



THE ZONE OF INTEREST

by

JONATHAN GLAZER

Based on the novel by Martin Amis

December 12th 2022

JWfilms
Extreme Emotions

jw@jw-films.com
biuro@extreme-emotions.pl

© Jonathan Glazer

Address
Phone Number

- 3 EXT. SILVER BIRCH WOODLAND - SHORT WHILE LATER 3 *
- The Höss family, dressed now, amble up the meadow and into a glade of birch trees. Midges and butterflies dart and glint in the sun. *
- The boys share the weight of the hamper. Hedwig in her straw hat walks playfully with the girls behind. *
- Rudolf, dressed now, walks at the front with baby Annagret on his shoulders. *
- 4 EXT. COUNTRY ROAD, - SHORT WHILE LATER 4 *
- Two 1940's cars wind their way along a forest road. *
- They turn onto a country road.
- 5 EXT. HÖSS' CAR, COUNTRY ROAD - DUSK TO NIGHT 5 *
- HEADLIGHTS POV
- The glare from his headlights illuminates a rushing, black ribbon of road, and tall pine trees towering on either side, as dusk turns to night.
- The sound of the children play singing giggling in the back seat of the car. *
- 6 EXT. LOOKING AT HÖSS VILLA - NIGHT 6 *
- The exterior of the back of a 2 story family house. The downstairs and two of the upstairs windows are lit by interior lights. *
- Rudolf is visible through the window in a downstairs room. He turns off its light, and walks through its door. *
- The lit windows go dark one by one as Rudolf moves from downstairs to upstairs turning off the lights. *
- 7 INT. MASTER BEDROOM, HÖSS VILLA - NIGHT 7 *
- Rudolf and Hedwig lie in parallel but separate beds. Hedwig turns off her bedside lamp, lays her head on her pillow, and looks at her husband. *
- Rudolf lies on his back in his bed, hands folded on his chest, with an air of quiet contentment. *

8 INT. HALL, HÖSS VILLA - NEXT MORNING 8 *

Rudolf walks tentatively down the stairs, fully dressed now in sharply tailored military tunic with insignia, riding breeches and boots, riding gloves in one hand. He is being led, blindfold, by Claus and Hans. *

CLAUS
Down, another step. *

RUDOLF
You'd better not throw a bucket of water over me or something.

The boys giggle.

CLAUS
No, we'd never do that. *

RUDOLF
This had better not make me late.

DILLA, the FAMILY DOG - comes and goes throughout when we are downstairs in the house, and in the garden.

9 EXT. BACK GARDEN, HÖSS VILLA - CONTINUOUS 9

The boys lead him down the patio steps and into the back garden.

HANS
Stop.

CLAUS
Ok, stand here. Now take it off slowly.

Rudolf removes the blindfold. And sees Hedwig, and the other children, also dressed for school, standing on the lawn, a gleaming, wooden 3-seater CANOE in front of them. *

ALL
Surprise! Happy birthday! *

Rudolf is lost for words for a moment. He walks over towards them. *

RUDOLF
Is this for me!?

HEIDERAUD
Yes! *

RUDOLF *
Thank you! *
(admiring the canoe) *
Where did you get it? *

HEDWIG *
(embracing him) *
It's a secret *

RUDOLF *
(pointing at the canoe) *
One, two, three passengers. *
Who wants the first ride? *

Inge-Brigit and Hans both raise their arms. *

RUDOLF (CONT'D) *
(points at Annagret) *
You. You can have the first ride? *

Hedwig passes Annagret to him over the canoe and he holds her *
above the seat. *

RUDOLF (CONT'D) *
It look's like it's just been *
painted, Annagret will have a *
green bum. *

...and places her gently down onto it. Annagret cries a *
little and he starts singing a traditional German boating *
song "The Skipper on the Rhine" to soothe her. *

After a verse he picks her up again and as he leans to pass *
her back to Hedwig they kiss across the canoe. *

ELFRYDA *
(calling from the patio) *
Come on.. coats ,bags.. *
(claps her hands) *
Chop, chop. *

Rudolf says his goodbyes to the children who then skip back *
to the house to leave for school. He pulls on his SS death's *
head woolen ski cap, and adjusts the brim.

INGE-BRIGIT *
I love you. *

RUDOLF *
I love you more. Are you going to *
give me bye byes? *

They hug. Then Rudolf turns and makes his way along the path towards the garden gate. She comes after him for one last cuddle. *

ELFRYDA
(calls)
Inge-Brigit.

RUDOLF
Off to school now.

Inge-Brigit reluctantly goes.

He waves at Hedwig and Annagret, then exits through the garden's white, picket gate, which separates the house from the entrance to Auschwitz.

Two STABLEHANDS hold the reins of Rudolf's favorite bay horse Merer, in the cobbled yard. A mounting block to the side. A small group of SS OFFICERS beyond, and an idling military truck waiting for clearance at the checkpoint. *

Rudolf mounts up and the SS Guards salute and raise the barrier. *

HEDWIG
Bye daddy, see you later.
(lifts Annagret's little
arm and waves it)
Bye bye.

Rudolf kicks his heels into Merer's flanks, and rides into the camp.

Hedwig, with Annagret on her hip, walks the length of the flowerbed alongside the camp entrance. Stopping every now and then to smell the roses with her. *

10

EXT. TOP GARDEN, HÖSS VILLA - DAY

10

Polish PRISONER-GARDENER BRONEK, (40's), wearing ill-fitting civilian clothes, enters the walled top garden by opening the locked wooden doors at the far end.

He steers his covered wheelbarrow along paved paths which criss-cross through the villa's vast top flower garden. A cornucopia of flora.. A paradise in full bloom.

Two PRISONER GARDENERS are watering a bed.

He steers it past the market garden, then the long greenhouse.

Then past the small swimming pool, with a child-sized dinghy floating in it, and a wooden slide. Past toys and bicycles and a child-sized car.

Then he corners through the gate into the back garden..

11 EXT. BACK GARDEN, HÖSS VILLA - CONTINUOUS 11

..along the path and up to the house. Past A YOUNG POLISH MAID (17) hanging the Höss family's underwear on the line. *

From afar, we watch him park the wheelbarrow, climb the few steps to the porch and knock on the back door. *

SOPHIE (40s) the German housekeeper, appears in the doorway. A brief acknowledgement then she goes down to the wheelbarrow with him. They peel off the cover and start to unload, piling up bags and jars in Sophie's arms. *

Loaded up, Sophie turns back inside. Bronek brings up a large sack and a paper package wrapped with string from the wheelbarrow and follows her up towards the back door. *

12 INT. HALL, HÖSS VILLA - CONTINUOUS 12 *

Sophie carries everything down the hall.. *

SOPHIE
(Calling out to Hedwig)
Bronek. *

...and enters the pantry where she starts to set down some of the jars on shelves. *

Responding to Sophie, Hedwig, now wearing an apron, walks past heading to the back door where Bronek hands her the sack. She looks inside, grabs the paper package from him under her arm, and goes back into the house. *

HEDWIG
(Calling out)
Marta! *

MARTA, a Polish housemaid (17), comes down the stairs. *

HEDWIG (CONT'D)
(Handing her the sack)
Upstairs please.
Then come down again, I have something for you. *

Marta takes the sack upstairs. Hedwig walks to the kitchen with the package, calling out to Sophie as she passes her in the pantry..

