

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

JOJO RABBIT

BEST ADAPTED SCREENPLAY

Screenplay by
TAIKA WAITITI

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INT. JOJO'S HOUSE - MORNING

We open with QUICK DETAIL SHOTS of a young boy dressing:

- A brown shirt buttoned.
- Badges pinned.
- Belt tightened.
- Neck kerchief tied.
- Socks pulled up.
- Hair combed.
- Shoes clicked together at the heels, one foot stomps down hard on the floor.

He is dressed. We PULL to a CLOSE-UP, coming face to face with our HERO...

JOHANNES BETZLER, (JOJO), a cute 10 year-old boy.

The room is covered with NAZI POSTERS and other PARAPHERNALIA, including pictures of ADOLF HITLER. You guessed it, he's a little Nazi.

Jojo stares into a full-length mirror and takes a deep breath.

JOJO

Jojo Betzler. Ten years old. And today you join the ranks of the Jungvolk in a very special training weekend. It's going to be intense. But today you become a man.

(deep breath, nervous)

I swear to devote all my energies and my strength to the savior of our country, Adolf Hitler. I am willing and ready to give up my life for him, so help me God.

A STRANGE FIGURE passes behind him, an ADULT, dressed in a NAZI UNIFORM. It feels ghostly and fantastical. We'll find out who this guy is very soon.

VOICE (O.S.)

Yeah man, that's right.

(beat)

Now, Jojo Betzler, what is your mind?

JOJO

A snake mind.

VOICE (O.S.)

And Jojo Betzler, what is your body?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOJO

A wolf body.

VOICE (O.S.)

And Jojo Betzler, what is your courage?

JOJO

Panther courage.

VOICE (O.S.)

And Jojo Betzler, what is your soul?

JOJO

A German soul.

VOICE (O.S.)

Yeah man, you're ready.

JOJO

Adolf, I don't think I can do this.

The stranger leans into shot, revealing it's none other than Jojo's IMAGINARY FRIEND, ADOLF HITLER. However, it's not the Hitler we're all used to, he's imaginary and therefore can only know what Jojo knows. He's more of a charming buffoon who floats through life with carefree, whimsical abandon.

ADOLF

What?! Of course you can. Sure you're a bit scrawny, unpopular, and still can't tie your shoelaces without adult supervision, but you're also the bestest, most loyal little Nazi I've ever met. Not to mention you're incredibly handsome.

Jojo smiles. Feeling better.

ADOLF (CONT'D)

Now you're gonna go out there and have a great time, ok?

JOJO

Ok.

ADOLF

Ok, that's the spirit! Now, Heil me man.

JOJO

Heil Hitler.

ADOLF

Come on, you can do better than that. Heil Hitler!

(CONTINUED)

JOJO
Heil Hitler!

 ADOLF
Just throw it away. Don't even think
about it.

 JOJO
Heil Hitler!

 ADOLF
No, you're over thinking it. Heil Hitler.

 JOJO
Heil Hitler!

 ADOLF
Heil HITLER.

They start jogging on the spot.

 JOJO
Heil HITLER!

 ADOLF
Ooh, that's it.

 JOJO
HEIL HITLER!!!

 ADOLF
Yay, now you've got it!

 JOJO
Heil Hitler! Heil Hitler! Heil Hitler!
Heil Hitler! Heil Hitler! Heil Hitler!

 ADOLF
Ooh, have a great day! You're going to be
the best. You can do it!

Jojo and Adolf scream like war pigs and Jojo sprints out the
door.

 JOJO / ADOLF
HEIL HITLER! HEIL HITLER! HEIL HITLER!
HEIL HITLER! HEIL HITLERRRRRRR!!!

MUSIC CUE: 'KOMM GIB MIR DEINE HAND' BY THE BEATLES

OPENING TITLES: INTERCUT SHOTS OF JOJO RUNNING THROUGH HIS HOMETOWN WITH FOOTAGE OF HITLER'S RISE TO GOD STATUS - SCREAMING FANS, FANATICAL SUPPORTERS, PEOPLE CRYING, WOMEN FAINTING - BASICALLY ESTABLISHING THAT HE WAS THE BEATLES OF 1930'S GERMANY.

EXT. TOWN - STREET - DAY

Jojo skips happily down the street, Heil Hitlering various locals he passes by. He meets his best friend, YORKI, 10, chubby, gawky, clumsy, who waits for him in a doorway.

JOJO
Heil Hitler, Yorki!

YORKI
Heil Hitler, Jojo!

JOJO
Are you ready for the best weekend ever?

YORKI
Yes I am!

JOJO
Let's go!

They run off together, continuing to Heil Hitler everyone they meet.

EXT. WOODS - HITLERJUGEND CAMP - DAY

Jojo and Yorki sit with a large group of other young kids, all dressed in Hitler Youth uniforms, in a sprawling field.

CAPTAIN KLENZENDORF, weathered, disillusioned, addresses the crowd of kids. He has a DEAD-EYE and is accompanied by the awkwardly enthusiastic SUB-OFFICER FINKEL, and a brutish female instructor, FRAULEIN RAHM.

KLENZENDORF
Heil Hitler, guys.

FINKEL / FRAULEIN RAHM
Heil Hitler!

KIDS
Heil Hitler!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KLENZENDORF

Jungvolk, welcome to the Hitlerjugend training weekend in which we will make men and women of you all. My name is Captain Klenzendorf - you may call me Captain K.

FINKEL

Captain K! Woo!

KLENZENDORF

...and this is Sub-Officer Finkel. And Fraulein Rahm.

(beat)

So, a little about me. Who am I and why am I here talking to a bunch of little titty-grabbers instead of leading my men into battle towards glorious death? Great question. I've asked it myself every day since Operation Screw-Up, where I lost a perfectly good eye in a totally preventable enemy attack. And according to my superiors, you need two eyes to be a meaningful part of the war effort.

Beat. He picks up a rifle and quickly fires a shot, hitting a target 100 yards away. The kids applaud.

KLENZENDORF (CONT'D)

Over the next two days you little critters will get to experience some of the things that the mighty German Army goes through every day. And even though it would appear our country's on the back foot and that there really isn't much hope us of winning this war, apparently we're doing just fine.

(takes a breath, composes himself, he's sad)

Anyway. You boys have all been issued with your Deutsches Jungvolk Daggers.

Jojo and Yorke inspect and admire their nice new DEUTSCHES JUNGVOLK (DJ) KNIVES.

KLENZENDORF (CONT'D)

These are very special and expensive weapons, you should never be without them. And don't try to stab each other.

FINKEL

No stabbing!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KLENZENDORF

This is your first step towards being men. Today you boys will be involved in such activities as marching, bayonet drills, grenade throwing, trench digging, map reading, gas defense, camouflage, trap setting, ambush techniques, war games, firing guns and blowing stuff up.

Huge cheers from the group of boys. Jojo and Yorki smile at each other, this is going to be awesome.

KLENZENDORF (CONT'D)

The girls will practice important womanly duties such as dressing wounds, making beds, and learning how to get pregnant.

Groans of disappointment from the girls. Klenzendorf holds the bridge of his nose as if preparing for the impending headache he's about to endure over the weekend. He sighs.

KLENZENDORF (CONT'D)

Alright, let's get to it.

The crowd of kids salute and start screaming in excitement. The older boys start yelling at smaller kids, rounding them up and y'know, being Nazis. Finkel and Rahm lead them off.

FINKEL

On your feet you little Nazis! Let's go!

FRAULEIN RAHM

Move, move, move!

More screaming from the kids.

KLENZENDORF

God help me.

MONTAGE - HITLER YOUTH TRAINING CAMP...

MUSIC CUE: 'I DON'T WANT TO GROW UP' BY TOM WAITS

Various scenes of Jojo and Yorki training with the Hitlerjugend.

- A bunch of kids try and climb over obstacles and under nets. It's mayhem.

- KNIFE THROWING. Jojo and Yorki stand around in a group of boys throwing their DJ knives from 10 FEET into a tree.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

None of the knives stick, instead they fly off at dangerous angles, one ricochets, lodging itself in another kid's thigh.

