA'S CABIN - PORCH - AFTERNOON

Bronwyn and Adam walk slowly up the steps to the porch and stand waiting for Ezra to open the door.

EZRA

To what strange serendipity do I  
owe this visit, come inside young  
people...

ADAM

Hope you don't mind - I brought my  
girlfriend...

EZRA

Ja, of course! You both in school  
together?

ADAM

Um, no, we're at different  
schools...

BRONWYN

Adam says that you come from  
Germany, like my Dad.

EZRA

Ja... I'm German Jew, or Jewish  
German, whichever you prefer.

ADAM

It's confusing, what makes someone  
Jewish - is it religion or race...



EZRA

Ja...It can be both. I came here  
on the Kinder transport, at the  
end of the war.

Ezra points to a framed PHOTO of a sparkling, indigo  
LAKE surrounded by mountains and forests, it is  
GERMANY.

Next to the framed photo there is an unfolded small  
NOTE with an X marked on a pencil sketch of the  
cabin floor. The note says in slanted cursive  
handwriting "In case the Nazi's come".

BRONWYN

You must've been young when you  
arrived here in England.

EZRA

(clears throat loudly)  
German for six generations. Spoke  
High German and Yiddish, more  
German than some non-Jewish  
Germans...

BRONWYN

(stammers)  
I... I can't imagine what you went  
through. How old were you when the  
Nazi's took over?

EZRA

Three years old... 1936. I was  
fifteen when it was over, a  
terrible time in the world.

Close up of Ezra shaking his head slowly and then  
staring at the PHOTO of the indigo lake, TEARS in  
his eyes.

BRONWYN

(stuttering)  
Could you... Do you mind telling us  
what happened to you?

EZRA

Ja okay. You want my story. First,  
tell me your name.

BRONWYN

It's Bronwyn...

EZRA

You think I started a fire?

BRONWYN

(gulps)

No Sir, we just want your story,  
you were kind enough to invite us  
into your home.

EZRA

You must realise, I live out here  
by choice...I'm not hiding.

BRONWYN

(whispers)

I'm sorry for being rude Mr Frank.

EZRA

Well, my story is a long and  
complicated one.

ADAM

We want to hear it...please.

EZRA

I was six when it started; Germany  
possessed by hate propoganda aimed  
at the "untermenschen".

BRONWYN

What is "untermenschen"?

EZRA

Sub-human.

BRONWYN

Uh, oh...

EZRA

German for a 1000 years, we were  
to be "liquidated". German  
efficiency...

ADAM

(Muttering)

Evil... what they did.

EZRA

The regime made people believe  
Jews, disabled, Gypsies and the  
mentally ill, were all  
"untermenschen".

ADAM

People had to be strong to  
survive.

EZRA

Life was hard, the Deutch Mark  
fell into hyper-inflation.

BRONWYN

In History we're learning about  
the Wall Street crash, the Great  
Depression, people starving...

EZRA

(smoothly)

You're right. Glad you know  
history young lady.

Bronwyn looks out the window and notices the WIND  
outside getting stronger. She starts tapping her  
foot on the wooden floor.

Wind blows into the cabin and the NOTE with "in case  
the Nazi's come" written on it, blows onto the  
floor.

Bronwyn sees the note and what's written on it.

ADAM

The crash was the trigger for the  
Nazi's rise to power.

EZRA

Actually, it was more  
complicated...

Close up onto Ezra's middle-aged face. He looks  
tired and SAD.

EZRA

There was growing anti-Semitism in  
Europe and U.S.A. Us Jews were  
hated by so many...

BRONWYN

It must've been a scary time to be alive, especially as a kid.

EZRA

If you were a Jewish child, it was very scary.

BRONWYN

My Dad says when he was a kid they had to be loyal to the Nazi party or go to the camps.

BEGIN FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

EXT.- 1930's BERLIN, GERMANY - NIGHT OF THE LONG KNIVES - "KRYSTAL NACHT". HUNDREDS OF HITLER LED PARA-MILITARY MEN IN BROWN UNIFORM MARCHING THROUGH THE STREETS, CHARGING THROUGH BUILDINGS, SMASHING WINDOWS. LOUD SCREAMS, FIERCE SHOUTING IN GERMAN.

EZRA

Not a good time for humanity. With ideologies ripping apart societies and countries everywhere...

ADAM

Wasn't Hitler on the cover of "Time" magazine?

BRONWYN

That's crazy...

EZRA

We succumbed to the nightmare through slow, black magic we couldn't escape from... because of that man.

BRONWYN

Who... Hitler?

EZRA

(clears throat)

Ja...Hitler, creature of the night.

BRONWYN

Horrificing.

EZRA

It was a long, slow build-up like cancer spreading slowly through the people.

BEGIN FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

EXT.- 1930'S BERLIN, GERMANY - NIGHT - ROUND UPS OF JEWISH FAMILIES ON THE STREETS, SUITCASES AND BELONGINGS STREWN ON THE STREET. CHILDREN CRYING AS PARENTS STRUGGLE TO CALM THEM DOWN AMID THE DISRUPTION AND CHAOS. NON-JEWISH GERMAN NEIGHBOURS SPY ON THE COMMOTIONS OUTSIDE FROM THE SAFETY OF THEIR HOMES.

ADAM

Mr. Frank, what happened to you.

EZRA

Communists and then sub-humans, we were all sent away on the cattle cars.

BRONWYN

It was easier to do this to people because they were starving, right?

EZRA

Ja, that's true, but it quickly became a death cult. The night creature changed the constitution after the "night of the long knives" then he became supreme judge of the Germans...

BEGIN FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

INT./EXT.- 1930'S BERLIN, GERMANY - DAY - HYPER INFLATION IN THE ECONOMY - WOMAN BURNING DEUTCH MARKS PAPER MONEY IN WOOD BURNER TO HEAT HER HOME. LONG LINES OF GERMAN PEOPLE IN THE STREET, WAITING TO BUY BREAD IN THE SHOPS. PEOPLE FIGHTING OVER PRODUCE INSIDE THE SHOPS. SKINNY CHILDREN RUNNING THROUGH THE STREETS, STARVING HOMELESS PEOPLE SITTING ON THE STREETS BEGGING.

ADAM

It wasn't simple as one side bad  
guys and the other, good guys...

EZRA

The hundreds of camps were built  
slowly over time, starting off as  
prison camps and then death  
camps...

BEGIN FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

EXT.- 1940'S AUSCHWITZ, POLAND - NIGHT -  
CONCENTRATION CAMP. MEN IN PAJAMAS STYLE CLOTHING,  
EMACIATED AND DRAGGING THEIR FEET AS THEY WALK  
THROUGH THE CAMP. THICK SMOKE AND ASH BELLOWING OUT  
OF CREMATORIUM CHIMNEYS.

BRONWYN

If you want us to leave just tell  
us...

CLOSE ON: Ezra's face as he talks to Bronwyn and  
Adam. His eye's are TEARFUL.

EZRA

No-no, don't be silly child. I  
shall tell my story, its cathartic  
for me...

Bronwyn NODS slowly then GLANCES at Adam sitting  
next her.

EZRA

He put an entire nation under his  
dark spell.

ADAM

If only the world had stopped him.

EZRA

The creature was master orator and  
propagandist, he conditioned the  
youth to be murderous, to lose  
compassion...

BRONWYN

The people were tired from war,  
surely they didn't want another  
war and genocide?

EZRA

Ja-ja... right, most Germans did not  
want war, not all Germans were  
Nazi's...

ADAM

The survivors are lucky to be  
alive.

Bronwyn and Adam glance at each other as Bronwyn  
starts shaking her leg.

Ezra stops talking and walks to the cabin window,  
stares out at the forest for a few minutes, he is  
searching for something.

BRONWYN

(stammering)

Is that why... why you live alone in  
this forest? I mean... you want to  
avoid the world?

EZRA

Ja, when you've seen what humans  
are capable of, you'd want to live  
alone in the forest too...

ADAM

I've read about what happened in  
the camps, I mean...I would be  
like you if I had lived through  
that.

BRONWYN

I couldn't... But I have experienced  
human cruelty.

EZRA

Ja, okay, so how far back do you  
want me to go?

BRONWYN

From the start, when all the  
trouble began in Germany.

EZRA

(breathes in deeply)

The death cult got rid of the threats very swiftly.

ADAM

Death cult, I've never heard that before...