HEDWIG (CONT'D)
(Beckoning)
Sophie.

..and she walks through the kitchen, where another POLISH HOUSEMAID (17) sits mixing food in a bowl. Hedwig walks through, starting to unwrap the package along the way..

HEDWIG (CONT'D)
(to the housemaid, without
looking at her)
Aniela come.

..into the dining room, where Elfryda is standing holding the baby whom she's been feeding.

The package is full of women's silk underwear, which Hedwig puts down in a small pile on the dining room table and then spreads out.

HEDWIG (CONT'D)
Please choose something you like
Only one each.

Hedwig leaves the room, and Elfryda and Sophie start looking through the underwear, holding items up to see their size. Marta and Aniela approach the pile gingerly from behind them.

13 INT. MASTER BEDROOM, HÖSS VILLA - SHORT WHILE LATER 13

The bag Bronek gave her is on the bed. Hedwig opens it, revealing an exquisite full-length brown fur coat. She lifts it out, drapes it in front of her body and walks to the mirror.

She swings it over her shoulders, and puts it on. Her hands go into the pockets and immediately she feels something in the right pocket.

She pulls out a tube of lipstick. Places it on her dressing table top.

Returns to the mirror and pulls some poses to see how the coat hangs.

It's a little big for her but it's luxurious and she admires herself regardless.

The lining catches her eyes and she draws up the hem to inspect it. *

14 INT. STAIRS, HÖSS VILLA - MOMENTS LATER 14 *

Hedwig is on the stairs handing the fur coat to Aniela below her. *

HEDWIG

This one needs mending please. *

The lining's come away bottom left. *

Be very careful with it. *

ANIELA

Yes. *

15 INT. MASTER BEDROOM, HÖSS VILLA - CONTINUOUS 15 *

Hedwig re-enters the bedroom and sits down at the dressing table. *

Opens the tube of lipstick, and draws a little on the back of her hand. Uses her finger to apply a couple of test dabs to her lips. Satisfied, she applies it from the tube. Presses her lips back and forth in the mirror. *

Then she closes the tube, and shuts it in a drawer. Wipes the lipstick from her hand and lips with her apron. *

16 EXT. CAMP ENTRANCE BY HÖSS GARDEN PATHWAY, AUSCHWITZ - DAY 16 *

Rudolf, SS officer KARL BISCHOFF (40's, in uniform), and civilian engineers FRITZ SANDER (50's) and KURT PRÜFER (50's), both wearing suits and fedoras, enter through the garden gate. *

Sander carries a briefcase and a large rolled up paper, Prufer, just a briefcase. Rudolf leads the way, the others small-talk behind him. *

BISCHOFF

How was your journey? *

PRUFER

Long, but we're here. *

BISCHOFF

So not too bad. *

SANDER

Easier than last time actually. *

BISCHOFF
Excellent. Welcome back. *

PRUFER
We're glad to be here. *
*

Rudolf turns at the top of the back porch, kicks off his riding boots. *

PRUFER (CONT'D) *
(to Bischoff) *
Should we take our shoes off as well? *

BISCHOFF *
No, no. Did you come via Prague or Vienna? *

PRUFER *
Prague. It's fifty six minutes faster. *

As the back door closes, the Prisoner Gardener waiting below, hurries up to collect the boots. *

He brings them around the house to an outside tap and sink and with a brush begins scrubbing blood and mud from their soles, over which we hear: *

GERMAN WOMAN'S VOICE (PRE-LAP) *
She was admiring a jacket I had and asked me where I got it. And I told her 'Canada'. She said "how could you go to Canada?"". *

HEDWIG'S VOICE (PRE-LAP) *
She thought you meant the country. *

17 INT. KITCHEN, HÖSS VILLA - DAY (CONTINUOUS) 17 *

Hedwig, now in an almond white dress, and TWO GERMAN WOMEN FRIENDS (30's and 50s), wives of an SS officer and IG Farben executive, nicely dressed, chat over coffee at the table. *

GERMAN WOMAN FRIEND *
Yes of course. *

GERMAN WOMAN FRIEND 2 *
It's an easy mistake. *

HEDWIG

The same thing happened when Helga Palitsch came with me the first time.

*
*

GERMAN WOMAN FRIEND

Oh, it was so funny. Of all the dresses she could have picked out, she chose one that belonged to some little Jewess half her size. I got the zip up to about here for her..

(indicates the small of her back)

..and it quite literally..

(makes a 'v' shape with her hands)

..like it was splitting. And I was trying to close it and close it..and jerking her around and all the time she's looking at herself saying "God I love it". Anyway, she took it. She said she'd lose weight so she could wear it.

*

18 INT. DINING ROOM, HÖSS VILLA - CONTINUOUS

18

*

While they speak behind her, Aniela is taking a small silver tray, a bottle of schnapps, and a shot glass from a drinks cabinet, and carefully filling the glass.

*
*
*

GERMAN WOMAN FRIEND 2

Helga Palitsch's husband only adopted that little Polish boy to keep her at home. That's what she told me. And he bashes her around as well.

*

HEDWIG

How do you know that?

GERMAN WOMAN FRIEND 2

Didn't you notice? She's got bruises on her arms.

*
*
*

19 INT. KITCHEN/HALLWAY HÖSS VILLA - CONTINUOUS

19

*

Aniela walks past them carrying the tray. We watch her walking slowly along the hallway so as not to spill it, toward the back door, while the women continue.

*
*
*

GERMAN WOMAN FRIEND'S VOICE *
 Oh I forgot to tell you something. *
 Guess where I found this? *
 (beat) *
 In the toothpaste? *

HEDWIG'S VOICE *
 No. Really? *

GERMAN WOMAN FRIEND 2'S VOICE *
 Is it real? *

GERMAN WOMAN FRIEND'S VOICE *
 It is real. It's a diamond. *

GERMAN WOMAN FRIEND 2'S VOICE *
 How clever do you have to be? *

GERMAN WOMAN FRIEND'S VOICE *
 Yes they are very clever. Ive *
 ordered more because you never know *

20 EXT. BACK GARDEN PATIO/HALLWAY/KITCHEN, HÖSS VILLA - 20 *
 CONTINUOUS *

Aniela puts the bottle and glass on the patio table, then *
 collects Rudolf's boots, now clean in the porch, and goes *
 back inside with them. *

Black shapes in the garden, with boots and hats, all coming *
 from the garden gate. *

In groups, fives, tens then more. Fifty or so now. CAMP SS *
 OFFICERS. All heading towards the house. *

We're on Aniela as she returns along the hallway carrying *
 Rudolf's boots, the women still chatting in the background. *

HEDWIG'S VOICE (O.S.) *
 Remember I told you about Brigitte *
 Frank's fur at the Schilling *
 concert Rudolf and I went to? *

And she enters the kitchen... *

HEDWIG *
 The ermine one? *

GERMAN WOMAN FRIEND *
 Yes. *

HEDWIG *
 Did I tell you? *

GERMAN WOMAN FRIEND 2
I don't think so.