- GUN RANGE. Jojo and some other kids aim their KARABINER 98K RIFLES at a target in the distance. Jojo fires and, jumping from the loudness of the shot, drops the rifle.

- WAR GAME. The boys are separated into 2 groups, one side wearing RED SASHES and the other GREEN. They chase each other round a clearing, pushing each other over and taking prisoners etc. Jojo and Yorki are taken prisoner instantly. An older lad, CHRISTOPH, looks at them with disappointment.

INT. HITLER YOUTH CAMP - TENT - AFTERNOON

Jojo sits in a group of boys and girls. One by one, sometimes overlapping, the children call out.

CHILDREN
Horns / Serpent tongue / Fangs /
Green blood / Claws.

Their teacher, FRAULEIN RAHM, proudly writes the children's words, along with others, on a blackboard. Above them is the heading: THE JEW. Finkel stands nearby, observing and taking notes.

FRAULEIN RAHM
Fantastisch! Excellent work children. You also forgot that the Jew is the offspring of Satan and sucks the blood of Christian children for their mitzvah.

Gasps from the children. Finkel nods - I'm afraid so.

FRAULEIN RAHM (CONT'D)
It has been scientifically proven that we Aryans are 1000 times more advanced and civilised than any other race.

Gasps and applause from the children. Fraulein Rahm smiles.

FRAULEIN RAHM (CONT'D)
Now, get your things together kids, it's time to burn some books!

CHILDREN
Yayyyy!!!

EXT. HITLER YOUTH CAMP - DUSK

A LARGE BONFIRE burns. The children hold stacks of books. Jojo opens his bag and pulls out a small pile.

YORKI

Is that it? Only 4 books?

JOJO

It's all I could find on the list.

(reading the authors)

Kafka... Brecht... Hesse... Burn you losers.

He throws them into the fire, Yorki follows suit. The books land among other burning authors, FREUD, MANN, PROUST, HEMINGWAY, REMARQUE.

The children skip and dance round the bonfire, throwing books into the inferno while Fraulein Rahm cackles maniacally.

EXT. CAMP - NIGHT

An encampment. Tents glow under the night sky.

INT. TENT - NIGHT

Jojo and Yorki lie awake in sleeping bags, inspecting their new DJ KNIVES.

JOJO

Imagine being in a battle, you've just run out of ammo, all you have is your DJ Knife. I would take down 20 of them before they got me. And I'd be laughing when they did.

YORKI

I don't like that situation. I don't want to die at all.

JOJO

Live Faithfully, Fight Bravely, and Die Laughing, Yorki, that's the motto.

YORKI

I know but I wouldn't be laughing. I'd probably be screaming.

(CONTINUED)

JOJO

Then I'm afraid you might not be cut out for Hitler's personal guard. It's really hard to get chosen y'know. You need to have perfect vision, perfect teeth and you're only allowed a little bit of fat.

YORKI

(prodding his chubbiness)
Jews sound scary, huh?

JOJO

Not to me. If I met one I'd kill it like that.
(tries to snap his fingers)
Like... that.

YORKI

But how would you know if you saw one? They can look just like us.

JOJO

Oh I'd know. I'd feel it's head for horns. And they smell like Brussels Sprouts.

YORKI

Oh yeah, I forgot about the Brussels Sprouts bit.

JOJO

Imagine catching one and giving it to Hitler. That'd be a sure-fire way to get into his personal guard.

YORKI

He'd be so impressed.

JOJO

Then we would become best friends.

YORKI

I thought I was your best friend.

JOJO

Yorki, you're my *second* best friend. First place is reserved for the Führer. He, and only he can have that spot, so unless you're Hitler hiding in a fat little boy's body I'd be happy with 2nd place.

CONTINUED: (2)

YORKI

I'm just a kid in a fat kid's body.

JOJO

Case closed.

Jojo rolls over and stares at the sky.

JOJO (CONT'D)

(whispering)

Night papa, I hope you come home soon.

Night Inga, I hope you're happy up there.

EXT. WOODS - TRAINING GROUND - MORNING

Jojo sits with a bunch of other kids. Two team leaders, CHRISTOPH and HANS, (21) smoke cigarettes and hold court. Christoph kisses a girl before turning to the kids.

CHRISTOPH

When you stand before the enemy and have to end his life, which of you will have the stomach for it?

Everyone raises their hands. Jojo too, although a little slow.

CHRISTOPH (CONT'D)

There is no room in Hitler's army for those who lack strength. We want hardened warriors who are prepared to kill at will. Can you do that?

OTHER KIDS

Yes / Sure / Oh absolutely.

CHRISTOPH

Johannes? Can you kill?

JOJO

Pff, of course. I love killing.

CHRISTOPH

Good...

Hans uncovers a small cage nearby - it is filled with little rabbits. Hans takes a bunny from the cage and holds it out towards Jojo.

CHRISTOPH (CONT'D)

Kill it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOJO

Hmm?

CHRISTOPH

Wring its neck. Kill the rabbit.

JOJO

Oh, I'm ok. I might do it later.

CHRISTOPH

No later, NOW. Or are you scared?

JOJO

I'm not scared. I'm just allergic to fur
and I don't want itchy hands all weekend.

Hans shoves the rabbit into Jojo's hands.

HANS

Place both hands around its neck and then
one hard twist. He might scream but we'll
just use the boot to finish it off.
Kill... kill...Jojo, shaking now, holds the bunny and looks at it directly
in the eye. He gulps. The boys join the chant.

OTHER KIDS

Kill, Kill, Kill, Kill...

The boys are like baying wolves; they crouch in around Jojo
as he leans over the rabbit.Jojo DROPS the bunny, trying to shoo it away. But it doesn't
run and Hans steps forward, grabs the rabbit, and snaps its
neck. Shocked gasps and squeaks of horror from the kids. One
of them faints. Probably Yorkie.

CHRISTOPH

Coward. Just like your father.

JOJO

He's not a coward, he's in Italy.

CHRISTOPH

No one has heard from him in two years.
He's a deserting coward just like you.

HANS

Yeah, he's a deserter.

JOJO

No, he doesn't do that, he fights.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

HANS

He's scared and so are you. You're as scared as a rabbit.

He kicks Jojo to the ground. Hans places a boot on his neck.

CHRISTOPH

Scared little rabbit. Maybe we should snap your neck too.

The rest of the kids taunt Jojo. He stands and runs into the woods, trying to escape the laughter. Hans encourages them to chant "Jojo Rabbit" as he runs.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Jojo sits alone on a log, sobbing to himself. He looks up to see a little BUTTERFLY flitting around by his feet... and then a voice comes from behind.

VOICE (O.S.)

Poor Jojo, what's wrong, little man?

Jojo turns around, it's Adolf.

JOJO

Hi Adolf.

Adolf takes a seat.

ADOLF

Why so down in the dumps? A strong boy like yourself shouldn't be sad, you should be happy like a cloud! Clouds don't care about anything!

JOJO

They called me a coward. And my papa, they say he makes desserts instead of fighting. But I know he's still fighting, for you, for me, and for Germany.

ADOLF

Oh, of course he is! And he is also making nice desserts, nothing wrong with that. My God, his custard tarts are the only thing keeping up morale at the front.

(beat)

Want to tell me about the rabbit incident? What was that all about?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOJO

They wanted me to kill it. I'm sorry.

ADOLF

Meh, don't worry about it. I couldn't care less. Just like a cloud.

JOJO

But now they call me a scared rabbit.

ADOLF

Well you want to know something?

(off Jojo's nod)

Just because they're small and delightfully cute doesn't mean rabbits are cowards. The rabbit faces a dangerous world everyday, hunting carrots for his family... for his country. Forget those boys. They have their place and so do you. My empire will be made up of all animals, eagles, lions, elephants and even the mighty rabbit.

Hitler offers Jojo a cigarette.

JOJO

No thanks, I don't sm--

ADOLF

Can I give you some really good advice? Be the rabbit. The humble bunny can outwit all his enemies and that is why he is a hero. Be. The. Rabbit.