EZRA

My Father was Jewish, my Mother, Christian - they had lineage going back centuries.

BRONWYN

What happened to them?

EZRA

Mother didn't agree with the ideology and she spoke up...

ADAM

(whispers)

Politics is dangerous.

EZRA

We were sent to a concentration camp in Germany, no consideration of our rights... our property.

BRONWYN

(sighs deeply)

Terrifying

EZRA

In 1943, we lost everything, we hoped war would be over soon, that we would get the help we needed and be liberated from tyranny.

ADAM

That never happened, did it?

EZRA

It was just the begin of my nightmare.



BRONWYN

Wasn't there a warning about what  
was going to happen?

EZRA

(sighs wearily)

It all happened quickly, you  
see...we were living in a  
totalitarian state.

Ezra STARES at Bronwyn intently. He then glances  
over to his photo of the LAKE.

The WIND outside gets louder and Ezra looks down at  
the ground as he continues to speak.

EZRA

(clears throat)

We take our freedoms for granted  
now in the 1990's, they were  
unheard of in Nazi Germany...

ADAM

Weren't there rumours of what was  
coming, like... weren't Jewish  
rabbis tipped off?

Ezra looks up at Adam, his eyes TORMENTED.

EZRA

We had warnings... but we lived in  
hope. No one believed trains were  
taking millions to anything other  
than our new homeland or at the  
very least, "work camps"...

BEGIN FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

INT./EXT.- 1940'S CENTRAL EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE -  
AFTERNOON. CATTLE CAR TRAIN TRAVELLING THROUGH  
POLAND TOWARDS AUSCHWITZ - CRAMMED WITH EXHAUSTED,  
STARVING PEOPLE, CHILDREN CRYING AND SCREAMING. NO  
FOOD, WATER OR BREAKS. ONE BUCKET IN THE MIDDLE OF  
THE CATTLE CAR - FOR FIFTY PEOPLE TO SHARE AS A  
TOILET.

BRONWYN

(tearful)

What happened when you arrived at  
Auschwitz?

EZRA

I was inside that stinking cattle  
car for three days. Food and water  
was finished, no stops to let us  
out for a break...

ADAM

How evil to do that to people.

EZRA

People were crying for water and  
food. We had a bucket to share as  
a toilet...no privacy.

BRONWYN

Oh my god...

Ezra clears his throat and contemplates for a  
minute. He marches quickly to a back window at the  
other end of his cabin, he looks out as if searching  
for some unknown THREAT.

Bronwyn and Adam watch him INTENTLY as he walks back  
to them.

ADAM

Is everything okay?

EZRA

(clears throat)

Ja, where was I... We thought that  
it would get better for us when we  
left our worldly belongings  
behind.

ADAM

A fresh start away from Germany?

EZRA

Ja, right Adam... I always wonder  
how a nation of thinkers and poets  
allowed such inhumanity.

BRONWYN

I don't understand but like you  
said it was a dark time.

EZRA

Ja... the land of Nietzsche, Bach  
and Beethoven, Bauhaus and  
Einstein, was under a murderous  
spell.

ADAM

Normalcy bias stopped Jews from  
emigrating, we're learning about  
it in school.

EZRA

Ja, they couldn't believe things  
would get worse. Millions executed  
at the camps, worked and starved  
to death...

BEGIN FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

EXT.- 1944 AUSCHWITZ, POLAND - NIGHT - CONCENTRATION  
DEATH CAMP. SKELETAL PEOPLE WITH THEIR FEET DRAGGING  
AND MANY STUMBLING AS THEY STRUGGLE THROUGH THE CAMP  
TOWARDS THE "SHOWER ROOMS". HARSH INSTRUCTIONS TO  
UNDRESS AS THEY ARE CRAMMED INTO THE GAS CHAMBER.  
LOUD SCREAMS TWO MINUTES AFTER "ZYCLON B" IS Poured  
INTO A GAS CHAMBER THROUGH A VENT FROM ABOVE. WE  
THEN SEE THICK SMOKE AND ASH BELLOWING OUT OF NEARBY  
CREMATORIUM CHIMNEYS.

EZRA

No one believed until it was too  
late. Most of us couldn't afford  
the right papers and a new life in  
the U.S.A. or wherever...

BRONWYN

What happened when you arrived?

Bronwyn notices the number TATTOO on the outer side  
of Ezra's exposed left forearm. She stares at it in  
a catatonic state.

EZRA

I was very weak and could barely  
get off the stinking cattle box...

BEGIN FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

EXT.- 1944 AUSCHWITZ, POLAND - EVENING -  
CONCENTRATION DEATH CAMP TRAIN STATION. PEOPLE  
STUMBLING OUT OF OVERCROWDED CATTLE CAR TRAIN,  
EXHAUSTED, DIRTY, STARVING AND THIRSTY. WE SEE A  
YOUNG EZRA HALF FALLING OFF THE TRAIN ONTO THE  
PLATFORM, LOOKING AROUND FOR HIS FAMILY, HIS EYES  
LARGE WITH HORROR AT THE CONFUSION AND TERROR ALL  
AROUND HIM.

EZRA

Most of us were severely  
dehydrated; hadn't had water for  
days... Us kids suffered most, the  
old people too weak to fight off  
others who were pushing and  
shoving on top of them...

BRONWYN

(stammering)

I can't believe it... it was so  
inhumane.

EZRA

People thought it was okay to  
attack women and elderly in the  
streets, destroy businesses and  
take homes.

ADAM

No shortage of propaganda these  
days... Look at MTV!

EZRA

(shakes head)

The propaganda justified millions  
being worked to death or sent  
straight to execution.

ADAM

How could people just turn a blind eye, that's what I don't understand.

EZRA

We were "resettled" in the East, herded onto the cattle cars, we didn't know what was in store...

BRONWYN

The world is very different now, we take our freedoms for granted.

ADAM

What happened when you got off the train?

EZRA

Crying and shouting for water and food. Ja... I wanted to run away as fast as I could but too exhausted.

BEGIN FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

EXT.- 1944 AUSCHWITZ, POLAND - AFTERNOON - CONCENTRATION DEATH CAMP TRAIN STATION. THE UNLOADING RAMP IS CROWDED WITH DESPERATELY TIRED AND HUNGRY ADULTS AND CHILDREN. UNIFORMED GUARDS WITH DOGS ARE CONTROLLING THE PEOPLE, SPLITTING FAMILIES INTO TWO COLUMNS - ONE FOR MEN AND OLDER BOYS, AND THE OTHER WOMEN AND CHILDREN OF BOTH SEXES.

EZRA

I stumbled out dragging my suitcase, grateful to breathe fresh air again.

Bronwyn shakes her head slowly, Adam glances at her.

BRONWYN

(timidly)

You were treated like animals, it's so hard to hear the truth of what happened...

EZRA

(voice quaking)

The air had the stench of smoke,  
of burnt flesh... I can't forget  
that smell and the never ending  
ash clouds that hovered over the  
hell.

BRONWYN

Was the smell from...from them  
burning the dead people?

EZRA

Ja, the crematoriums, there were  
many and they were burning the  
bodies non-stop, German  
efficiency...

BRONWYN

Oh my God...

EZRA

S.S. guards forced the poor Kapos  
to burn our fellow Jews in the  
fire pits and ovens.

ADAM

(whispers)

Evil.

EZRA

Ja...the Third Reich was the  
ultimate rebellion against  
humanity.

BRONWYN

Dad was one of those brainwashed  
children...

EZRA

Older brainwashed kids grew up to  
become S.S. killers, easier for  
them to "select" who would be  
gassed to death...

BRONWYN

What did you think was going on  
when you smelt that smell?

EZRA

I knew something was wrong from the moment they started herding us onto cattle cars like animals.

BRONWYN

But they told your parents that you were just being resettled in the East...

EZRA

(stuttering)

Ja...it was too late, we were trapped. I... I was scared for my life when I saw those monsters with their angry dogs, their... their whips.

BRONWYN

(tearfully)

Sorry Mr. Frank... should we leave? I've overstayed, it's getting late...

ADAM

(nodding)

We'll come back another day Mr Frank, it's upsetting hearing what you've been through...

EZRA

Oh come on you two! It's not late. I'm not tired, really.

BRONWYN

(nodding)

I appreciate your kindness, especially as its late so we'll stay then.