*
*

She taps an image of Frank in the centre spread.

*

GERMAN WOMAN FRIEND 2 (CONT'D)
(leaning in)
Oh, my goodness.

*
*
*

HEDWIG
And the emeralds, look. And
sapphires.

*
*
*

GERMAN WOMAN FRIEND 2
She looks like an empress.

*
*

21

INT. LIVING ROOM, HÖSS VILLA - CONTINUOUS

21

Rudolf, in his socks, Bischoff, Prufer and Sander are sat
around the coffee table, on top of which the roll of paper
has been unfurled. It shows a technical drawing and

*
*
*

Sander is in mid-flow, using his pen to point as he explains
the design to Rudolf.

*
*
*

SANDER
The other side of it is the next
chamber. In here is the next load
ready to burn, once the pieces in
here..
(points)
Have been completely incinerated.

RUDOLF
In how long?

SANDER
Seven hours. Four to five hundred
at once.

PRUFER
Closer to five hundred.

SANDER
(points)
So, once that's happened, you close
this chimney. Then simultaneously
open the next. The fire will follow
the air, through this baffle of
course, into this chamber and burn
this load.

We see the paper from above. Engineering plans. A ground plan, front elevation, and sections of a structure with chimneys. A logo in one corner reads "JA Topf and Sons". A key in the other corner with the scale, date,. Sander's hand continue to point as he speaks.

*
*
*
*
*

SANDER (CONT'D)

*

In each case, the chamber directly opposite the fire zone, which is burning at around a thousand degrees, has by now cooled to around forty degrees. Cool enough to unload the ash then reload pieces.

RUDOLF

So these chambers are cooling and these are heating up.

*

SANDER

Correct. The process moves one chamber over, counterclockwise. Burn, cool, unload, reload.

PRUFER

Continuously.

Rudolf stares, fascinated.

22 INT. HALL, HÖSS VILLA - CONTINUOUS 22

Aniela walks to the living room and stops in front of the closed glass doors.

She puts the boots down. Knocks on the glass politely then leaves.

23 INT. KITCHEN, HÖSS VILLA 23

The sound of applause outside as Hedwig and her friends part net curtains to watch through the kitchen window.

*
*

24 EXT. BACK GARDEN, HÖSS VILLA - CONTINUOUS 24

Rudolf with the schnapps glass raised as the 50 or so SS officers gathered around the bottom of the patio are applauding.

*
*
*

RUDOLF

Prost!

SS OFFICERS

(as one)

Prost!

He knocks it back. They hip! hip! him as he walks down the few steps to shake many hands. *

Lots of "Happy birthday Herr Commandant" and "I'm honoured to serve under you" type greetings from different officers, and "thank you"s from Rudolf. *

Some look like they've just arrived from hell. Filthy and disheveled with bloodshot eyes. *

25 INT. BOYS BEDROOM, HÖSS VILLA - LATER 25 *

Claus and Hans are in their bedroom, back from school. Claus is changing out of his school uniform into his pint-sized SS one. Buttoning his trousers, then pulling on a pair of black boots and stomping in them. *

Hans, still wearing his, is sitting on the floor using a book about trains as a platform for his toy soldiers. And mumbling commands at them. *

26 EXT. REEDS, AUSCHWITZ REGION - LATER 26 *

Rudolf and Claus on horses, flanks steamings, walk along an embankment that cuts between two vast fields of bullrushes. *

In the distance we can hear indistinct male voices yelling one-word orders in a hodgepodge of German and Polish. *

RUDOLF *

(cocks his head) *

You hear that? *

Then the sound of a marsh bird. A low, hollow sound, like an empty bottle. *

They stop. *

RUDOLF (CONT'D) *

It's a Bittern. A heron. Eurasian heron. *

They hear the bird again. *

RUDOLF (CONT'D) *

(mimicking) *

Woo.. woo.. *

They walk on. *

27 EXT. REEDS, AUSCHWITZ REGION - SHORT WHILE LATER 27 *

Close on apples strewn about on grass in front of long marsh reeds. *

They look like they've been discarded. *

A surging noise of heavy splashing and then suddenly the legs of a horse thunder out of the marsh reeds onto the embankment, hooves trampling the apples. *

A mounted SS officer looks around from atop the horse scanning down into the marsh, yanking the reins this way and that. *

He trots along the embankment a few metres more and bursts down the embankment back into the cloak of reeds. *

Beyond him, barely visible in the marsh, are PRISONERS carrying sacks. The voice of the Kapo barking at them throughout. *

Rudolf and Claus arrive at the spot on their horses, and pause to watch. *

KAPO
(Yelling in German and
Polish)
Come on!...Move!...Little rat!
Faster!...Work! *

Rudolf and Claus walk on. *

28 INT. DINING ROOM, HÖSS VILLA - AFTERNOON 28 *

Rudolf sits at the dining room table, charmed by the blazing candles on his birthday cake.

His family watch.

HANS
Make a wish.

Rudolf thinks.

Then blows out his candles.

Hedwig leads the family in song..

HÖSS FAMILY

"For he's a jolly good fellow, for
 he's a jolly good fellow
 For he's a jolly good fellow, which
 nobody can deny..

Rudolf uses the large cake knife as a conductor's baton,
 slicing the air with its blade.

HÖSS FAMILY (CONT'D)

*Which nobody can deny, which nobody
 can deny, For he's a jolly good
 fellow, for he's a jolly good
 fellow, for he's a jolly good
 fellow, which nobody can deny.*

*
*
*
*
*

29 EXT TOP GARDEN - HÖSS VILLA - EVENING

29

*

Rudolf stands looking through the gate to the lower garden,
 puffing away at the remains of a cigar. The sound of water
 trickling, through camp noises in the background.

*
*
*

He walks across the lawn to the swimming pool and properly
 turns off the shower-head that had been dripping.

*
*

He looks up into the sky above the camp buildings and tall
 smoking chimney beyond the garden wall, as he puffs on the
 cigar in the twilight.