He winks at Jojo who tries to wink back but still can only manage a weird double wink-blink. Adolf wanders off.

Just then, Yorki arrives.

YORKI

Jojo! Are you alright Jojo? Who were you talking to?

JOJO

Nobody, I was just out here doing some push-ups for my muscles.

YORKI

Oh, I thought you were crying.

JOJO

Are you a teardrop specialist?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

YORKI

No.

JOJO

Case closed. Now, Yorki Dorky, it's time for Jojo to show these pip-squeaks who is the real cowardly rabbit.

He takes a deep breath and scurries off into the bushes.

YORKI

I'm sorry what are you talking about?

JOJO

Never mind.

YORKI

Jojo, where are you going?

JOJO

To be the rabbit!

EXT. WOODS - TRAINING GROUND - DAY

Captain Klenzendorf sits in a deck chair. He pulls the pin on a HAND-GRENADE and hurls it into an open space. It EXPLODES.

REVEAL he is holding a lesson on hand-grenades. Hans, Christoph, and the rest of the boys watch from the safety of a TRENCH.

KLENZENDORF

Now lads, each of you will be given the opportunity to ignite and throw a grenade. I will personally be supervising each of you to make sure you don't blow your eyes out or something. Now, who's first? Klaus. Come on lad.

A boy steps up and holds out his hand to take a grenade. As Klenzendorf goes to hand it to him there's a sudden flurry as Jojo bursts out of the bushes and onto the scene.

JOJO

Jojo rabbit! Jojo rabbit! Hunting carrots, Jojo rabbit!

He jumps across the trench and, snatching the grenade from Klenzendorf's hand, continues into the clearing beyond. Suddenly Adolf appears, running next to Jojo.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ADOLF

This is amazing! We're like two human antelopes!

Jojo pulls the PIN on the grenade and screams an ungodly war-cry as he hurls it into the air. It bounces off a tree then ricochets backwards, landing at his feet.

JOJO

Scheisse.

ADOLF

Shiiiiiiit.

BOOM. Jojo is blown up.

KLENZENDORF

Don't do that.

CUT TO:

EXT. WOODS - JOJO'S POV

JOJO'S POV - Jojo is being carried on a stretcher through the woods. Klenzendorf's face leans in to shot.

KLENZENDORF

(lying BADLY)

Don't worry kid, you're doing fine. You look great.

Yorki leans in, his eyes go wide, he faints.

Adolf leans in. Gives Jojo the THUMBS UP. But he looks worried and disgusted. He also faints.

INT. AMBULANCE

Now we're in an ambulance.

Fraulein Rahm leans in, her face contorts in disgust.

FRAULEIN RAHM

Oh God, he looks like a Picasso painting.

(beat)

Cubist period.

INT. HOSPITAL - CORRIDOR - DAY

Jojo's stretcher is being wheeled down a corridor.

INT. HOSPITAL - OPERATING ROOM - DAY

Bright lights. The doctor hovers over us, we see INSTRUMENTS.

Klenzendorf steps into shot, addresses the DOCTOR.

KLENZENDORF

His mother's going to kill me.

Adolf leans in, smiles and gives us the thumbs up. Jojo's BLOODIED THUMB comes into view.

FADE OUT.

INT. HOSPITAL - WARD - DAY

- A woman's face comes in to focus. This is Jojo's mother, ROSIE BETZLER. As she reaches the bed, she stops, puts her hand over her mouth. Her eyes well with tears.

ROSIE

Jojo... my darling cub.

- Jojo's hand raises into shot, reaching out to her. The shot floods with tears, de-focuses, and fades.

INT. JOJO'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - MORNING

A NEW JOJO stands before us in front of the mirror. He has scars on one side of his face, his RIGHT ARM appears stiff, and he now has a limp.

ROSIE (O.S.)

Hey kid.

In the mirror Jojo sees his mother standing at the door, smiling. She hugs him tightly, making growling noises.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

My darling little cub.

JOJO

Why so happy? Your son is ugly like a monster.

ROSIE

You're no monster. You're still my beautiful Jojo.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ROSIE (CONT'D)

Besides the doctors are confident those scars will heal and you'll get most of the movement back in your leg. But I'm just happy to have you back home.

JOJO

I'll never be in Hitler's SS Guard now.

ROSIE

You're fine as you are.

JOJO

I need to be better.

ROSIE

You need to be you. Mama Lion worries about her cub, that's all. Especially when papa Lion isn't here.

JOJO

Or Inga.

ROSIE

Or Inga.

INT. JOJO'S HOUSE - LOUNGE ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Jojo tries to tie his bootlaces but has trouble with only one good hand. Rosie kneels down and helps him.

ROSIE

A few more months and you'll get it. You grab the rabbit by the tail, wrap it around his ear, tie it all up and then stuff him back (on) down the hole.

(then)

Now, we better get on our way. Getting out of the house will do wonders for your recuperation.

Rosie helps Jojo into his jacket. He catches another glimpse of himself in a mirror.

JOJO

I don't want to go out there.

ROSIE

Don't be silly, of course you do.

JOJO

I look stupid. People will stare.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ROSIE

Let them! Enjoy the attention, kid. Not everyone is lucky enough to look stupid. What I wouldn't give.

She looks in the mirror.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

Instead I am cursed to look incredibly... attractive...

Entranced, she moves in, almost kissing her reflection.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

Now, you're going to pluck up your courage, walk out that door and have a fantastic adventure. Okay?

JOJO

(nodding, unsure)
Okay.

INT. JOJO'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - MOMENTS LATER

Rosie parts the blinds on the front door and peeks outside.

ROSIE

Field Marshall Jojo, looks like the coast is clear. Now...

Looking over her shoulder, she produces a large, plain biscuit. It's all covert and over the top, but fun for Jojo.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

...many good men died to bring you this. It's a special potato-flour biscuit for emergencies. Emergencies dammit! Not only is it a biscuit, but it also doubles as an eye-patch in case you are invited to a pirate party. It could pass for a shield, an earring, a spare wheel, and even a believable discus should you find yourself participating in a biscuit Olympiad. And in a pinch it also acts as a type of food to sustain you until dinner.

(then, peeking out the door
once more)

Field Marshall Jojo, you're our top man. Prepare to leave the house...

Jojo smiles and prepares himself, playing along.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

 JOJO
Is it dangerous?

Rosie smiles and winks.

 ROSIE
Extremely.

EXT. HITLER YOUTH OFFICE - DAY

Jojo and Rosie enter the HITLER YOUTH OFFICE.

INT. HITLER YOUTH OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

A giant room. Nazi Propaganda adorns the office and large SWASTIKA BANNERS hang on the walls. The woman from the HJ Camp, FRAULEIN RAHM, sits at a desk, staring intensely at a large framed photo of HITLER on the wall.

A couple of TEENAGE YOUTH OFFICERS loiter about practicing stabbing things with their DJ Knives while some BDM GIRLS operate a PRINTING PRESS which spits out pages of PROPAGANDA.

FINKEL is off to the side listening to music through HEADPHONES and dancing like Ian Curtis from Joy Division.

 ROSIE
HEIL HITLER!!

Fraulein Rahm jumps.

 FRAULEIN RAHM
Jesus.

Captain Klenzendorf emerges from his office.

 KLENZENDORF
Jojo Betzler! Looking good, friend!
(beat, to Rosie)
Frau Betzler.

Rosie walks up to Klenzendorf and kicks him in the balls. He drops to the ground.

 KLENZENDORF (CONT'D)
Owww.

 ROSIE
Ok, that's that. Because of you, my kid has lost the feeling in his arm and can't walk properly and has a messed up face.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KLENZENDORF

But he stole the hand-grenade!

ROSIE

Yeah yeah. Now you're going to take care of him while I go to work. You'll give him a job and make sure he feels included. Got it?

KLENZENDORF

Got it. I really got it.

ROSIE

Good.

KLENZENDORF

(standing)

Wow. Ok let's start this again. Everyone, this is Johannes Betzler. Remember he stole a hand-grenade and blew himself up and as a result I got kicked in the nuts by his mother.

ROSIE

You sure did.