Adam places his hand gently on Bronwyn's, offering reassurance.

EZRA

Ja... So then... We went through the "selection". We got split up, I stayed with my father and my mother and sister...

BRONWYN

Sorry Mr Frank. You don't have to tell us everything, I know it must be painful.

Bronwyn looks down at her feet, holding back tears.

Ezra fights back his tears and is silent for a while.

EZRA

(regaining composure)

Ja, you kids sure have some chutzpah and that's the only reason I'm telling you this story. The bloody S.S. Doctor, the proud peacock... dressed so smart. He decided who went to the left or the right.

BRONWYN

What happened after the selection? Did you see your Mother and sister again?

EZRA

Never saw them again...

BRONWYN

(tearful)

I'm so, so sorry... Mr. Frank.

EZRA

Not your fault child... The Nazi's possessed our world, we were all enslaved in some way.

Ezra walks to the end of his cabin to check out the back window again, looking for an unknown THREAT.

Bronwyn is crying softly on Adam's shoulder, they sit waiting for Ezra to return to the cozy lounge.

ADAM

Mr Frank, are you worried? If you need us to go, we'll go...



EZRA

(sarcastic)

Neyn, don't be silly chap, I'm just checking for wolves.

Adam and Bronwyn survey the cabin, confused and worried.

EZRA

(stammering)

Ja, my... my Father and I, we became slave labourers - but that is how I survived, escaping immediate gassing...

ADAM

For how long... I mean, how long were you a slave after arriving at Auschwitz?

EZRA

(sarcastic)

One year! Pretty good since the average life span of an Auschwitz inmate was three months...

BRONWYN

It must've been hell on earth.

EZRA

Starving; too weak for the bloody death march in the blizzards that Winter... Calling us "moslems"... the walking dead.

BRONWYN

How did you survive?

BEGIN FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

EXT.- WINTER, JANUARY 1945 AUSCHWITZ, POLAND - NIGHT. SOVIET FORCES ARE APPROACHING THE CONCENTRATION CAMP COMPLEX - CAMP INMATES IN FRAYED AND RAGGEDY PRISON CLOTHING BEING ROUNDED UP IN THE FREEZING COLD SNOW WITH NO EXTRA LAYERS FOR WARMTH. THEY ARE FORCED BY AGITATED AND ANGRY GUARDS TO BEGIN THE WINTER DEATH MARCH WESTWARDS. THE INMATES WHO ARE TOO WEAK TO WALK ARE LEFT BEHIND OR SHOT BY SS GUARDS.

EZRA

Ja, it was luck and gratitude for being alive. We spent what little energy we had on just surviving the day...

ADAM

Surviving on adrenaline probably.

EZRA

We couldn't let ourselves be beaten or shot on the spot for trivial transgressions. I hoped to be liberated one day. Hope and luck...

BRONWYN

(shaking head)

There is no justice in the world for such evil to exist.

EZRA

Ja, okay kids, I'm glad you want to know my dark history... But now it is really late.

ADAM

Sorry Mr. Frank, we've taken up too much of your time, we'll go now...

BRONWYN

But can I ask you one more question?

EZRA

Ja sure, one more...

BRONWYN

(softly)

Could a Holocaust happen again?

EZRA

Ja... the potential for genocide exist all the time, right now.

ADAM

In Europe, right now?

EZRA

Ja, Bosnia! But what we experienced, that genocide... it's not the first, and it won't be the last.

BRONWYN

It's tragic what's happening in Bosnia...

EZRA

Morality exploited by the power hungry; the power struggle and the cruelty go together.

ADAM

It's true, like... we are living in an unjust world... A concentration camp of the world.

EZRA

Ja... You're right chap, why d'you think I live like this?

ADAM

(smoothly)

Because you like nature?

They all laugh, Ezra smiles at Bronwyn and Adam.

EZRA

Ja Adam... I do love the schmutz of nature. Anyway, you're good kids and you're welcome here anytime.

Bronwyn and Adam leave Ezra's cabin and walk onto the pathway leading into the forest.

CUT TO:

EXT.- THE WOODS SURROUNDING THE CABIN LEADING TO BRONWYN'S HOUSE DOWN THE HILL - AFTERNOON.

Adam and Bronwyn are walking hand in hand through the woods.

BRONWYN

I can't believe how brave he is,  
what he's been through.

ADAM

He seems lonely... He doesn't trust  
people.

BRONWYN

I wouldn't either...

ADAM

Did your Dad know what was going  
on when he was a kid?

BRONWYN

I don't know.... I have so many  
unanswered questions.

ADAM

He's probably traumatised by what  
he witnessed happening to the  
Jews.

BRONWYN

Dad is secretive but I'm not sure  
if he's like that because he  
experienced his own traumas or  
because he saw things...

ADAM

It must be so confusing for you,  
like I mean... Having family on  
both sides of the war.

BRONWYN

His family lost so much, there  
were misplaced persons camps in  
Germany, broken families scattered  
all over Europe...

ADAM

I wouldn't have liked to be alive  
in Germany at that time, it must  
have been Hell on Earth.

BRONWYN

I think they must've felt lucky to  
be alive.

ADAM

(clears throat)

Let's talk about something else. I love this forest, down this hill; it's very wild.

BRONWYN

Me too. Hey, what's it called when you love the night?

ADAM

(laughing)

Isn't it Nyctophilia or like nocturnilia... or something?

BRONWYN

(giggling)

So funny, how'd you know that?

ADAM

Aah, I'm a bit of a book worm too, you know... I read at night, in bed.

BRONWYN

I use to love night time especially at the beach. But now...it scares me a bit.

ADAM

(voice softening)

Listen, it's not true what he said about it happening again, the world would never let that happen again. So don't worry...

BRONWYN

(timidly)

I really hope so... Hey, so... what do you call someone who likes thunderstorms then?

ADAM

I like thunderstorms, they remind me of how even Mother Nature gets mad at the world.

BRONWYN

(melancholic)

Mother Nature is full of magic...  
But, I still can't stop thinking  
about what Ezra said...about the  
smell when he got off the cattle  
car.

ADAM

Humanity is terrible, but we can't  
dwell on the horrors of the past,  
okay? And it isn't karma either...

BRONWYN

(voice quaking)

The past repeats itself Adam.

ADAM

(smoothly)

I know, but I'm sure you can see  
Mr. Frank didn't set fire to the  
greenhouse...That he isn't a  
stalker or a fire starter.

BRONWYN

I know, I feel terrible for  
judging him, I had no idea about  
who he was.

ADAM

That's what I was worried about,  
why I wanted you to meet him...

They reach Bronwyn's house and stop at her gate, the  
sun is setting. They are holding hands still.

BRONWYN

It was surprisingly interesting  
going there with you and meeting  
him, it's a huge relief. See you  
tomorrow?

ADAM

(smiling)

See you tomorrow, goodnight.

They kiss goodbye before Adam walks away down the hill making his way home.

Adam turns and sees Bronwyn watching him, he smiles back at her.

CUT TO:

EXT.- EZRA'S WOOD CABIN PORCH - SATURDAY - AFTERNOON

Adam stands on Ezra's porch waiting for Ezra to open the front door.

EZRA

It's you, chap! What brings you to this shady part of the woods... where's Bronwyn?

ADAM

Hello Mr. Frank, stopping by to see how you're doing and to like...ask you a favour.

EZRA

Ja... sure chap, what's the favour?

ADAM

I hope it's not too much of a bother but...

Adam and Ezra both turn to look out at the clearing and woods as they hear the sound of rustling in the bushes.

EZRA

(suspiciously)  
Let me check...

ADAM

Must be a deer... or munkjac.

Bronwyn pushes through the bushes and out into the clearing. She is covered in leaves and her hair is all rustled up and messy.

EZRA

(cheerfully)  
Aaah, look what the forest has delivered to me!

BRONWYN

(loudly)

I had a feeling you might be here!

EZRA

Ja... well, you're both here so  
must be my lucky day.

BRONWYN

(nervously)

I wanted to ask you if you might  
want to meet my Dad... We're  
neighbors and he's... he's also  
German?

ADAM

We thought since you were both  
born in Germany before the war  
started...

BRONWYN

(timidly)

You could be friends.

EZRA

Okay kids, listen... Germany was a  
long time ago, not a place I  
remember fondly, not something I'd  
like to reminisce over, especially  
with another mensch.