*
*
*

30 INT. BOYS' BEDROOM, HÖSS VILLA - NIGHT

30

Claus and Hans lie in their bunk beds in the dark. Both have
 pocket torches. Claus on top, is propped up on his elbows
 on his belly pointing the light at something in front of him.

*
*
*

HANS

(quietly)

What are you doing?

*

CLAUS

I'm looking.

*

HANS

At what?

*

CLAUS

Teeth.

*
*

Close on him holding three gold teeth to the torchlight for
 inspection, and ten others are on the bed sheet by an open
 empty matchbox.

*
*
*

31 EXT. LOOKING AT HÖSS VILLA - NIGHT 31 *

Rudolf walks up the steps of the porch back into the house. *

The downstairs and two of the upstairs windows are lit by interior lights. *

INT. KITCHEN, HÖSS Villa - SAME *

Rudolf is locking up for the night, bolting the back door of the house and turning off lights. The family dogs Dilla is around. *

Rudolf goes to the kitchen windows and locks those, and turns off the light. *

32 INT. LIVING ROOM, HÖSS VILLA - CONTINUOUS 32

Rudolf locks the glass doors to the dining room.

Rudolf draws the curtains and turns off the light. *

33 INT. HALL, HÖSS VILLA - MOMENTS LATER 33

Rudolf secures the three locks on the front door and turns off the light. *

The house is quiet. *

34 INT. LANDING, HÖSS VILLA - SHORT WHILE LATER 34

Rudolf walks up the stairs towards his bedroom.

He stops on the landing and turns off the light. *

The darkness reveals plumes of red-haloed smoke in the distant background through the balcony door at the end of the landing, before he suddenly turns the light back on. *

His eye caught by Inge-Brigit sitting on a step at the end of the landing by the window in her nightgown. She's staring outwards, trance-like. *

Rudolf walks towards and leans down slowly. *

RUDOLF
(softly)
What are you doing there? *

INGE-BRIGIT
I'm passing out sugars.

RUDOLF
(softly)
To who?

INGE-BRIGIT
I'm looking.

Rudolf reaches out and had gently towards her.

RUDOLF
(softly)
Come.

35 EXT. DITCH - NIGHT

35

A YOUNG POLISH GIRL (14), holding a sack. She takes an apple out of it and presses it into the wall of earth until only a patch of it remains visible.

Moves along a meter and does the same. Takes another apple from her sack and pushes it into the earth.

And again.

Every few yards or so, presses another apple in..

RUDOLF'S VOICE (PRE-LAP)
(reading)
And now the little white bird showed them the way out of the forest. Soon they arrived at a large body of water and didn't know how to cross it. Suddenly a large and beautiful swan came swimming towards them..

36 INT. GIRLS' BEDROOM, HÖSS VILLA -CONTINUOUS

36

Rudolf lies next to Inge-Brigit on top of her bed reading her *Hansel and Gretel*. She's under the sheet, her cheek resting on his shoulder as he reads, eyes closed. Flickering red light from outside dapples the bedroom wall.

RUDOLF
..They called to it. "Oh beautiful swan, please be our boat". The swan bent it's neck and came to the shore.

Rudolf pauses, and looks across at Heideraud. She's asleep. *
He glances at Inge-Bright by his side. Fast asleep too. *

He gently closes the book. *

37 EXT. DITCH - NIGHT 37 *

The Polish Girl is at the far end of the ditch. Empty sack in *
her hand. A trail of partially buried apples in the wall of *
the ditch behind her. She climbs out onto higher ground and *
into the pitch black night. *

38 INT. MASTER BEDROOM, HÖSS VILLA - SHORT WHILE LATER 38

Rudolf and Hedwig lie in their parallel but separate beds. *

HEDWIG
Bracht phoned the house.

RUDOLF
Oh.

HEDWIG
While you were outside for your
toast. I forgot to tell you. He
said he'd call back tomorrow.
Midday.

Rudolf nods.

HEDWIG (CONT'D)
Will you take me to that Spa in
Italy again?

RUDOLF
Ah.

HEDWIG
All that pampering. And the walks.
And that nice couple we met.
I was just thinking about it. And
remember the man playing accordion
to the cows?

RUDOLF
(pictures it)
They loved it.

HEDWIG
It was so funny.

RUDOLF
(pulls a cow face)
All looking at him like this.

Hedwig giggles.

HEDWIG
Will you?

RUDOLF
What?

HEDWIG
Take me back there.

RUDOLF
Yes Mutzi.

HEDWIG
When?

RUDOLF
I don't know when.
(cuddles up to her)
Any better?

HEDWIG
Mm.

RUDOLF
You smell nice.

HEDWIG
(In a cod-French accent)
Français.

RUDOLF
Oo-la-la.

She giggles, then snorts.

RUDOLF (CONT'D)
Oink, oink.

Then giggles again at that.

HEDWIG
Chocolate. If you see it. Any
goodies.

They both giggle. They both oink.

CUT TO:

*

39 EXT. RAILWAY SPUR, AUSCHWITZ STATION - DAY 39 *

OFF SCREEN: the slamming clank of a train carriage cattle truck door opening. *

Looking up at Rudolf, he must be mounted on his horse, just sky above, black smoke whips around him. *

OFF SCREEN: Sounds of women, children, and babies screaming in panic. Mothers being forcibly separated from their children. Dog barks, male German voices yelling orders. Sounds of steam train engine hissing. A child's cry. A gunshot close by.. *

Rudolf glances downwards for an instant, looks back up and out, impassively.. *

OFF SCREEN: That cry stops, but he awful sounds of children wailing in terror continue.. *

As the screen fades gradually to white. *

40 EXT. FRONT OF HÖSS VILLA - DAY 40 *

Heideraud and then Inge-Brigit, dressed for school with satchels on their backs, emerge from the front door and walk along the garden path. Hans follows, and then Claus, putting his satchel on. *

Over this we hear: *

VOICE OF BRACHT (O.S.) *

To the head of the Party *

Chancellery, Reichsleiter Bormann. *

Personal. Dear Reichsleiter.. *

41 INT. LIVING ROOM, HÖSS VILLA - DAY (CONTINUOUS) 41 *

Rudolf is at his desk methodically desk counting and sorting bills of different currencies - French Francs, American dollars, Czech kronen - into separate piles. We hear this as he sorts: *

VOICE OF BRACHT (O.S.) *

..I have learned that the *

commandant of the gigantic K.L. *

Auschwitz. *

Obersturmbannführer Höss, also well *

known to you, is to be transferred. *

Comrade Höss has made unprecedented *

achievements over four years of *

painstaking work. *

(MORE)

RUDOLF

More

*

43 EXT. HALL, HÖSS VILLA, BACK GARDEN - MORNING 43

Hedwig, Claus and Heideraud are gardening in the flowerbeds nearest the house.

Hedwig is bent over with her hands in the earth, showing Claus what is a weed and what isn't.