KLENZENDORF

I also got demoted if that makes you feel better.

ROSIE

It does.

KLENZENDORF

So, Jojo. Great to see you. Alive. I'm sure we can figure out something for you to do.

(beat)

Ideas guys? Come on!

FRAULEIN RAHM

Well, we need someone to walk the clones. They haven't been outside in weeks and some of them are malfunctioning.

REVEAL: In the corner of the room we see about a DOZEN 8 YEAR OLD CLONES, doing various chores, typing, sweeping, painting, playing chess. Some are just standing there dribbling.

FRAULEIN RAHM (CONT'D)

Also, you could hand out some of this propaganda and deliver these conscriptions.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JOJO

I don't suppose I could be conscripted
could I?

ROSIE

(shaking her head
throughout)

Great idea! I give you full permission to
send this ten year old child off to war.
Someone give this guy a gun!

JOJO

Actually mother I'm feeling quite fit and
would be more than happy to fight at the
front.

KLENZENDORF

Get in line kid. Besides, you're still on
the mend. For now you can start small.
Conscripts and propaganda.

JOJO

As you wish. I will execute my orders
with precision and strength, like a
precise... boulder.

Beat.

FRAULEIN RAHM

Just deliver the stuff , kid.

JOJO

Jawohl!

He turns on his heels and is OUT.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - DAY

Jojo pins up some posters of HITLER in a stoic pose, looking
off into the distance. Below him is the propaganda slogan:

ONE PEOPLE, ONE EMPIRE, ONE LEADER

Jojo turns and joins his mother who is staring at a make-
shift GALLOWS. FIVE BODIES, men and women hang from the cross-
beam.

JOJO

Yuck.

He tries to turn away but Rosie takes his head and turns it
back to the view.

(CONTINUED)

INT. JOJO'S HOUSE - INGA'S BEDROOM - LATER

Jojo slowly makes his way down the upstairs hall, looking in rooms. He moves towards his sister's room. He takes a moment before stepping into the room and wandering around. He looks at a photo of INGA, smiles and puts it back. Then...

Jojo notices something on the other side of the room. On the ground sits a picture in a frame. He picks it up and then he sees: A THIN CUT IN THE WALLPAPER in the shape of a door.

Jojo takes his trusty DJ KNIFE and pries the door OPEN. As Jojo's eyes adjust he begins making out objects. At first it's only BOOKS.

JOJO

The bad books. It's not allowed.

Then he sees a candle, bedding, a plate, a fork, AND...

...a SKINNY, PALE CREATURE hunched in the corner, its face partially hidden beneath her hair, dark eyes staring back.

Screaming with fright, Jojo drops his knife and stumbles back out into the room.

Frozen in fear, Jojo stares into the darkness beyond the secret door. Slowly, a pale hand wraps around the corner, and then a skinny GIRL emerges. This is ELSA KORR (17)

ELSA

Hi

Jojo bolts as fast as he can, out the door and downstairs where he trips and lands on the bottom landing.

ELSA (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Little boy...

STOMP. STOMP. STOMP. Footsteps on the stairs get louder. Eventually Elsa rounds the corner halfway up the stairs.

JOJO

What do you want? Are you a ghost?

ELSA

(smiling spookily)

Sure. A ghost.

JOJO

Get out of my house!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ELSA
Johannes, that's no way to treat a ghost.

JOJO
Why do you live in the wall?!

ELSA
Where else should a ghost live?

Beat. Jojo leaps up and tries to make a run for it, but before he can reach the door she grabs him by the scruff of the neck and slams him into a wall.

ELSA (CONT'D)
Don't make me run kid, I'm far too hungry and you know how much we love the taste of blood.

Jojo checks his sheath for his DJ KNIFE but it's empty. Elsa reveals the knife in her hand.

ELSA (CONT'D)
Lose something?
(beat)
I'm not a ghost Johannes, I'm something worse. But I think you already know that, don't you? You know what I am.

JOJO
No.

She presses the knife to his throat.

ELSA
Yes. Say it.

JOJO
(he gulps, futile)
Jew.

ELSA
Gesundheit.

JOJO
You can't be here.

ELSA
Well your mother invited me so I suppose that makes me her guest.

JOJO
No. It's not allowed.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ELSA

What will you do sweet Hitlerchen?

Jojo's eyes dart towards the door, and then the telephone.

ELSA (CONT'D)

Of course. Go on then, tell them. But you know what happens if you do? I'll say you helped me. And your mother too. Then we'll all be kaput. And if you tell her you know about me... just one word...

(raising the knife to his neck)

I'll do the world a great big favour and cut your Nazi head off. Got it?

She releases him and backs away, still holding the knife.

ELSA (CONT'D)

I think I'll hold onto this. It's pretty.

She wanders back up the stairs leaving Jojo in shock.

INT. JOJO'S HOUSE - JOJO'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Jojo sits on his bed, petrified.

ADOLF (O.S.)

Sheesh, that was intense.

Adolf is sitting next to him.

JOJO

What am I gonna do??

ADOLF

Honestly, NO idea. There could be more of them. In the walls. Hundreds of them...

They look around at the walls. They huddle closer together.

ADOLF (CONT'D)

How the hell did she get control like that?

JOJO

She used her powers I guess. Mind control.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ADOLF

Oh, typical. Did you see how fast she moved? And now she's got your fancy knife.

JOJO

I know! My knife!

Adolf offers Jojo a cigarette. He waves it away.

ADOLF

You're definitely in a pickle.

(he snaps his fingers)

Got it!

(then)

Ah damn, actually I don't have it.

But then.

JOJO

Got it.

(beat)

I have to negotiate.

ADOLF (CONT'D)

Got it!

(beat)

You have to burn the house down and blame Winston Churchill.

Beat.

ADOLF (CONT'D)

Ok. Try your idea first.

INT. JOJO'S HOUSE - INGA'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Jojo enters Inga/Elsa's room. He's wearing household objects as ARMOUR; A POT sits on his head, he holds a KITCHEN KNIFE, and he has a TRASH-CAN LID for a shield. He goes to the CLOSED secret door and knocks twice.

KNOCK-KNOCK.

JOJO

Excuse me? Hello? Little girl? Um, Jew girl in the wall?

(beat)

Yoohoo, Jew?

Just over his shoulder Adolf encourages Jojo to continue.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOJO (CONT'D)

Ok well, I'll just say what I have to say
and that's this: I'm not scared of you
and I think you should find somewhere
else to live.

Adolf taps his watch. Jojo nods.

JOJO (CONT'D)

Ok?

From behind, in his ear, where Adolf was just standing...

ELSA

Not okay.

Jojo spins, she's right behind him, holding his knife
smiling. She kicks him hard against his trash-can lid shield.
He flies back, hitting the wall and collapsing in a heap.
Elsa picks up the KITCHEN KNIFE, flips it in her hand.

ELSA (CONT'D)

Get the hell out of my room.

JOJO

Argh!!!

ADOLF (O.S.)

She's pretty rude, y'know. That's just my
2 pfennige...

INT. JOJO'S HOUSE - JOJO'S BEDROOM - DAY

Back in the safety of Jojo's bedroom, Jojo and Adolf pace.

ADOLF

...and now she's got TWO knives!

JOJO

I know!

ADOLF

How are you going to chop up stuff?

JOJO

I don't know!

ADOLF

And she's still up there! That thing.
That...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOJO

Jew.

ADOLF

Jew yeah. What do we do about it?

JOJO

You think of something!

ADOLF

Oh, now *I'm* the expert?

Hitler lights another cigarette, offers it to Jojo.

JOJO

I don't smoke! Stop offering me damn cigarettes! I'm TEN!

ADOLF

Sorry, this is stressful!

They start pacing, thinking, pacing, thinking...

ADOLF (CONT'D)

Okay, let's talk like turkeys. I guess you can't tell your mother or the Jew will cut off your Nazi head. No real way around that right now. But y'know, there's no reason this thing in the attic needs to ruin your life. You could actually use it to your advantage.

JOJO

How?