BRONWYN

Even if the stranger is German...

EZRA

Especially if he is German! Don't  
you realise, I'm no extrovert? I'm  
the local recluse...

We hear footsteps on the porch as Vincent walks  
towards the cabin.

BRONWYN

I think that's him...

EZRA

(muttering)

What's a mensch to do to get some  
peace and quiet around here...



Vincent walks up the steps to Ezra's porch, offering his hand to greet Ezra.

VINCENT

(smoothly)

Good to meet you Mr. Frank...I'm Vincent.

EZRA

Jaaa... nice to meet you, Bronwyn speaks fondly of you. All of you come on, come inside.

INT.- EZRA'S WOOD CABIN - LOUNGE

Adam, Bronwyn and Vincent follow Ezra into his log cabin and Ezra leads them into his lounge.

Vincent pauses in the hallway and notices the side table with the PHOTO of the lake.

Vincent then walks into the lounge and sits down on a chair closest to the hallway and exit of the cabin.

VINCENT

(timidly)

Thank you...

EZRA

(sneering)

So what brings you all here?

VINCENT

Bronwyn insisted that I meet you; apparently you're also a native Deutscher...

BRONWYN

You both must stop being unsociable, after all, it's unusual to find other Germans living here in Addington...

EZRA

(slightly exasperated)

Jaaa... I welcome you, even if it is just a short time... I have important errands to do in town.

BRONWYN

(nervously)

Dad, tell Mr. Frank about your hometown.

VINCENT

(smoothly)

Ja sicher, I'm from Freiburg, Saxony.

EZRA

Aah ja... I'm from not too far away from there, Leipzig...But I haven't been back in a long time...

VINCENT

(proudly)

Leipzig, the University city... Where our great philosophers come from.

EZRA

Ja true... So how did you end up in England?

VINCENT

(softening)

Well...I married an English rose.

Vincent smiles sheepishly. They all laugh together.

Bronwyn is watching Ezra intently.

Vincent looks around the lounge, noticing that there are no family photos and hardly any personal ornaments.

EZRA

Ja wohl! That sounds like a whole other story!

BRONWYN

(smiling)

Oh yes, Dad's lived many lives.

EZRA

(sneering)

That I can believe.

VINCENT

(jokingly)

Don't believe everything Bronwyn tells you, she's very superstitious.

ADAM

(playfully)

She practises alchemy and herbology, like a little country cottage witch.

EZRA

(smoothly)

Tell me then young lady, have you heard about the emerald tablet?

Ezra smiles at Bronwyn.

Bronwyn notices a whole collection of potted HERB plants living by the kitchen window.

BRONWYN

(unsure)

It's something from ancient Hermes, he wrote it a long time ago?

ADAM

(playfully)

It's magic, or like...something spooky?

BRONWYN

(seriously)

"That which is above is as that which is below"... It's alchemy, same as magic I s'pose.

EZRA

Alchemy is metaphysical.

VINCENT

What is this fascination with the green tablet?

EZRA

Ja, you kids look tired.. head home, so we grown-ups can talk.

BRONWYN

(sighing deeply)

Oh well, that's our fun over...

EZRA

(playfully)

You kids can talk about the Emerald tablet on the way home...with the full moon shining on you.

VINCENT

(jokingly)

Generation X'ers, they love the weird stuff, such nonsense...

Vincent laughs playfully as he watches Bronwyn and Adam stand up slowly, they don't want to leave.

Bronwyn and Adam grin at each other, knowing they are being made fun of.

ADAM

(muttering)

Yeah, I was hoping to hear you grown-ups talk about the Cold War and like...all that sort of stuff.

BRONWYN

Thanks for having us Mr Frank, bye Dad, see you later...

Bronwyn and Adam slowly walk out and head home.

VINCENT

Nice place you got. So, we're wrong in suspecting you of starting a fire?

EZRA

(sneering)

Ja well, I understand you wanting to clear that up...

VINCENT

I think tea lights were left burning and that's what started the fire. She loves her tea lights...

EZRA

Ja, there's plenty of things that  
can start a fire.

VINCENT

(softly)

Es tut mir leid, just wanted that  
out the way, excuse my rudeness in  
your home.

EZRA

Ja mensch, don't worry, we're  
neighbours. I don't have children  
but I understand the  
protectiveness for your child.

VINCENT

That's kind of you.

EZRA

Would you like tea or coffee?

VINCENT

Tea would be good. So, would you  
go back to Deutchland?

EZRA

Neyn, never...

VINCENT

(softly)

I understand... I can't imagine  
what happened to you.

EZRA

You cannot understand, not fully  
anyway... Tell me; was your Father  
in the Wehrmacht?

VINCENT

Ja, he was... 2nd Lieutenant in  
the Cavalry, he had no choice;  
they knew they were fighting for a  
mad man...

EZRA

(sneering)

They WERE fighting for a mad man,  
I know very well...

VINCENT

I didn't agree with the  
Einsatzgruppen, he was a career  
soldier...

EZRA

Ja wohl, look it was a long time  
ago; we're lucky to be getting old  
living in peaceful England.

VINCENT

(softening)

True, peaceful England...

EZRA

Many suffer the collective guilt,  
even if they were just kids.

VINCENT

We must teach the next  
Generation...the right way.

EZRA

(clears throat)

The right way...It's not easy for  
some.

EZRA

(smoothly)

Tell me, what happened to your  
Father?

VINCENT

You really want to know?

EZRA

Ja, we're talking about the past.

VINCENT

(sadly)

He was killed on the Eastern  
Front; they were running out of  
ammunition...

EZRA

(smoothly)

Aah, jaa...the Eastern front,  
that's where the real war was  
fought as they say.

VINCENT

(challenging)

You never married, Ezra?

EZRA

No, I am fine alone... Where's your wife?

VINCENT

(shakily)

Bronwyn's mother passed on when she was a baby...

EZRA

Jaaa...You've lost a lot too. So what happened to the ober-leutnant on the Eastern front?

BEGIN FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

EXT.- FLASHBACK - NOVEMBER 1944 - EVENING. GERMAN FORCES BATTLING SOVIET FORCES ON THE EASTERN FRONT. WE SEE A GERMAN CAVALRY OFFICER LEADING HIS MEN ON HORSEBACK THROUGH SNOWY TERRAIN WHILST UNDER FIRE. WE SEE THE OFFICER AND HORSE GET HIT BY MORTAR FIRE AND THEN WE SEE THEM BOTH LYING DEAD ON THE GROUND WITH A SNOW BLIZZARD BLOWING.

VINCENT

He died with his horse... A Russian shell hit them.

EZRA

(softly)

Oh, sorry.

VINCENT

(melancholic)

It's a pity what happened to us... back then.

EZRA

Lucky to be alive...

VINCENT

You survived that hell... Auschwitz?

EZRA

Ja... Did she tell you?

VINCENT

Yes she made me sit down and listen.

EZRA

(shakily)

So many innocents...just disappeared in the round-ups.

VINCENT

I remember seeing that on our street, it was frightening.

EZRA

People knew what was going on in those camps.

VINCENT

It's the shame, I still feel it...

EZRA

Ja, the guilt... It falls even on the children.

VINCENT

We pay the price, when people hear I'm from Germany they're not so friendly...

EZRA

Ja, I get the sympathy look when I say I survived. When they look at the tattooed arm...

VINCENT

I know the horrors must not be forgotten.

EZRA

People forget.

VINCENT

There were good people, even in the Wehrmacht, who tried to save the Jews...



EZRA

We dug our own burial pits,  
executed by death squads, too  
exhausted from the transports,  
murdered in the "shower rooms".

VINCENT

(nodding sadly)

My parents kept us in the dark  
about it all.

EZRA

For a decade they treated us like  
animals.

VINCENT

Ja... Propaganda was non-stop.

EZRA

Some Jews welcomed death because  
of the isolation and starvation in  
the ghettos, all of it...

VINCENT

Some tried to stop the killing.  
Civilians; soldiers and officers.

EZRA

Not enough, do you know anyone who  
tried to stop the murdering?

VINCENT

I had a relative, I did not know  
him well, he was in the  
military...

EZRA

(sneering)

I don't believe the excuse that  
you didn't know... If you wanted  
to know the truth you could find  
out.

VINCENT

Some tried to stop the murders,  
they fought back in whatever way  
they could.