44 EXT. ROCKY INLET, SOLA RIVER - MORNING 44

The canoe is moored on a small beach.

Hans and Inge-Brigit splash in the shallows nearby, teasing each other. *

*

Rudolf stands waist deep in the river upstream, a fishing rod in his hand.

He stands very still, focusing on his float in hope of a bite.

He flinches suddenly. Looks down at the water he's standing in. Then returns his focus to the float.

Then, feeling something brushing past his thigh, flinches again.

He looks down at the water. He puts his hand in and pulls out a fragment of a bone.

A human eye socket.

We look at him through it.

He drops it then wades out hurriedly.

He throws down his rod on the bank and hurries along the shoreline, lapping dead fish, towards the children. Signaling for them to get out as he approaches.

RUDOLF

Come on out. Out.

They come to shore reluctantly.

He towels them off anxiously.

45 EXT. SOLA RIVER - DAY 45

Rudolf is paddling back the way they came. The weather has changed and the children are shivering in front of him. Playfully making sounds through chattering teeth.

He paddles hard through the choppy water.

46 INT. BATHROOM, HÖSS VILLA - SHORT WHILE LATER 46

Hans and Inge-Brit are in the tub together, protesting as Hedwig kneels in front of them, scrubbing them with soap and brushes. Elfryda sings to distract them.

47 INT. LIVING ROOM, HÖSS VILLA - SAME 47

Rudolf, wearing casual, Sunday clothes, is lying on the sofa reading a book. But he seems distracted. In the background the radio is on playing a German sports report. We watch him for w while. *

The telephone on his desk rings. He glances at his watch, then goes to answer it. *

RUDOLF
(into phone)
Yes *

He listens a beat. *

RUDOLF (CONT'D)
(into phone)
Hang up now. *

Rudolf goes to turn off the radio. Then returns to the phone, sits down. *

RUDOLF (CONT'D)
(into phone)
Fritz.
(beat)
Go on.
(beat)
What does it say? *

Rudolf listens for a long while. *

RUDOLF (CONT'D)
Well.
(beat)
(MORE) *

RUDOLF (CONT'D)

No, no, you wrote a very powerful
letter on my behalf, their minds
were obviously made up.

(beat)

I'd better tell my wife.

*

Rudolf listens.

*

RUDOLF (CONT'D)

She might.

48

INT. KITCHEN, HÖSS VILLA - DAY (SHORT WHILE LATER)

48

*

Hedwig's mother, LINNA HENSEL (early 70's), is sat at the
kitchen table, hot, sweaty and clutching a cool glass of
lemonade.

RUDOLF

Hello Linna.

LINNA

Rudolf! Congratulations.

(an awkward embrace)

What a strong little thing she is.

RUDOLF

Isn't she. How are you?

LINNA

Good.

RUDOLF

How was the journey?

LINNA

We stopped for ages at Krakow.

RUDOLF

That's annoying.

LINNA

And hot! A lady fainted next to me.
She's moving here with her husband
who's an engineer, he's a lot
older. They've both got jobs at a
new factory. Siemens I think.

RUDOLF

Ah, yes, that's possible.

LINNA

'All the big companies are here' he
said.

RUDOLF
 (half-waves)
 I'd better..

HEDWIG
 Go, go. I'll show mum to the girls
 room.

Linna starts to rise.

HEDWIG (CONT'D)
 Finish your drink first.

Hedwig hands Annagret to Elfryda. Rudolf enters the living
 room and closes the door behind him.

HEDWIG (CONT'D)
 I can't believe you're here.

LINNA
 Finally.

HEDWIG
 Come.

They walk down the corridor.

HEDWIG (CONT'D)
 You'll have Heideraud's bed and
 she'll get in with Inge-Brigit. You
 don't mind do you?

LINNA
 Of course not.

HEDWIG
 The house looks big but it actually
 isn't.

They climb the stairs.

HEDWIG (CONT'D)
 First thing we did was install
 central heating. It gets so cold in
 winter you wouldn't believe it.
 (points at small patterns
 in the wallpaper)
 Little patterns.

Linna leans in to study them.

LINNA
 Oh yes.

HEDWIG
Hand painted.

HEDWIG (CONT'D)
When you live somewhere for a
while, you begin to think, we could
do with this, or we could do with
that.

49 INT. GIRLS BEDROOM, HÖSS VILLA - CONTINUOUS

49

Hedwig shows Linna into the girl's room.

Claus stands in front of the case by the drawers. Linna scans
the room approvingly. Goes over to the window.

LINNA
This is lovely.

Hedwig watches, gratified.

HEDWIG
The top two drawers are for you. I
hope they'll be enough.

LINNA
More than enough.

Linna smells the freshly cut flowers displayed in a vase by
the bed. Then sits down.

The sound of a gunshot outside.

HEDWIG
The bathroom you saw.

LINNA
Yes.

Hedwig sits next to her.

HEDWIG
(relieving him)
Thank you Claus.

LINNA
He wants his present, don't you.

CLAUS
Yes.

LINNA

Well..
 (points to her case)
 Put it on the bed.

Claus does so. Linna unzips it. Takes out presents for the kids.

LINNA (CONT'D)

These are for the girls. I hope they fit.

HEDWIG

They look like they will. They're lovely.

LINNA

And Hans. And, ah, here. Claus. Arms up.

Linna helps him into a knitted sleeveless top.

LINNA (CONT'D)

There.

CLAUS

Thank you grandma.

HEDWIG

Very smart.

Linna sits back down.

LINNA

Good?

Claus gives a thumbs up.

50

INT. LIVING ROOM, HÖSS VILLA - SAME

50

Rudolf sits at his desk on the phone.

RUDOLF

(dictating)
 Subject - Lilac tree by the
 Commandant guard barracks..

He drains a glass of water.

RUDOLF (CONT'D)

(dictating)

The SS members who pick from the lilac tree in an almost incomprehensible and radical manner so that the tree bleeds will be punished. I expect the SS members, if they want to take some, to do it in a modest form and cut them off the tree sensitively. In the interest of our whole community, I hope you understand those flowers are to decorate our entire camp, now and in the future, and I expect SS members to be fully aware of this measure. Höss.

He hangs up. Then stares, unreadably, into the distance.

51 INT. KITCHEN, HÖSS VILLA - SHORT WHILE LATER

51

Hedwig and Linna are watching Sophie and Marta busily preparing plates of party sandwiches and cakes.

Elfryda and Aniela can be seen in the dining room doing the same.

HEDWIG

Take one.

LINNA

(leaning in)

I don't like to, they're for the children.

HEDWIG

Go on, there are loads.

MARTA

(indicating)

These are ham, these are cheese.

LINNA

(takes one)

Yum.

(impressed with her German)

Your accent is quite good.

MARTA

Thank you Madam.