ADOLF

Well, when someone tries to use mind-powers on me, you know what I do? Use mind powers back on them. Remember last year when that one-armed pirate, Von Stauffenberg, tried to blow me up with a table bomb?

JOJO

Yeah, you survived.

ADOLF

Correct-a-mundo. But the only reason I survived, apart from having bomb-proof legs, is because I outwitted old Von Stauffy. I let him think I was dead when in actual fact I was fine.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ADOLF (CONT'D)

By pretending I was dead I drew out the traitors. So, what are you going to do?

JOJO

Pretend I'm dead?

ADOLF

Exactly. Wait. No. I think what I mean is this: Make her feel safe and she will drop her guard and then you will be the one in control.

JOJO

Reverse Psychology.

ADOLF

Don't complicate things. Just use my backwards mind power trick on her and you'll be fine.

(checks his watch)

I gotta go. We're having unicorn for dinner at my place tonight.

Jojo's eyes go wide.

ADOLF (CONT'D)

Concentrate, Jojo!

(beat)

Ok good luck, and remember that ancient saying: a Jew living in your wall is better than two Jews flying around with their bat wings, climbing down chimneys and eating innocent Nazis. And don't give her any more KNIVES!

He jumps out the window.

Out on Jojo's worried face.

INT. JOJO'S HOUSE - LOUNGE - EVENING

Jojo sits in living room, staring into space.

We hear a car pull up, then footsteps. Rosie enters the house and into the lounge.

ROSIE

Darling cub, why are you still up? Did you eat?

(beat)

I was just taking a long walk and having a think. Sorry, I lost track of time.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Rosie notices one of his laces are untied again.

ROSIE (CONT'D)
(crouching to tie them)
Oh, your laces, you really must learn--

JOJO
I heard her.

ROSIE
What? Who?

JOJO
(pointing upstairs)
Inga. Her ghost.

Rosie walks out and into the kitchen.

ROSIE
(laughing)
For Heaven's sake what are you talking
about?

He follows her. Rosie takes some bread from the cupboard and starts opening draws.

JOJO
I heard noises upstairs.

ROSIE
Oh come on, ghosts?? We have rats in the
attic and yes I've heard them too.
Actually I've been meaning to say, you
probably shouldn't go up there till I've
caught them all, they have germs and I
don't need you getting sick. Okay?

JOJO
Okay mama. I'll watch out for those dirty
rats.

Rosie slams the drawer shut.

ROSIE
Where are all our god damn knives?!

INT. JOJO'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Jojo stands at the door to the bathroom as his mother lays in the tub.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

 JOJO
Mama, do you miss papa?

 ROSIE
Like the sun misses the moon.

INT. JOJO'S HOUSE - ROSIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Jojo watches as his mother fixes her hair in the mirror.
They're wearing matching pyjamas.

 JOJO
And do you miss Inga?

 ROSIE
Like the moon misses the sun.

 JOJO
And do you love anyone else?

 ROSIE
Apart from you and Papa and Inga? MYSELF
obviously. Pff.
(beat)
Now, I left my favourite scarf in a
dream, could you be a darling and go get
it for me?

 JOJO
Huh?

 ROSIE
Bedtime!

INT. JOJO'S HOUSE - JOJO'S ROOM - NIGHT

Rosie tucks Jojo into bed.

 JOJO
Are you going to bed too?

 ROSIE
Soon. I need to tidy some things first.

 JOJO
What things?

 ROSIE
Mama things. Boy, you really have to
trust me, I'm the boss here. Ok?

(CONTINUED)

ROSIE

You don't know him. He's a fanatic. It took him three weeks to get over the fact his grandfather wasn't blonde.

ELSA

Yet you let him go to the Hitler Youth, you encourage it.

ROSIE

To get him out of the house and give you space.

(beat)

You think I don't hate it? It's a hard thing to be a mother. But even harder is to be the mother of one of them. How do you love a son like this, a kid who believes the things he does?

(beat)

In the end, you have no choice. I know he's still in there somewhere, the little boy who loves to play and runs to you because he's scared of thunder. And that's all you have left, belief - hope that your only remaining child is not just another ghost.

ELSA

Perhaps we're all ghosts now but we just don't know it.

ROSIE

Perhaps. You've lived more lifetimes than most.

ELSA

I haven't lived at all. And if this is living, this hole in the wall and all this darkness, then what will death be like?

ROSIE

The final escape. But that's the easy way out. You're being challenged; they say you can't live, that you won't live. If that comes true then they win.

ELSA

They've been winning so far.

CONTINUED: (2)

ROSIE

They'll never win. That is the power you have - as long as there is someone alive somewhere then they lose. They didn't get you yesterday, or today. Make tomorrow the same.

She strokes Elsa's shoulder.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

Tomorrow must be the same.

INT. JOJO'S HOUSE - JOJO'S ROOM - NIGHT

Jojo sits upright in bed, wide awake. He hears a door close upstairs.

JOJO

Bad Mama.

Jojo punches his pillow and angrily dives back onto his bed.

CUT TO:

INT. REHABILITATION CENTRE - POOL - DAY

UNDERWATER: Jojo swimming down through the water. He passes Adolf who waves as he goes by.

Jojo emerges at the surface where we see other WOUNDED MEN - amputees, burn victims, etc.

Adolf emerges from the pool and paddles around the wounded soldiers, doing a very bad job of hiding his disgust.

Jojo looks over to see his mother talking to Klenzendorf by the side of the pool.

INT. REHABILITATION CENTRE - POOL - DAY

JOJO

Owww!

Lying on a mattress, Jojo yells in pain as FRAULEIN RAHM stretches his LEG.

FRAULEIN RAHM

Good, stretch, you must stretch. That's it. Pain is your friend.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FRAULEIN RAHM (CONT'D)
 Soon your leg will be only a little bit deformed and pointless. I'm going to recommend another month off school because your face might scare the other kids.

She walks away, Jojo remains lying down on his back.

ROSIE
 Jojo baby, I have to go.

His mother's OXFORDS enter frame, next to his head. They click-clack on the tiles in front of him and he watches as her shoes spin next to his head.

ROSIE (CONT'D)
 I'll see you at home. I'll see you at home.

He nods. Rosie kisses his head, and leaves.

INT. REHABILITATION CENTRE - POOL - DAY

Jojo limps over to Klenzendorf and Finkel.

JOJO
 Hi Captain K.

KLENZENDORF
 Well, if it isn't Herr Handgrenade himself. How's the leg?

JOJO
 Pretty much healed. It only eighty percent hurts. What are you guys doing here?

KLENZENDORF
 I'm also being made to teach the HJ boys water warfare training. In case they ever need to go to battle in a swimming pool.

JOJO
 Can I ask you about Jews?

KLENZENDORF
 Oh God, why?

JOJO
 What should I do if I see one?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KLENZENDORF

If you see a Jew then we tell the Gestapo and they tell the SS and then *they* go and kill the Jew. And anyone who helped the Jew. And, because these are very paranoid times, probably some other people just in case. It's a pretty drawn out process.

Jojo gulps.

JOJO

Even if the Jew hypnotised someone to make them hide the Jew in the first place?

KLENZENDORF

I'd be amazed if that could happen.

FRAULEIN RAHM

It can. It happened to my uncle. This Jew hypnotised him into drunk fishing and he drowned.

(to Jojo, suddenly probing)
Did you see one? A Jew?

JOJO

Nope. I'm not sure I'd be able to tell if I did.

KLENZENDORF

Me neither. Without their funny hats it's damn near impossible. Someone should write a book on the subject. It'd make everything a lot easier.

This sparks an idea in Jojo's head.

A WHISTLE is heard and we cut to see a group of HITLER JUGEND KIDS, fully dressed and wearing boots and BACKPACKS sit on the side of the pool. They all JUMP IN and immediately start sinking.

KLENZENDORF (CONT'D)

(to Finkel)
Finkel, they're drowning. Come on.
(to Jojo)
See you later little man.

Klenzendorf and Finkel jump in the pool and begin rescuing the drowning kids.

Out on Jojo, wheels spinning as he makes a plan.