BEGIN FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

EXT.- FLASHBACK - WHITE ROSE GROUP STUDENTS - GERMANY - DAY. MUNICH UNIVERSITY - STUDENTS DISTRIBUTING PROTEST FLIERS THAT ARE OPPOSING THE NAZI PARTY. THEN COURT ROOM JUDGEMENT - YOUNG STUDENTS BEING EXECUTED BY GUILLOTINE.

EZRA

(shakes head slowly)

Yes, you keep saying that but so many were complicit, so many did nothing...

VINCENT

Many non-Jewish Germans were killed too, we all suffered the annihilation in some way...

EZRA

(sneering)

The annihilated were the Jewish people...

BEGIN FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

EXT.- FLASHBACK - BERLIN SUBURBS - MORNING - NEIGHBOURS DENOUNCING A FAMILY FOR BEING COMMUNISTS. WE SEE THE GESTAPO KNOCKING ON THEIR DOOR AND INTERROGATING A MAN IN FRONT OF HIS CHILDREN.

VINCENT

It was easy to be sent off to the camps if your neighbour didn't like you and he wanted your house, Jewish or not.

EZRA

(angrily)

Not enough fought back, everyone was brainwashed by that midget, Goebbels!

VINCENT

Ja ja, the hatred was strong it trampled the last of our humanity.

EZRA

I'm glad you realise.

VINCENT

(stammering)

Maybe I should go, all...all this talk of the past is upsetting us both.

EZRA

Ja go if you please, it's been a bit draining for me to be honest.

VINCENT

(nervously)

Es tut mir leid. But it's good to meet you, finally, neighbor.

EZRA

(muttering)

Ja... thanks for visiting.

Vincent walks out the cabin and heads home through the woods.

CUT TO:

EXT.- MIDDLE OF THE FOREST - SATURDAY - AFTERNOON

Vincent is walking cautiously through the woods, seemingly LOST, nervous and tired.

He hears FOOTSTEPS trampling through the dried leaves in the distance behind him.

VINCENT

(fearfully)

Who's there?

Vincent SENSES someone behind him and stops dead in his tracks.

Ezra comes behind Vincent and performs a rear naked CHOKE on him.

VINCENT

(struggling)

Why...why are you doing this?

EZRA

(angrily)  
You know why!

VINCENT

(shouting)  
Stop!

Vincent splutters, struggling to get out of the CHOKE HOLD.

Ezra is seemingly possessed as he is squeezing his arm down on Vincent's throat.

Vincent is overwhelmed with TERROR and shock, his eyes large as he struggles to BREATHE.

Dark SHADOWS seem to SPIN around them in the woods as they struggle on the ground.

EZRA

(muttering)  
You should never have come here...

VINCENT

I was just a kid, I had no choice... Bitte!

Ezra finally releases Vincent from his choke hold.

Vincent GASPS for breath.

They both sit on the forest floor, catching their breath and sizing each other up.

EZRA

(muttering)  
I lost everything, you came out of it just fine! Where is the fairness?

VINCENT

(unsure)  
Bronwyn needs me; she has no other family...

EZRA

(angrily)

My mother and sister needed me,  
they were murdered by common  
thugs!

VINCENT

(emotional)

I don't mean any harm...

EZRA

They were gassed on the day they  
arrived at that hell. Bronwyn  
would survive, just like I did!

VINCENT

You listen to me!

EZRA

Neyn, no more!

VINCENT

I'm no Nazi, what happened all  
those years ago, its over!

Both men continue to ARGUE whilst they get up from  
the ground, exhausted and agitated.

EZRA

I know what you think of me!

VINCENT

It wasn't just Jews who were  
murdered!

EZRA

Six million! Nothing compared to  
the others that died.

VINCENT

You need to move on...

EZRA

I won't move on, for no one!

VINCENT

(voice quaking)

I understand your hatred, why you  
live like this.

EZRA

(sneering)

You know nothing about me!

VINCENT

I'm not one of them, please...

EZRA

(subdued)

Neyn... It's too much, sorry...

Vincent finds a giant rotting tree LOG and sits up on it, resting his hands on his knees.

Ezra stands facing him, still agitated and still catching his breath.

VINCENT

I won't speak of what happened,  
but I must get back home...

EZRA

(dejected)

Oh mein Gott, you must think I'm  
mad...

Vincent SHAKES his head, gets up off the log and walks away.

Ezra stumbles as he TURNS around and jogs in the opposite direction, back to his cabin.

They don't look back at each other.

Dark SHADOWS encircle the forest floor where they fought.

CUT TO:

INT.- VICTORIAN HOUSE - SATURDAY - AFTERNOON

Vincent rushes into his house, looking over his shoulder nervously.

VINCENT

(shouting)

Bronwyn!

BRONWYN

(unsure)

What's wrong, what happened?

VINCENT

I'm fine, just fell down in the woods, it's okay tho...

BRONWYN

(quizzically)

You look rough Dad, how did you fall? Did Ezra come and help?

VINCENT

(agitated)

Stop worrying about me! I'm just tired that's all.

Vincent dusts himself off, walks to his bedroom, throws himself onto his bed and PASSES OUT.

The next day, late morning, Vincent goes downstairs and sits on the sofa with Bronwyn.

She has her CASSETTE PLAYER downstairs and a tape with the song "Black hole sun" by "Sound garden" (1990's Grunge music) is playing loudly.

Vincent seems indifferent to Bronwyn's teenage MUSIC session.

BRONWYN

(unsure)

Dad... That was more than just tiredness. Did everything go okay with Ezra?

VINCENT

I wanted to get out of there, when you left he changed, it wasn't nice.

BRONWYN

(uncertain)

Oh no... that's awful. I knew something happened to you, I just knew it.

VINCENT

(stoic)  
I'm fine.

BRONWYN

(shakes head slowly)  
So what happens now...

Bronwyn looks out the window, scratches her head and then starts to walk out of the house and up the road towards the forest in the direction of Ezra's cabin.

Vincent follows her in a hurry and then shouts out to her.

VINCENT

(desperation)  
Wait Bronwyn, where you going?

BRONWYN

(shouting)  
You know where I'm going Dad!

Vincent runs after Bronwyn losing sight of her among the trees.

CUT TO:

EXT.- FOREST - SUNDAY - AFTERNOON

Vincent is searching in the woods for Bronwyn. He is still RECOVERING from the incident the day before but he is motivated to stop his daughter out of pure FEAR for her safety.

VINCENT

(panicked)  
Bronwyn! Please don't hurt her...  
Please...

A short while later Vincent stumbles through the bushes and reaches a clearing where he sees Bronwyn huddled on the ground.

BRONWYN

(shouting)  
Dad! I'm here!



Vincent jogs towards Bronwyn, whispering under his breath. He is exhausted.

VINCENT

(muttering)

Oh Gott, please be okay...

BRONWYN

(whispering)

Thank God you followed me Dad...

Bronwyn's head is SPINNING as she feels a supernatural PRESENCE around her, she grips her ankle in pain and MOANS to herself.

Dark SHADOWS weave through the AIR around them.

View of the forest floor and then moving fast through the trees, shadows are spinning around like disembodied BEINGS.

VINCENT

(nervously)

What the hell happened?

BRONWYN

(shakily)

My ankle, think it's sprained...

VINCENT

Mein Gott, please tell me, was it that crazy man?

BRONWYN

(shakily)

Something strange... I dunno Dad. I just fell.

VINCENT

What scared you Bronwyn?

BRONWYN

(muttering)

This place is just creepy. Do you smell that?

VINCENT

No, smell what?

BRONWYN

A weird burning smell...

VINCENT

Please just tell me what happened.

BRONWYN

(unsure)

I... I smelt it running towards the cabin, I wanted to find out what happened between the two of you...

VINCENT

Well I can't smell anything, I think you may have hit your head too.

Vincent FROWNS and checks Bronwyn's forehead.

VINCENT

Your head is hot child...

BRONWYN

I'm okay but that smell... it was awful.

VINCENT

Lets go, these woods aren't safe...

BRONWYN

So it's not just me that's spooked.

VINCENT

Can you walk?

BRONWYN

Ankle hurts, something tripped me...

VINCENT

It's not real Bronwyn; you've got a temperature, a fever... Come on, let's get you home!

BRONWYN

But Dad...it hurts.

Vincent and Bronwyn look around as they HEAR the sound of footsteps trampling through the forest vegetation towards where they are in the clearing.