52 EXT. BACK GARDEN, HÖSS VILLA - CONTINUOUS 52

They walk down the steps to the main garden. Inge-Brigit and Hans are playing there in a kid-size metal pedal car. *

LINNA *
 (to Hedwig, thrown) *
 Jews in the house? *

HEDWIG *
 The Jews are over the other side of *
 the wall. They're local girls. *
 (to Inge-Brigit and Hans) *
 Say hello to Grandma. *

LINNA greets Hans with a hug and a kiss. *

LINNA *
 My God. He's got so big. *
 (to Inge Brigit) *
 and you have such nice hair. *

HEDWIG *
 (of the garden) *
 This is all us. *
 (pointing) *
 There's a grape vine. Obviously, *
 it'll grow. *

53 EXT. TOP GARDEN, HÖSS VILLA - CONTINUOUS 53 *

They turn past where the wall corners, and Linna sees the top garden for the first time. *

LINNA *
 It's huge. I'm speechless. *

HEDWIG *
 It's all my design. All the *
 planting and everything. The *
 greenhouse, the gazebo at the end. *

LINNA *
 Is that a pool? *

HEDWIG *
 Yes. I have gardeners. I couldn't *
 do it alone. *

LINNA *
 With a slide? Oh Heddy. *

LINNA (CONT'D)

Her opposite, she got the,

*
*

Hedwig and Linna walk off, until they're out of earshot, arm in arm through the top garden.

LINNA (CONT'D)

These flowers are so beautiful.

*
*

HEDWIG

The azaleas there. There are also vegetables. A few herbs. Rosemary. Beetroot. This is fennel.

*
*
*
*

LINNA

Sunflowers.

*
*

HEDWIG

And here is kohlrabi. The children love to eat it. Cabbage. Kale. Runner beans. Pumpkins. Potatoes and more.

*
*
*
*
*
*

They arrive in the far corner, where the beehives are. They watch the bees come and go from a distance.

HEDWIG (CONT'D)

We have bees over here to provide our honey.

*
*
*

LINNA

It's a paradise garden.
(beat)
And Rudolf is okay?

*
*
*

HEDWIG

Yes, he's fine. Working non-stop. Even when he's home. Which he loves.

*

LINNA

He's a busy bee.

HEDWIG

He is. Non-stop. And pressure like you wouldn't believe.

*
*

They arrive at the gazebo.

LINNA

And you're okay?

HEDWIG
Do I look okay?

LINNA
You do.

They sit.

HEDWIG
Rudi calls me the queen of
Auschwitz.

They giggle at her good fortune.

LINNA
Honestly. To have all this.
(surveying the full
'glory' of it)
You really have landed on your
feet.

They take in the garden.

HEDWIG
The linden trees are turning
yellow. It smelled so nice when
they were flowering.
(pointing up to the vine
on the gazebo)
This will grow and cover
everything. You'll see next time
you visit.

CUT TO:

54	EXT. BACK GARDEN, HÖSS VILLA - DAY (CONTINUOUS)	54	*
	MONTAGE OF FLOWERS:		*
	A bed of red petunias in bloom		*
	Climbing roses on a wall trellis		*
	Closer on the roses		*
	Bees crawling on orpines in bloom		*
	Marigolds		*
	Sunflowers		*
	CU a white dahlia		*

CU a purple dahlia *

As OS we start to hear a voice over the wall crying out in pain. *

CU a chrysanthemum *

CU a red dahlia *

OS the tortured voice gradually increases *

We stay on this red flower *

As the screen becomes gradually redder.. *

and the OS sound of the voice gets louder.. *

Until the red flower disappears in the red screen *

And the OS spasms of pain get louder.. *

Suddenly all sound cuts out. *

And we are left in the red. *

55 EXT. BACK GARDEN, HÖSS VILLA 55 *

The Höss children and a group of school friends - some in swimming costumes - are gathered around a garden table where MAN is showing them a real stork. Garden party entertainment. The stork flaps its big wings, and the children laugh with excitement. *

HEIDERAUD (PRE-LAP) *

(reading) *

The heartfelt time we spent in the Höss house.. *

56 INT. LOBBY, HÖSS VILLA - DAY 56 *

Heideraud and her female SCHOOLFRIEND, (12), are by the lobby table, leant over the Höss House Guestbook. They are in their bathing suits, dripping wet from the pool. Heideraud is reading aloud. *

HEIDERAUD *

(reading) *

will always be among our most beautiful, holiday memories. In the East lies our tomorrow! Thanks for your National Socialist hospitality. And this was from... *

She studies the illegible signature.

*

HEIDERAUD (CONT'D)
 (reading)
 Willy someone.

*
 *
 *
 *

57 EXT. BACK GARDEN, HÖSS VILLA - DAY

57

Rudolf, now wearing a white suits and white shoes, is pacing up and down the patio, and smoking a cigarette agitatedly.

The sound of splashing and laughter can be heard.

Heideraud and her Schoolfriend, deep in chitchat, walk out the house and past him towards the upper garden.

He grinds the cigarette with his heel, then walks down the steps.

Claus is courting his GERMAN GIRLFRIEND at the side of the house. Away from prying eyes. They hold hands, they walk, they kiss, they giggle..

58 EXT. TOP GARDEN, HÖSS VILLA - CONTINUOUS

58

*

Picnic tables and deckchairs facing the pool where the Höss children and A FEW OF THEIR SCHOOL FRIENDS frolic and swim.

Rudolf walks over to the pool. Watches the kids play happily. Far back enough not to get his suit splashed.

Some of the parents and nannies, sit chatting under the gazebo at the far end. He waves at them.

Hedwig is in a lounge sunning herself. Linna is dozing in another nearby. The family's TWO PET TORTOISES trudge across the lawn.

Rudolf walks over to Hedwig and sits down next to her.

He leans forward. Elbows on knees. Sighs once.. long and deep.

HEDWIG
 Hans says you have his sandals.

RUDOLF
 We have to leave Mutzi.

HEDWIG
 Leave where?

RUDOLF
Here. We have to go. We're being transferred.

HEDWIG
(lifts her sunglasses)
Sorry.. what?

RUDOLF
We're being transferred.

HEDWIG
To where?

RUDOLF
Oranienburg.

HEDWIG
..What?

RUDOLF
They want to swap me for Arthur Liebehenschel. He comes here. I take over as DI.

HEDWIG
So why tell me that now?

RUDOLF
There was no good moment to say it.
It can wait.

HEDWIG
You've said it now.

Rudolf gets up, resigned, and walks back towards the house.

HEDWIG (CONT'D)
Where are you going?

RUDOLF
To get the sandals.

Hedwig pulls herself out of her deckchair and follows, barefoot.

HEDWIG
When did you know about this?

RUDOLF
Pohl told me last week. I've been trying to make it go away.

They reach the back door.