INT. JOJO'S HOUSE - INGA'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Holding a SOUP LADLE as a weapon, Jojo approaches Elsa's door. He knocks twice again.

KNOCK-KNOCK.

The door opens and Elsa sits in the doorway. She still has the two knives from earlier.

JOJO

Ok, here's the situation. If I tell on you, you'll be in big trouble and I don't think you want that. But then you'll tell on me and my mother and we'll be in trouble which I don't want. And if you tell my mother I know, then she'll kick you out, which you don't want. And if I tell my mother I know, then you'll cut off my head, which I also don't want.

(beat)

So it's a Mexican stalemate.

ELSA

It's just a normal stalemate.

JOJO

I have some conditions for allowing you to stay here.

ELSA

Conditions?

JOJO

Yes. I will not cause any trouble for you if you promise to tell me everything about the Jewish race.

ELSA

Ok. We're like you but human. Done.

JOJO

Please take this seriously. I want to know all your secrets. Kindly refrain from sitting on my sister's bed.

ELSA

Why? She doesn't need it.

JOJO

You know nothing of my sister.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ELSA

Inga and I were friends. I remember you.
Such a funny boy.

JOJO

Enough with the small talk.

Elsa laughs.

ELSA

Ok. Obviously we are demons who love
money, right?

JOJO

(writing it down)
Obviously. Everyone knows that.

ELSA

But what people don't know is that we are
also allergic to food.

JOJO

What?

ELSA

Cheese, bread, meat. Those things will
kill us instantly. So if you're thinking
of ending my life, that's the fastest
way. Also biscuits. Lethal.

Jojo writes this down, stops. He gets it.

JOJO

Very funny. Anyway, there's not enough
food for you so I don't know what you're
going to do.

ELSA

Your mother managed to find some bread.
She's kind. She treats me like a person.

JOJO

But you're not. Not a proper person.

She looks him up and down.

ELSA

Are you?

JOJO

How dare you, Jew. You are weak like...
an eyelash. I am born of Aryan ancestry.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

 JOJO (CONT'D)
 My blood is the colour of a pure red rose
 and my eyes are blue like sapphires-

Suddenly, Elsa has Jojo in a headlock, twisting his weak arm behind him. He winces in pain.

 JOJO (CONT'D)
 Ow ow ow ow ow ow...

She covers his mouth, suffocating him.

 JOJO (CONT'D)
 (muffled, quiet)
 Mmmph!

 ELSA
 Break free.

 JOJO
 Mmrrmmph.

 ELSA
 Break free, great Aryan.
 (leaning in close)
 There are no weak Jews. I am descended
 from those who wrestle angels and kill
 giants. We were chosen by God. You were
 chosen by a pathetic little man who can't
 even grow a full moustache.

His struggle is useless, he cannot break her grip. She releases him and pushes him onto Inga's bed.

 ELSA (CONT'D)
 The stronger race, huh?

She goes into her hideout and closes the door behind her. Jojo sits there, not sure how else to proceed.

 JOJO
 Ok, that's enough for today. We'll
 continue tomorrow. Okay?
 (beat)
 Okay?
 (then)
 Okay.

Jojo packs his book away and leaves.

INT. JOJO'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Adolf is dressed as a Native American. He offers Jojo a puff on his peace-pipe.

ADOLF (O.S.)
Do you want to play Cowboys and Indians?
It might help take your mind off the
whole Jew in the attic thing.

JOJO
She doesn't want to talk to me. This book
is going to be harder to write than I
thought.

ADOLF
You're doing great, Jojo. I believe in
you 100 percent.

Suddenly we hear the front door open and Rosie bursting in,
flustered. She closes the door loudly:

ROSIE (O.S.)
Hallo, I'm home!

Adolf scurries around the room in a panic, looking for
somewhere to hide. Finding nothing, he hugs the wall.

JOJO
(whispering)
She can't see you.

ADOLF
(whispering)
I know. Because I'm blending in with my
surroundings.

He's not.

ADOLF (CONT'D)
(closing his eyes)
It also helps if I can't see her.

Unseen by Jojo, Rosie moves to the fireplace and pulls some
small pieces of printed paper from her pocket. She LIGHTS
them and throws them into the hearth.

ADOLF (CONT'D)
Wait a minute. She's burning something.
That's suspicious. What's she burning?
(yelling at Rosie)
What are you burning?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

 JOJO
She can't hear you.

 ADOLF
Oh...
 (then, screaming)
WHAT ARE YOU BURNING?!

INT. JOJO'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

As MUSIC plays on a record player, Jojo and Rosie sit at the table, not speaking. Both of them eyeball each other suspiciously. It's definitely awkward and as we pull out to a WIDE SHOT, we see Adolf has been sitting at the table this whole time. He makes a gesture to Jojo that he should probably leave them to it.

As he exits he winks at Jojo. Rosie winks at Jojo too.

 JOJO
Why are you so happy?

 ROSIE
Things are changing. The Allies have taken Italy. France will be next and the war will soon be over.

 JOJO
God Dammit. Why does that make you happy? You hate your country that much?

 ROSIE
I love my country. It's war I hate. It's pointless and stupid and the sooner we have peace the better.

 JOJO
The war will end but it will be the Reich who stands tall and proud. We will crush our enemies into dust, and when they are destroyed we shall use their graves as toile--

 ROSIE
Hey! No more politics ok? Dinner is neutral ground. This table is Switzerland. Let's eat.

Jojo watches Rosie. She barely touches her food.

 JOJO
You aren't eating?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ROSIE

Not that hungry. I might have some later.
For now, I'm just going to chew on these
grapes.

JOJO

Well I'm especially hungry tonight. So
maybe I'll just finish yours.

Silence. Glaring at her son, Rosie angrily eats her food.

ROSIE

How was your day, Johannes?

JOJO

Oh you know, just wandered around being a
deformed kid with nothing to live for.

ROSIE

You're not deformed.

JOJO

My face looks like a street map, woman.

ROSIE

That's not my fault, you did that to
yourself.

JOJO

I wouldn't expect you to understand. If
my father were here, he'd get it.

ROSIE

Well. He's. Not.

JOJO

I. Know. And instead I'm stuck with you.

Rosie takes a breath, then swigs deeply from a wine bottle.

ROSIE

You want your dad? Hmm?

JOJO

Yeah, I do.

ROSIE

Yeah?

JOJO

Yeah!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ROSIE
Ok fine!

She storms out of the room. A second later she returns wearing her husband's military jacket.

She walks to the fireplace and scoops up some ash and rubs it across her face to make a "beard". Putting on a deep voice she slams her fist down and yells in Jojo's face.

ROSIE (CONT'D)
(Dad voice)
Don't ever talk to your goddamned mother like that!!!

Jojo sits back, shocked at the outburst. Rosie walks away and stands in the corner. After a few beats...

ROSIE (CONT'D)
Paul, what happened?

Her back still to us, Rosie begins a conversation between herself and her husband.

ROSIE (CONT'D)
(Dad)
I yelled at the kid.
(Rosie)
You should apologize.
(Dad, to Jojo)
Sorry kid.
(Rosie)
You call that an apology? Do it properly.
He misses you. Talk to him.

Rosie-Dad approaches the table and crouches before Jojo.

ROSIE (CONT'D)
(Dad, to Jojo)
Jojo, I know you miss me but I'm out there trying to make a difference in the world. And while I'm gone I need you to take care of my Rosie for me. Can you do that?

Jojo nods.

ROSIE (CONT'D)
(Dad)
Can ya?
JOJO
Yes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ROSIE

(Dad)

Thanks. She's doing what she can.

JOJO

(smiling)

Yes dad.

ROSIE

(Dad)

We've got a good kid there, Rosie. I love him to bits.

JOJO

I love you too, dad.

ROSIE

(Dad)

Almost as much as I love this stuff!

She grabs a bottle of wine from the table and takes a big swig from it.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

(Dad)

Boy does that taste good. Reminds me of dancing with my Rosie at The Red Salon. Remember, honey?

(Rosie)

I do, babe.

She stumbles across to the RECORD PLAYER, turns up the music, and starts dancing like a loon in the lounge.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

(Dad voice)

Hey kid, don't just sit there. Come dance with your parents!