VINCENT

(nervously)

Who's that?

They see Adam RUNNING towards them. Bronwyn looks at Vincent, CONFUSED and fearful.

BRONWYN

Did you ask Adam to come here?

VINCENT

(muttering)

Ja, mein Gott, I hope it's him...

ADAM

(loudly)

Bronwyn!

BRONWYN

It's Adam!

VINCENT

Listen... Ezra is dangerous and angry, we must leave these woods...

BRONWYN

(confused)

Why Dad? Did you have an argument?

Adam stops running through the forest foliage and walks quickly towards Bronwyn and Vincent; he notices how DISTRESSED Bronwyn is as she questions her father.

VINCENT

(agitated)

We didn't argue, you can't argue with someone with so much hate...

BRONWYN

(confused)

Why is Adam here and what happened with Ezra?

VINCENT

(nervously)

We had a scuffle, he almost killed me, we must move out of here...

BRONWYN

(whispering)

We're not safe here are we Dad?

Bronwyn scans the TREES then looks at Adam who is slowly approaching.

Adam stops running through the forest foliage and starts walking unsteadily towards Bronwyn.

VINCENT

Let's go, Adam can help me get you home.

Vincent leans down to help Bronwyn up off the ground, she mumbles in pain and LEANS on Vincent's shoulders as she struggles up.

Adam gathers pace but does not LOOK down where he is treading.

He speeds up in desperation to get to Bronwyn, CONCERNED about what has happened to her.

BRONWYN

(desperate)

Adam!

VINCENT

(moaning)

This place is cursed.

Bronwyn is in a TRANCE as she watches Adam running towards her.

Adam unexpectedly TRIPS forward over a massive FALLEN rotting TREE.

He FALLS forward hard onto the ground and is LYING face DOWN and SILENT.

BRONWYN

Oh please God, don't let him be hurt...

VINCENT

(muttering)

He isn't moving.

Vincent and Bronwyn are FROZEN in shock.

They stumble slowly towards Adam's UNMOVING body LYING on the forest floor.

Bronwyn SENSE an eerie PRESENCE around them in the woods. Dark SHADOWS are spinning around the clearing.

BRONWYN

Can you smell that?

VINCENT

(confused)

No, no smell. Adam.. he's too still.

BRONWYN

(unsure)

Not another freak accident.

VINCENT

He isn't moving at all, he's unconscious...

BRONWYN

(panicked)

No, No, No!

Bronwyn is breathing LOUDLY in a PANIC.

She slowly turns Adam over onto his BACK.

Adam has a massive open GASH on his forehead, BLOOD is pouring down the side of his FACE, his body is motionless. He is DEAD.

BRONWYN

(whispering)

This cant be happening...

Bronwyn lets out a loud SCREAM, TEARS pouring down her face. She is in a state of shock and DISTRESS realising Adam is dead.

Vincent HOLDS Bronwyn to comfort her as she SOBS into his chest.

He looks at the sharp STUMP protruding from the large tree log that Adam TRIPPED over.

VINCENT

(calmly)

Listen now... We must go home, I must call the police before something else happens in this Gott verdampfte place.

Bronwyn stops sobbing, rubs her eyes dry and looks down at Adam. There is a SILENCE.

BRONWYN

Ezra will have a phone; we could call the ambulance and police from there...

VINCENT

(angrily)

No! We stay away from him, do you hear me?

Bronwyn shakes her head nervously, STARING down at Adam's lifeless body. She is CATATONIC.

Vincent and Bronwyn get up and start walking unsteadily through the woods towards their home on the outskirts of the woods.

Vincent supports Bronwyn as she LIMPS along. They start talking again after a few minutes.

BRONWYN

(struggling to walk and crying)

I can't believe this...Dad, what happened with Ezra?

VINCENT

(stammering)

You like to call it Karma, don't you? That man, he... he tried to murder me.

Vincent is breathing heavily, exhausted from supporting Bronwyn with her injured ankle as they hurry back home.

Vincent is FEARFUL of another attack and keeps looking over his shoulder.

Bronwyn is still SNIFFLING and distraught.

BRONWYN

(unsure)

I can't believe it Dad, why would he try murder you?

VINCENT

He pounced on me from behind after I left his place, was walking through here actually... I fell and then he tried to choke me.

They stop talking as they approach their home.

Bronwyn is stunned silent from the traumatic events that have just unfolded.

CUT TO:

INT.- VICTORIAN HOUSE - SATURDAY - EVENING

Vincent and Bronwyn arrive back at their home on the outskirts of the woods.

Vincent is on the PHONE calling the POLICE and explaining what happened to Adam.

He sits down in their lounge, facing Bronwyn who sits opposite him. He puts down the phone and looks at Bronwyn, they are both exhausted.

BRONWYN

(tearfully)

I can't believe what happened to Adam...

VINCENT

It's pure rage, there's no other reason for stalking and attacking me.

BRONWYN

(shaking head)

I'm talking about Adam.

VINCENT

It was fever; you were hallucinating...You probably need some rest now.

BRONWYN

(stammering)

It wasn't hallucinations, what I felt and the smell, it was... it was real.

VINCENT

Maybe it was something metaphysical... But there's nothing we can do about it now.

BRONWYN

(unsure)

So you agree - the smell...the smoke... what happened to Adam, could've been... supernatural?

VINCENT

Ja-ja, maybe a warning from God, a reminder of the past... who knows!

BRONWYN

(tearfully)

I...I can't believe he's dead.

VINCENT

(sadly)

Your German grandfather, Karl... he fought against the Russians, he died a terrible death for a lost cause... Life is unfair child.

BRONWYN

(voice quaking)

Both my Grandfathers fought on opposing sides and both are dead...



VINCENT

All the good and bad things they have done, the war, the cause and effect...We have to live with it.

BRONWYN

Both grandparents - they weren't war criminals or Nazis, were they?

VINCENT

No, they weren't... But we inherited the after effects of war.

BRONWYN

Dad, I never thought you'd believe in Karma...

VINCENT

It's really all about the sins of the Father... You get what you give.

BEGIN FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

INT.- FLASHBACK - GREENHOUSE - MORNING. BRONWYN IS INSIDE THE GREENHOUSE FILLING GREEN TINCTURE, MADE OUT OF HERBS GROWN IN THE GREENHOUSE, INTO SMALL VIALS. WE SEE THE HERBOLOGY BOOK ON A SMALL TABLE INSIDE THE GREENHOUSE. THE SUN IS SHINING BRIGHTLY AND BRONWYN IS SINGING TO HERSELF.

CUT TO:

EXT.- VICTORIAN HOUSE - GARDEN - EVENING

Bronwyn and Vincent are walking together in the garden, towards the burnt down GREENHOUSE.

Bronwyn enters the frame of the burnt out greenhouse and kneels down to pick up burnt REMNANTS of the plants she was growing.

Vincent stands outside watching her.

BRONWYN

(pensively)

Dad...You think karma is the reason for the fire, me seeing smoke, the smell in the woods, being bullied and now Adam dying?

VINCENT

You forget I almost got choked to death by an angry Holocaust survivor...

Bronwyn picks up the burnt REMAINS of her NOTEBOOK, crumples the black pages in her hand and scatters it across the blackened ground.

BRONWYN

(sadly)

I still can't believe he's gone.

Vincent goes into the burnt greenhouse to CONSOLE Bronwyn, he hugs her gently and she is CRYING on his shoulder.

VINCENT

Just cry my child, let it out.

BRONWYN

(voice quaking)

It's so unfair Dad...

VINCENT

Very unfair what happened to Adam, very unfair...

CUT TO:

INT.- SMALL TOWN VICTORIAN HOUSE - VIEW INSIDE -  
EVENING

Vincent knocks on the front door of Adam's home, expecting to meet his mother. Margaret slowly opens her front door.

VINCENT

(timidly)

Hello, I'm Bronwyn's Father.

MARGARET

(indifferent)

Yes...

VINCENT

(nervously)

Just wanted to check on you, we met at Adam's funeral...

MARGARET

Very kind of you, I... I appreciate your concern...but I really don't want to see anyone right now.

Margaret turns to close her door on Vincent.

Vincent steps forward slightly, DESPERATE to talk to Margaret.

VINCENT

(stammering)

I...I'm so sorry about what happened, he was a good kid.

Margaret stops in her tracks, fighting back TEARS.