59 INT. KITCHEN, HÖSS VILLA - CONTINUOUS 59

Hedwig follows him through the kitchen. Marta and Aniela are tidying away the picnic food.

HEDWIG
Then call Bormann.

RUDOLF
I've tried Bormann. Short of going
to Hitler, I'm fucked.

60 INT. LOBBY, HÖSS VILLA - CONTINUOUS 60

Rudolf walks down the corridor, opens the front door and exits.

Hedwig stands in the open doorway, watching him quicken his step towards the front gate.

HEDWIG
(shouting at his back)
Rudolf!

RUDOLF
It's what's happening.

She slams the front door.

And slips in the same moment.

Water on the floor by the lobby table in front of her.

HEDWIG
(calls)
Marta!

Marta hurries from the kitchen.

HEDWIG (CONT'D)
Is this you?!

MARTA
(perplexed)
Frau Höss?

HEDWIG
(mocks her accent)
Frau Höss?
(a quick wrench of Marta's
hair)
Mop it up. You are living well in
our house, don't you forget that.

Marta dashes to the kitchen. Hedwig catches her breath.
Gathers her thoughts.

61 EXT. FRONT GARDEN, HÖSS VILLA - SHORT WHILE LATER 61

Hedwig, in shoes and cardigan now, walks purposefully down the front path to the gate. She opens it. Crosses the road, then takes the wooden steps down to the river..

62 EXT. RIVER BANK, AUSCHWITZ - CONTINUOUS 62

Rudolf stands on the bank. Hans's and Inge-Brigit's sodden sandals next to him. The canoe is moored to a small jetty nearby.

He is throwing stones into the fast-flowing river.

Hedwig arrives, goes over and stands next to him. Folds her arms. Looks around.

HEDWIG

Why are they moving you?

RUDOLF

Structural changes.

HEDWIG

What does that mean?

RUDOLF

They haven't been specific. But I'm not the only one being moved. There are lots of us.

HEDWIG

When?

RUDOLF

Soon.

HEDWIG

How soon?

RUDOLF

I'm waiting to be told.

HEDWIG

If it's to do with the investigation, they should speak to Himmler. He encouraged us.

Rudolf shakes his head.

HEDWIG (CONT'D)

So it's not that?

RUDOLF

It's politics.

HEDWIG

Then go to Hitler.

RUDOLF

Don't be ridiculous.

HEDWIG

Why not? You're the one who actually carries out his orders. Once you peel away all the layers.

RUDOLF

We have to face facts. We have to leave.

HEDWIG

You have to leave.

RUDOLF

Well.
(gobsmacked)
Well, well.

HEDWIG

Your work is in Oranienburg now. Mine is raising our children. And I'll do that from here thank you very much.

RUDOLF

I never thought that you wouldn't be with me. Never crossed my mind.

HEDWIG

(defiant)
They'd have to carry me out of here.
(getting upset)
This is our home. We're living how we dreamed we would. Since we were seventeen. Beyond how we dreamed. Out of the city finally. Everything we want. On our doorstep. And our children strong and healthy and happy. Everything the Führer said about how we should live is exactly how we do. Drive East. Lebensraum. Here it is.

(MORE)

*

HEDWIG (CONT'D)

(tears in her eyes)

I know you agree with me. Arthur can find somewhere else to live. You should make it a condition. It's the least they can do. He'll want a townhouse anyway. Rudi?

RUDOLF

Yes, I heard you.

HEDWIG

So?

RUDOLF

So. I'll, I'll ask, I'll speak to Pohl.

HEDWIG

You'll be working all the time.

RUDOLF

Yes.

HEDWIG

We'd never see you.

RUDOLF

No.

They both say nothing. Stare into the fast-flowing river instead.

HEDWIG

I'll miss you of course. But you'll come home when you can.

(puts her hand to her heart)

I'll be with you. Just like you'll be with me.

HEDWIG (CONT'D)

And after the war, we'll farm. Like we said.

They pick up the sandals and walk back to the steps together.

63

EXT. TOP GARDEN, HÖSS VILLA - DUSK

63

Linna, left dozing, wakes in her deckchair to find the swimming party over. She's alone out here. The guests have all gone and the staff have cleared up around her. Aniela and Marta are up by the gazebo bringing the last of the crockery back to the house.

Linna takes in the peace and quiet of the garden. And a tall single arc of black smoke drifting, phantom-like, across the late-afternoon sky, high above the wall.

She rises. Unnerved by it. Then turns and walks quickly back to the house.

64

INT. DINING ROOM WINDOW, HÖSS VILLA - EVENING

64

The Höss family are sat at a dinner of turtle soup. Rudolf at the head of the table. Hedwig stood behind him. Her arm resting on the back of his chair.

RUDOLF

So, I'll be missing Hans's birthday. And maybe even our anniversary. Depending on how long I'll be gone. So, those are some of the things that definitely add to the struggle. But the life we enjoy is very much worth the sacrifice.

Sullen faces all round. Hedwig goes to the kitchen.

Hans bashes the table with both fists. Gets up to leave the room.

RUDOLF (CONT'D)

(firmly)

Sit down.

Hans returns to it and sits.

The other children sit in silence.

RUDOLF (CONT'D)

Linna, would you pass me a spoon please.

She does so. Hedwig comes and goes with dishes. They all serve themselves apart from Inge Brigit.

RUDOLF (CONT'D)

Inge-Brigit.

Inge-Brigit shakes her head.

RUDOLF (CONT'D)

They're not tortoises. They're turtles. It's different.

70

INT. RUDOLF'S OFFICE, COMMANDANT BUILDING AUSCHWITZ - NIGHT 70
LATER

Rudolf stands by his desk holding a phone receiver to his ear.

RUDOLF

(into phone to his
adjustant)

Call Walter Durrfeld first thing
and see if he can join us at
selection. Tell him they're Dutch
and he can have his pick. Otherwise
I'll see him at the IG lunch.

(dictating)

Letter to Kurt Prufer and Fritz
Sander, Topf and Sons.

He begins to pace around his desk holding the phone.

RUDOLF (CONT'D)

Subject. Ring Crematorium.

(beat)

I'm glad you were able to make the
journey.

He stops by a window, places the phone on the sill, raises
the blind. Outside he can see his back garden over the camp
wall, the greenhouse in the background.

RUDOLF (CONT'D)

SS-Obersturmbannführer Bischoff and
I both agree the ring crematorium
is definitely the answer.

He peers to the right, in the direction of the family house.
He pulls the blind down.

RUDOLF (CONT'D)

What a difference it will make.

He drops the blind.

RUDOLF (CONT'D)

Bravo.

(beat)

I welcome your suggestion that the
design should be patented in order
to secure priority.

(leans on the front of his
desk)

I will follow up with a letter of
intent.