Jojo laughs and gives in. He goes and dances with his mother. Rosie holds her son close, squeezing him tightly, kissing him, not letting go.

INT. JOJO'S HOUSE - INGA'S BEDROOM - MORNING

A PEN skids across the floor. Elsa stops it and picks it up.

JOJO

So, I'd like you to draw a picture of where Jews live. A typical hive; where you all sleep, eat, and where the Queen Jew lays the eggs.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ELSA

You really are an idiot.

JOJO

Come on. We have a lot of work to do.

Elsa takes his pen and paper and starts drawing.

ELSA

Where Jews live. Ok.

JOJO

And tell me about your family.

ELSA

I'll tell you about Jews but you are not privileged to know about my family.

JOJO

I need background.

ELSA

Let me ask you something. Why are you hanging around with me? Don't you have any friends?

JOJO

Of course. Yorki.

ELSA

Yorki.

JOJO

Amongst others.

ELSA

Pff...

JOJO

You don't have anyone.

ELSA

I have Nathan.

JOJO

Who the hell is that?

ELSA

My fiancée. I have him.

JOJO

Where is he?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ELSA

Fighting in the resistance.

She holds out a LOCKET with TWO PHOTOS inside. One is a pretty picture of Elsa, the other of a handsome man, NATHAN.

ELSA (CONT'D)

He proposed to me on the banks of the Fluss. He knelt down like a proper gentleman, recited a poem by Rilke, and when I said 'yes' we danced into the night.

JOJO

Snore. Who's Rilke?

ELSA

A great Poet. Nathan's favourite.

JOJO

Oooh, Nathan's favourite, yayyy.

ELSA

He's coming to rescue me and then we'll go live in Paris.

JOJO

You would turn your back on Germany forever.

ELSA

It turned on me first.

JOJO

Yeah well we don't need you. You and your stupid boyfriend can shut up and go live in dumb... Cheese - Snail - Baguette - Land.

ELSA

Now, now, just because you don't have a girlfriend.

JOJO

Pah! I'm too busy for girlfriends.

ELSA

One day you'll make time.

He rolls his eyes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ELSA (CONT'D)

You'll think of nothing else. You'll meet someone and spend your days dreaming of the moment you can hold her in your arms again. That's love.

Jojo takes a moment, under her spell. He breaks out of it.

JOJO

Ridiculous.

ELSA

Finished.

Elsa places her finished drawing next to Jojo. It's of him. Underneath she has written the word **DUMMKOPF**.

JOJO

I said to draw where Jews live. This is just a stupid picture of my head.

She pushes her finger into his forehead.

ELSA

That's where we live.

She slinks back into her hideout, closes the wall behind her. Jojo stares at his drawing.

INT. TOWN - LIBRARY - DAY

Jojo walks down an aisle of the local library. He scans the scant shelves and finds what he was looking for; RILKE: POEMS AND ESSAYS. He pulls it out and secretly stuffs it into his jacket. He turns around and sees Hitler stuffing his own jacket with about 20 books. They spill out onto the floor.

HITLER

Great thinking, Rabbit. We'll use these books to make a fake floor that she can fall through, straight into a nest of piranhas or hot lava. Or BOTH!
(cackling sinisterly)

She won't know what hit her!

JOJO

Shh.

ADOLF

Shh? You shush. Let's get a book and go. Libraries are dumb.

INT. JOJO'S HOUSE - JOJO'S ROOM - DAY

Jojo writes a letter at his desk, the Rilke poetry book lies next to him. Hitler lays on the bed reading a book.

ADOLF

Yeah, this is a really good idea, what we're doing right now. If she had a heart, this would break it clean in two.

INT. JOJO'S HOUSE - INGA'S BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

Elsa sits in an armchair. Jojo walks in.

JOJO

I have something to tell you. I came across an old letter from Nathan - your fiancée - addressed to you. It's quite lucky I found it.

ELSA (O.S.)

What the hell are you talking about?

JOJO

A letter from Nathan. I'll read it.

Pause. Jojo reads his letter.

JOJO (CONT'D)

Dear Elsa, this is hard for me to say but I don't want to marry you anymore. I found another woman and we laugh a lot and do the tongue kiss. It's like my favourite poet Rilke says:
"We need, in love, to practice only this: letting each other go."
 So goodbye and sorry about letting you go. From Nathan, your ex-fiancée.
 PS. I am not really in the resistance I was lying. I am unemployed and quite fat now.

Tears well in her eyes and she retreats into her hiding space, upset. She closes the secret door, leaving Jojo alone.

INT. JOJO'S HOUSE - JOJO'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

Jojo is back at his desk, writing another letter.

INT. JOJO'S HOUSE - INGA'S BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

Jojo's back. He knocks lightly on Elsa's wall.

KNOCK-KNOCK. The door remains closed.

JOJO

Hi. Um, don't open the door but I actually forgot there was a second letter. I forgot I had it. I'll just read it.

(reading)

Dear Elsa. I just wanted to say that I don't want to break up with you now. I changed my mind because I don't want you to kill yourself over me which a couple of girls have done in the past and it's pretty stressful.

(beat)

I need you to stay alive. Thank God you are being taken care of by that kid, who I must say is a remarkable young man. Beyond his years. And brave too.

(beat)

And let's still get married sometime - even though I truly am unemployed and have nothing much going for me. I don't even know how to tie a knot or read a map. Yours, Nathan.

Beat. The door opens, revealing Elsa looking back.

INT. JOJO'S HOUSE - INGA'S BEDROOM - LATER

CLOSE UP on Jojo, mid-discussion with Elsa.

JOJO

Beethoven.

ELSA

Einstein.

JOJO

Bach.

ELSA

Gerschwin.

JOJO

Brahms.

Mozart.

Wagner.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ELSA
Musicians, is that all you have?!

JOJO
Rilke.

ELSA
Oh of course, your favourite, Rilke.
Jewish mother.

JOJO
Dietrich, then.

ELSA
(clicking her fingers)
Houdini.

JOJO
Noooooo...

ELSA
Believe it brother. Just ask Pissaro,
Modigliani, Man Ray, Gertrude Stein, Mr.
Moses and the king of them all, Jesus
Christi, Amen.

She does a MAGEN DAVID POWER MOVE with her hands.

JOJO
You're just saying any old name now. I've
never heard of these people and now I'm
fed up.

He goes to leave.

ELSA
Hey.
(he stops)
If you find any more of those letters,
will you let me know?

JOJO
Sure. Ok.
(beat)
Bye.

We stay with Elsa.

ELSA
Bye.

EXT. RIVER - DAY

Jojo and Rosie lie around on the banks of the river.

ROSIE

These banks used to be full of lovers.
There'd be singing, dancing, romance.

JOJO

There's no time for romance, we're at
war.

ROSIE

There's always time for romance, babe.
One day you'll meet someone special.

JOJO

Why does everyone keep telling me that?

ROSIE

Who else tells you?

JOJO

Everyone. Anyway, it's a stupid idea.

ROSIE

You're stupid. Love is the strongest
thing in the world.

JOJO

I think you'll find that metal is the
strongest thing in the world, followed
closely by dynamite and then muscles.

(beat)

Besides, I wouldn't even know it if I saw
it.

ROSIE

Surprise, surprise, your shoelaces are
undone. Again.

(she ties his laces)

You'll know it when it happens. You'll
feel it. A pain.

JOJO

In my arse I bet.

ROSIE

Nope, in your tummy. And your heart. Like
butterflies. It's like you're full of
butterflies.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOJO

Yuck.

ROSIE

Yeah, yuck. Come on Shitler, let's get a move on.

She stands. Jojo gets to his feet but trips. His shoelaces are tied together.

JOJO

Hey!

ROSIE

Haha! Oh kid, what's wrong?

She helps him to his feet and pushes him along, he falls again, laughing.

JOJO

Stop it!

ROSIE

Get it together, man. I'm worried about you, are you drunk?

(to a passer-by)

Excuse me, can you help? My child is drunk.

JOJO

(laughing)

Don't believe her!