She turns to face Vincent who is still waiting to talk to her.

MARGARET

(sneering)

Look, I don't care to know what part your daughter had in his death, I'd rather keep it that way...

VINCENT

(timidly)

It was a terrible accident, nothing more. Bronwyn and Adam had a real affection for each other.

Margaret slowly opens up her front door and steps back, guiding Vincent into her house.

She looks down at the ground as Vincent walks into her house.

MARGARET

(smoothly)

I'll give you a few minutes but I have to be somewhere else soon.

VINCENT

Thanks... I must tell you, Bronwyn cared for Adam.

Margaret leads Vincent down the hallway, he notices the family PICTURES on the wall.

MARGARET

(softening)

Such a charmer... I'm not surprised he found a girlfriend so quick.

VINCENT

Adam was a very good influence on Bronwyn.

Margaret walks to a bay WINDOW in her small lounge which overlooks the beachfront and OCEAN.

She sits on the bay window seat and looks out at the view, still INDIFFERENT to Vincent.

MARGARET

(voice quaking)

I don't understand how... or why it happened, so senseless and sudden.

VINCENT

I'm sorry; it was a shock for us... She hasn't been the same since it happened.

BEGIN FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

INT.- FLASHBACK - VICTORIAN HOUSE - VIEW INSIDE BRONWYN'S ROOM - EVENING - WE SEE BRONWYN ON HER BED, THE NIGHT OF THE ADAM'S DEATH, PARKED POLICE CAR LIGHTS FLASHING OUTSIDE AND SHINING INTO HER ROOM. SHE IS CRYING INTO HER PILLOW. WE SEE A COUPLE OF HERBAL TINCTURE BOTTLES SITTING ATOP OF A PILE OF BOOKS ABOUT ALCHEMY, HERBOLOGY AND ASTROLOGY WHICH ARE PILED ONTO THE CORNER OF HER NIGHTSTAND.

CUT TO:

INT.- SMALL TOWN VICTORIAN HOUSE - VIEW INSIDE -  
EVENING

Vincent and Margaret are both sitting at the bay window in Margaret's lounge.

We see a black and white tuxedo tom CAT sitting by another window in the lounge, he is also looking out at the view.

MARGARET

(pensively)

He drank from a tincture bottle...  
Adam brought it home a few months ago and he drank it on the last day I saw him...

VINCENT

(quizzically)

Did you see him drink it?

MARGARET

He... he gulped it and said it's a herbal tonic from Bronwyn... That was before he rushed to the woods.

VINCENT

Herbal tonic?

MARGARET

He got it from your place, I suspect...

VINCENT

I don't know how he got hold of it, if I knew...

MARGARET

He's usually a sensible kid, I didn't think it would be toxic or mind-altering.

VINCENT

I had a tray of herbal vials in the greenhouse... before it burnt down. She makes herbal concoctions in those bottles; it's her hobby...

Margaret gets up from the bay window seat and marches off ANGRILY.

She picks up the EMPTY VIAL bottle from her coffee table and STARES at it.

Vincent is GAZING out the window at the SEA.

MARGARET

(angrily)

Why would you let her do that and why let kids visit a hermit?

VINCENT

(defensively)

I didn't get them involved; they wanted me to meet him, he's our only neighbour...

MARGARET

(angrily)

Still, they shouldn't have gone there!

VINCENT

Ezra is a deeply traumatised man. If I knew how dangerous he is I would never have let her go there...

MARGARET

(sneering)

I believe if Adam hadn't met Bronwyn or the hermit, he'd be alive today.

VINCENT

I'm sorry; I wish I could turn back the clock.

MARGARET

(tearfully)

I'd... I'd do absolutely anything to bring him back!

VINCENT

(muttering)

Ja I know, I would too...

MARGARET

I...I should've taken that little bottle out his room. I knew it was bad, that he would do something impulsive...

BEGIN FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

INT.- FLASHBACK - SMALL VICTORIAN HOUSE - VIEW INSIDE ADAM'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON - WE SEE ADAM GET OFF THE PHONE AND THEN SIT ON A SOFA STARING AT GREEN LIQUID INSIDE A VIAL. HE TAKES THE LID OFF, DRINKS IT QUICKLY AND RUSHES OUT THE HOUSE, SLAMMING THE DOOR BEHIND HIM.

CUT TO:

INT.- SMALL TOWN VICTORIAN HOUSE - VIEW INSIDE - EVENING

Margaret is PACING around her lounge whilst Vincent is still sitting by the bay window staring out at the sea.

MARGARET

You think the herb mix might've done something to Adam before he fell?

VINCENT

Can't be sure, it's strange how he fell.

MARGARET

(whispering)

S'pose we'll never know.

Vincent gets up to LEAVE, he looks around Margaret's home one last time, avoiding eye contact with Margaret. He walks towards the front door ready to leave.

VINCENT

If there's anything you need or you want to talk, we're up by the forest on the hill...

MARGARET

(softly)

That's kind. Sorry, what did you say your name is? I struggled to get it because of your accent...

VINCENT

(smiling)

It's Vincent. I know - strange name for a German.

MARGARET

That's true.

VINCENT

We live in the old white Victorian house with the wide veranda, you pass it before you get to the forest. If you need anything...

CUT TO:

INT.- VICTORIAN HOUSE - VIEW INSIDE - SUNDAY - EVENING

Vincent arrives back at his house, the sun is setting.

Bronwyn is home alone and reading her HERBOLOGY book in the lounge.

BRONWYN

Where've you been?

VINCENT

You want to know who I visited?

BRONWYN

Who?

VINCENT

Adam's Mother, Margaret...

BRONWYN

Why go there Dad?

VINCENT

To show some care, it's the least I could do.



BRONWYN

How was she?

VINCENT

Not friendly at first but then she seemed to open up about Adam.

BRONWYN

(softly)

Is she okay?

VINCENT

Really sad, then angry. It's been a huge loss.

BRONWYN

Obviously Dad, she's his Mother...

VINCENT

I have to ask you something, but don't get upset?

BRONWYN

(annoyed)

Okay, ask away...

VINCENT

What plants did you put in the vials in the greenhouse before the fire?

BRONWYN

(unsure)

Before the fire? Hmm. I mixed Belladonna and Valerian...

VINCENT

(agitated)

Sheiser! That would put anyone to sleep! Or at the very least make someone drowsy.

BRONWYN

(defensively)

I don't see what the problem is, no one has taken the stuff!

VINCENT

(defeatedly)

That's where you're wrong.  
Sheiser... Adam took the stuff, on  
the day he fell.

BRONWYN

(defensively)

Dad... I didn't know he took a  
bottle, everything in the  
greenhouse was burnt.

Vincent STORMS off down the hallway and back again,  
he is trying very hard to contain his anger.

Bronwyn is sitting still, FROZEN in shock. She  
glances at her HERBOLOGY book, shakes her head  
fearfully.

VINCENT

You should never make such a  
dangerous tincture, what if a  
small kid went in there?

BRONWYN

(voice quaking)

I...I was experimenting, didn't  
think anyone would die.

VINCENT

You can't play with these plants,  
its extremely irresponsible and  
dangerous!

BRONWYN

I promise, I only just met Adam  
when he went in the greenhouse.

Bronwyn picks up her Herbology BOOK off the side  
table and quickly SLIDES it behind one of the  
cushions on the sofa she is sitting on.

VINCENT

(softly)

Look... I know it's been hard  
growing up without your Mother.  
But what you did was really bad...

BRONWYN

(pensively)

Why do you grow those plants if they're so dangerous?

VINCENT

I use them to make tonics, you know that, to stop my ageing...

BRONWYN

(shakes head)

I can't believe he took the tincture...

VINCENT

I'll get that box of letters from your Mother, you need to read them.

BRONWYN

I can't believe you're finally giving me the box. Are things that bad?

VINCENT

(sneering)

You need her advice, even if it's only in letters...

CUT TO:

INT.- VICTORIAN HOUSE - VIEW INSIDE BRONWYN'S ROOM - SATURDAY - MORNING

Bridget and Abigail are visiting Bronwyn at her house, we see them walking into her room where Bronwyn is sitting alone on her bed reading LETTERS from her mother.

BRIDGET

Long time no see, where've you been?

BRONWYN

(sadly)

I've been here the whole time. Recovering...