(beat)

(MORE)

RUDOLF (CONT'D)

You should be aware I've been promoted to Deputy Inspector of Concentration Camps at the IKL.

*
*
*

A light double tap on his office door. Rudolf cups the receiver with his hand.

*
*

RUDOLF (CONT'D)

(towards the door)

Come.

*
*
*

The door is opened by a REDHEADED WOMAN, (30's), wearing civilian clothes.

*
*

Rudolf points her matter-of-factly, to the seating area at the far end. She sits.

*
*

RUDOLF (CONT'D)

(Back into the phone)

And there future communications will be from Oranienberg-Berlin. The focus there is now on labour.

*
*
*
*
*

The Redheaded Woman starts to take off her shows.

*

RUDOLF (CONT'D)

Of course, this direction will affect our plans, and although it pains me to leave Auschwitz, I believe I'll be in a better position to push for funds and materials from there. Heil Hitler et cetera.

*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*

Rudolf hangs up. He keeps a lustful eye on the woman, now barefoot.

*
*

He walks slowly over, and stops a few feet from her.

*

Puts his hands on his hips and sways lasciviously.

*

71

INT. BUNKER TUNNEL - NIGHT

71

A faint, pin prick of light approaches through the darkness. It's Rudolf, lurching in his white suit down a long, underground tunnel. As he walks, we hear his voice dictating another letter to his adjutant.

*
*

RUDOLF'S VOICE (O.S.)

Letter to Gruppenführer Glücks, IKL. Subject: Transfer.

(MORE)

*
*
*

RUDOLF'S VOICE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Dear Gruppenführer Glücks, I would
like my family to remain at 88
Bielitzstrasse, KL Auschwitz for
the duration of my transfer..

*
*
*
*

72 INT. BASEMENT, HÖSS VILLA - CONTINUOUS

72

The dictation continues as he emerges through a door in the mouth of the tunnel and into the basement of the villa. Grey-white clammy skin. He locks it behind him.

*

RUDOLF'S VOICE (O.S.)

It would be a great favour to me
for this to be permitted. I must
stress what a wonderful environment
Hedwig is making for the children
since settling here. An inspiration
in many ways for our new German
community in the East. If this is
acceptable, provision of a simple
lodging for myself in Oranienburg
will suffice. I would be very
grateful for a speedy answer. Heil
Hitler, et cetera.

*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*

Then lights a kerosene lamp. He walks over to the laundry sink with it, turns on the taps. As he does so, the lamp drops to the floor and breaks.

He undoes his belt and his trousers fall to the floor. Then pulls his underpants down to his knees. Then he plunges his hands and scrubs them. Then leans over and scrubs his genitals

73 INT. HALL, HÖSS VILLA - SHORT WHILE LATER

73

Rudolf, dressed now, emerges from the basement.

To find Inge-Brigit sleepwalking in the pantry, gazing at nothing in particular.

74 INT. PANTRY, HÖSS VILLA - CONTINUOUS

74

RUDOLF

(approaching quietly)
What are you doing there?

INGE-BRIGIT

(without looking up)
She makes cupboards.

RUDOLF
She makes cupboards?

INGE-BRIGIT
Yes.

RUDOLF
Ready to go to bed?

INGE-BRIGIT
No.

RUDOLF
No?

INGE-BRIGIT
I'm passing out sugars.

RUDOLF
To who?

INGE-BRIGIT
I'm looking.

RUDOLF
(scoops her up)
Well lets look upstairs.

He carries her up the stairs. Her arms and legs locked around him as they ascend.

INGE-BRIGIT
Sweaty.

RUDOLF
Sshh.

75 INT. GIRLS' BEDROOM, HÖSS VILLA - CONTINUOUS 75

Heideraud is asleep. Linna is secretly awake. Rudolf carries Inge-Brigit back to bed. Head to toe with Heideraud.

Then he leaves.

76 INT. LOBBY, HÖSS VILLA - MORNING 76

The four eldest Höss children, dressed for school, are buttoning up their coats.

Elfryda stands by the open front door holding their satchels.

Shwarzer is waiting outside to drive them.

As each of the children pass on their way out, they reach up, straight-armed, and she hooks their satchel onto it.

ELFRYDA
(to Heideraud)
Have a nice day at school.

A daily practice designed to inculcate the correct Nazi salute.

ELFRYDA (CONT'D)
(to Claus)
Have a nice day..
(to Inge-Brigit)
Have a nice day..
(to Hans)
Have a nice day..

77 INT. BATHROOM, HÖSS VILLA - MORNING 77

Hedwig is stretched out in the bathtub. Head leaned back, eyes closed and surrounded by bubbles and rising steam.

78 INT. DINING ROOM, HÖSS VILLA - MORNING 78

Hedwig is sat at the dining table, leans forward to better smell her pike and potatoes. Two place settings; one for her, one for Linna opposite.

A little time passes. Then she gets up. Goes to the stairs.

79 INT. HALL, HÖSS VILLA - CONTINUOUS 79

HEDWIG
(calling up the stairs)
Sophie! It's getting cold tell her.

Sophie appears at the top of the stairs.

SOPHIE
She's not here. And her case has gone.

HEDWIG
What?

Hedwig skips upstairs. Sophie walks down.

HEDWIG (CONT'D)
Mum?

80 INT. GIRLS' BEDROOM, HÖSS VILLA - CONTINUOUS 80

Hedwig enters the girls bedroom.

Linna's case is gone and the bed's been made.

81 INT. HALL, HÖSS VILLA - CONTINUOUS 81

Hedwig comes back downstairs. Sophie waiting at the bottom.

HEDWIG

Did she leave a note?

SOPHIE

I don't know.

HEDWIG

(frustrated)

Well, have you looked?

SOPHIE

Well, no. I hadn't thought to.

Hedwig walks to the lobby.

82 INT. LOBBY, HÖSS VILLA - CONTINUOUS 82

Hedwig goes to the lobby table to see if there's anything there. There is. A folded paper, with 'Hedwig Höss' written on it, tucked into the corner of the guest book.

She unfolds it. Stands there reading. Then re-folds it.

Opens the front door. Looks out. Walks back to the dining room with the note.

83 INT. DINING ROOM, HÖSS VILLA - CONTINUOUS 83

Hedwig enters, throws the note into the wood-fired ceramic heater. Then plonks herself down in the chair.

HEDWIG

Aniela!

Aniela enters from the kitchen.

HEDWIG (CONT'D)

(gestures to Linna's
uneaten breakfast)

Take it away.

(MORE)

*

*

*

*

*

*

HEDWIG (CONT'D)

(as Aniela picks it up)
Was that here to spite me?

*
*

ANIELA

(perplexed)
No, Mrs. Höss?

*
*

HEDWIG

(eating, as Aniela takes
the plate away)
I could have my husband spread your
ashes across the fields of Babice.

*
*
*
*