BRIDGET

(softly)

I know you miss him, it was a shock for all of us...

ABIGAIL

I'm here for you... Miss you at school Bron.

BRIDGET

I miss you at school too, never thought I'd say that, but its true...

The three girls HUDDLE together on Bronwyn's cushioned bed in her spacious teenage GENERATION X bedroom.

The walls are covered with POSTERS of Prince, David Bowie, UB40, Roxette, U2, Tears for Fears and Shakespeares Sister.

There are a few fluffy teddy bears, REMNANTS of Bronwyn's early childhood, sitting on an antique rocking chair.

There are neat piles of BOOKS about psychology, astrology, herbology and other metaphysical subjects on her desk and night-stand.

BRONWYN

(melancholic)

Thanks guys...It's been terrible, I feel so guilty.

ABIGAIL

(concerned)

It's not your fault. So, you been resting or what?

BRONWYN

I've been cocooning here...

Bronwyn SCANS her room, looks at her piles of books and then looks at Bridget and Abigail who are watching her intently.

We hear the WIND blowing outside her room.

ABIGAIL

(whispering)

I still can't believe what happened to him.

BRIDGET

He was a sweet guy.

ABIGAIL

It was so sudden...

BRIDGET

You've been stuck here like a recluse?

BRONWYN

I've been here the whole time. My Dad and school agreed that I need to recover from the shock of what happened...

ABIGAIL

(softly)

Oh jeez, shame Bron...

BRONWYN

Avoiding outside perils; it gives me control, I'm probably agoraphobic now.

BRIDGET

(disbelieving)

Jeepers, sounds serious. Hope you're okay...

BRONWYN

(nodding head)

You think I've gone crazy.

ABIGAIL

Uh, no don't think that, I'm your friend and care about you, that's all.

BRIDGET

So... You're hiding from the world, before another bad thing happens? Because of this collective guilt?

ABIGAIL

Whoa Bridget, go easy, jeez...

BRONWYN

Yip, hiding from the world. If you had the family history I have...you'd understand.

ABIGAIL

(reassuring)

Everyone has family history that's affected them, you're just a bit paranoid me thinks.

BRIDGET

I'm pretty sure your Father was just a kid playing on the rubble at the end of the war, like millions of other kids at that time...

BRONWYN

(muttering)

I'm lucky to even be here.

BRIDGET

Sounds like post traumatic stress to me.

Bridget gives a CONCERNED glance at Abigail and then looks away out the window.

BRONWYN

(annoyed)

What?

BRIDGET

(reassuring)

Sorry, I'm being insensitive. Life is cruel, bad luck happens to everyone.

BRONWYN

I believe in bad luck.

BRIDGET

I've been mean to you, but bad luck and bad behaviour are separate things.

ABIGAIL

(smoothly)

It's just very bad luck what happened to Adam, a random event that could've happened to anyone.

BRONWYN

(whispering)

It's not all random tho...

ABIGAIL

Oh Bron... Come on, it's not a curse or whatever weird spooky thing you're theorising it is. It's just life.

BRONWYN

(indifferent)

Yip, okay. Anyway... glad you guys visited, appreciate it.

ABIGAIL

(desperate)

Listen, if you're waiting for karma... Jeepers, you're going to wait a long time.

BRIDGET

(matter-of-factly)

Oh yes - jeez you need to join the real world, come meet up in town, stop acting like that weird recluse, it's not good for anyone...

BRONWYN

I've a few days off school but I'll come to town soon, promise...

ABIGAIL

Bron... Nothing bad will happen, so please stop worrying.

BRONWYN

Guys... I'll see you next week but right now I need to go...

Bronwyn jumps off her bed and LEADS the girls out of her bedroom.

She is ANNOYED with their attitude towards her and does no longer feels close to Abigail.

Abigail can sense Bronwyn's annoyance and feels panicked.

ABIGAIL

(softly)

We just worry about you, we'll see you next week then...

BRONWYN

When I get back I'm reading letters from my dead mother.

ABIGAIL

She left you letters?

BRONWYN

Dad gave them to me after it happened, he thought it was the right time to see them...

BRIDGET

It's good you have that link with her, after all this time.

BRONWYN

Stop worrying about me; I'll be okay...

ABIGAIL

(sadly)

You sure Bron?

BRONWYN

(coldly)

Thanks for checking on me, see you at school ...

The three teenage girls walk out the bedroom and leave the house.

Bronwyn is upset but trying to keep it to herself, she rushes out ahead onto her porch as she WATCHES her two friends walk away.



CUT TO:

INT.- VICTORIAN HOUSE - VIEW INSIDE MULLER  
RESIDENCE KITCHEN - SUNDAY - MORNING

Bronwyn has just woken up and walking towards the  
kitchen. Vincent is making breakfast.

BRONWYN

(dazed)

Dad?

VINCENT

Ja, I'm here... Want breakfast?

BRONWYN

Please, I'm starving. Dad... You  
think Ezra will be okay?

VINCENT

He has sorrow to last the rest of  
his life... He survived Auschwitz.  
Ja...he'll survive anything,  
believe me.

BRONWYN

You're so kind even though he  
tried to kill you...

VINCENT

We know why he took his anger out  
on me...

BRONWYN

You're right... We're lucky to be  
alive. Just not sure I want to  
live around here anymore... Dad, I  
think we should start our lives  
somewhere new.

VINCENT

You make it sound so easy... Just  
forget about what I said about  
Ezra and remember the important  
things like Adam and what a good  
person he was. You have friends  
here, good friends...

BRONWYN

I don't understand why Adam took that tincture and then the freak accident, it's so strange...

VINCENT

Remember what Ezra said about Auschwitz, I know it's no excuse what he did to me but it explains a whole lot...

BRONWYN

Dad, I'm just going for a walk...

Bronwyn gets up quickly and rushes off to her room where she begins to WRITE a LETTER.

She glances at the box of letters from her DECEASED mother. Bronwyn begins to SOB as she writes.

CUT TO:

EXT.- WOODS - VIEW OF THE CABIN - SUNDAY - AFTERNOON

Bronwyn is walking through the woods and reaches the clearing in front of Ezra's cabin.

She walks up the stairs slowly and then she carefully places an ENVELOPE with letter on the tattered welcome mat that lies before his front door.

As she places the white envelope on the mat, she feels the same SPIRITUAL presence around her that she felt before. DARK SHADOWS spinning around over the clearing and then VANISH into the woods.

She picks up the letter off the mat and looks around nervously, she then places the envelope back on the mat.

Dark shadows weave through the air around her again.

View of the forest clearing and then moving fast through the trees, spinning around like disembodied beings all the way backwards in the direction that Bronwyn came from.

Bronwyn turns away from the porch and RUNS back into the woods, fearful and shaken, she doesn't look back as she runs home.

LATER:

We see Ezra slowly open the door to his cabin. He looks worn out and TIRED.

He crouches down and carefully picks up the white envelope.

A soft BREEZE blows onto the porch as Ezra moves down to the first step of his porch and he sits down.

He opens the envelope slowly, pulls out a letter and begins READING it.

BRONWYN (SOFT V.O.)

14 June 1992

Dear Mr Frank

I know you were angry with my father, some strange alchemy made you attack him and made me fall down in the woods and it killed Adam.

Whatever reasons there are for what happened, I'm not coming back here again.

We tried to help you and in the end, everyone got hurt and someone I love is dead.

This place seems tranquil but it holds darkness too. I understand what horrors you witnessed and suffered.

You are probably suffering from post traumatic stress, but you

CONTINUED:

need to get out of the forest and  
join the real world.

I am not chasing after forgiveness  
for what the Germans did; I was  
not alive when it all happened.  
It' 1992, a lot of time has  
passed.

You know that life is both  
fleeting and fragile.

Mr Frank, we have to stop waiting  
for karma.

Yours sincerely

Bronwyn

Ezra SMILES affectionately as he finishes reading  
the letter.

He reaches into his POCKET as he sits on the steps  
of his cabin porch, he pulls out a small VIAL bottle  
that has a light GREEN liquid inside it and he  
SHAKES the bottle gently.

Ezra STARES at it for a few seconds before placing  
it gently next to him.

Ezra looks up at the light blue SKY; there is no  
smoke and not a single cloud above him.

For the first time in his entire LIFE, he feels at  
PEACE in the world. He closes his eyes slowly and  
SMILES upwards towards the heavens.

THE END