ROSIE

"I'm Jojo and I shouldn't trust pretty ladies to tie my shoelaces..."

He gets up and tries to chase her. They play like this, him tripping over, trying to catch his mother, as locals watch.

EXT. RIVER - LATER

His shoelaces now properly tied, Jojo and his mother walk along the banks of the river. She walks next to Jojo but on an elevated retaining wall so her feet are next to his head.

ROSIE

You're growing up too fast. A ten year old shouldn't be celebrating war or talking politics. You should be having fun, climbing trees, and then falling out of those trees.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOJO

But the Führer says that when we win, it is us young boys who will rule the world.

ROSIE

Pah! The Reich is dying. We're going to lose this war and then what will you do? All I'm saying is that life is a gift and therefore we must celebrate it, hold on to it. We have to dance to show God we are grateful to be alive.

She does a small twirl next to him, her shoes spinning near his head.

JOJO

Well I won't dance. Dancing's for people who don't have a job.

ROSIE

Dancing's for people who are free. It's escape from all of this.

JOJO

Well then you're free to dance your way home. I'll ride!

He jumps on his bicycle and pedals away. She gives chase.

ROSIE

Oh no you don't! No one can stop me!

She jumps on her bike and pedals after him.

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

Jojo and Rosie ride through the countryside.

A truck of wounded and battle weary soldiers pass by, their young faces sunken and devoid of hope. Rosie waves.

ROSIE

Welcome back, boys! Now go home and kiss your mothers!

This makes the boys smile and they wave back, cheering.

INT. JOJO'S HOUSE - INGA'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

Jojo sits on Inga's bed, Elsa is nearby.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOJO

No news from Nathan today I'm afraid.
He's probably doing something *amazing*
like reading a book or growing a beard.

Jojo sighs.

ELSA

What's wrong?

After a beat.

ELSA (CONT'D)

You want me to tell you about the Jews?
(off his look)
Get comfortable.

(beat)

Okay, in the beginning we used to live in
caves, deep, deep in the centre of the
Earth.

JOJO

Wait.

Jojo takes a pen and starts writing in his book.

ELSA

Scary places full of strange and
wonderful creatures all with one thing in
common...

JOJO

(nodding, knowingly)
Stealing the ends of penises.

ELSA

(laughing)
No you idiot. A love of art.

JOJO

No cutting penises off?

ELSA

You want the story or not?

JOJO

You may continue. But I know it's true,
the penis thing. Rabbis use them for
earplugs.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ELSA

Aaaaand moving on. So, after many years of developing magic and spells, we slowly moved out of the caves and into the towns. Some of us stayed in the caves, in our normal bodies.

JOJO

Which are... blobs or something?

ELSA

Well, I'll draw them for you.

She takes Jojo's book and starts drawing. Jojo watches her elegant hands as they create the picture. She hands the book back to Jojo; it is a beautiful sketch of a WEIRD creature that is more like an ELF or FAIRY. Definitely not Jewish or a monster.

ELSA (CONT'D)

It would be better with colour.

JOJO

Where's the horns?

ELSA

Um, they're under the hair.

JOJO

Where are yours?

ELSA

I'm too young. They grow when you turn 21.

JOJO

Ahhh...

He writes that down too.

ELSA

Anyway, these days we live among normal humans but often we will take over a house and hang from the ceiling when we sleep, like bats. Oh, one interesting thing is that we can read each other's minds.

JOJO

Everyone's minds? What about German minds?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ELSA

No, their heads are too thick for us to penetrate. Like birds, our true language sounds like singing. Crystals, glass and gold.

JOJO

(writing)

Attracted to shiny things... but also ugly things, Jews love ugliness. That's another thing we learned in school.

(beat)

Ugly things yes? You love them?

Elsa regards this 10 year-old kid writing as fast as he can, a manic look on his face. A small smile creeps across hers.

JOJO (CONT'D)

Hmm yes, ugly things.

He pauses, catches a glimpse of himself in a mirror on the other side of the room. We see his scarred face. He registers his "ugliness" and goes back to writing.

INT. JOJO'S HOUSE - JOJO'S BEDROOM - LATER

Jojo enters his room with a pep in his step. He sees Adolf sitting in his bed.

ADOLF

You two seem to be getting on well.

JOJO

No, I just... I was making sure she was still alive.

ADOLF

What do you care?

JOJO

I don't. But I also don't want a dead person in my house. How would you like it?

ADOLF

(wiggling his toes)

I wouldn't care. I'm tough. All the time you guys are spending together... I have to admit, it makes me uncomfortable.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOJO

Well, you suggested it in the first place. Besides, it's for the book.

ADOLF

(sighs)

Okay, sorry. You're right. Oh no, I've made it weird between us, haven't I? Is it weird? Oh god, it's weird now.

A beat as we process Adolf Hitler in Jojo's bed. It's weird.

JOJO

I'm just tired. I'm going to bed.

ADOLF

Sure, I was just keeping it warm for you. Friends do that.

He gets out of bed, dressed in full regalia, including those PUFFY-HIPPED PANTS that Generals wear.

ADOLF (CONT'D)

Hey do you think this uniform is slimming? I'm not sure about the hips on the pants.

JOJO

You look great.

ADOLF

Thank you. Now Jojo let me give you some really good advice. Once you see what's in her mind and where she's trying to get you to go - in your own head, you must go the other way. Don't let her put you in a brain prison! That, dear Jojo, is one thing that cannot happen to a German! Do not let her boss your German brain around!

Jojo stares at him with admiration.

JOJO

I won't let my brain be bossed around by her, mein Führer.

ADOLF

Try not to. It looks like you've got a lot of good information in your book, so I think it's time to share it with the world, yes?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Jojo nods. Hitler goes to leave.

JOJO

Um Adolf, do you think I'm... ugly?

ADOLF

Is that a trick question?

(he ponders, then)

Is there another word for ugly but not as offensive?

JOJO

I don't think so.

ADOLF

Well if there was, that'd be you to a tee. Anyway, ugly isn't a bad thing. Field Marshal Rommel was absolutely hideous but he made up for it with great joke telling abilities.

(then)

Sweet dreams, little Rabbit.

He winks and leaps out the window. Jojo looks in the mirror once more. He scowls at himself and turns out the light.

INT. JOJO'S HOUSE - INGA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Rosie drinks from a bottle of wine.

ROSIE

(nodding)

He's different. He suspects something. He thinks Inga's ghost lives up here.

(beat)

You remind me of her. You really do. But different of course, you're your own person. I would love to have seen her grow into a woman, but I'll have to watch you instead.

She swigs some wine.

ELSA

I don't know anything about being a woman. Is that what it is, you drink wine?

ROSIE

Sure.

(beat)

You'll drink;

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ROSIE (CONT'D)
 champagne if you're happy, champagne if
 you're sad. You'll drive a car and eat
 cake. Gamble if you want, own diamonds
 and learn how to fire a gun. You'll go to
 Morocco, take up lovers and make them
 suffer, look a tiger in the eye and learn
 to trust without fear. That's what it is
 to be a woman.

ELSA
 Trust without fear. How do you do that,
 how do you know you can trust someone?

Rosie smiles and leans in.

ROSIE
 You trust them.
 (she kisses Elsa's head)
 Good night.

ELSA
 All those other things? Did you do that
 stuff? You know, go to Morocco, and the
 rest.

ROSIE
 No.
 (beat)
 I've never looked a tiger in the eye.

She winks and blows out the candle.

EXT. HITLER YOUTH OFFICE - DAY

Jojo walks through town towards the Hitler Youth office.

INT. HITLER YOUTH OFFICE - DAY

Jojo walks in to see FIVE MEN dressed in GERMAN MOUNTAIN GARB
 - Lederhosen etc. One or two are holding CROOKS. Klenzendorf
 is at his desk, explaining something to Finkel.

KLENZENDORF
 Finkel. I meant we'd need dogs for when
 the city is attacked. Not actual...
 German... Shepherds.
 (beat)
 Now get them out of here.
 (then)
 And Finkel? I'm sorry I yelled at you, it
 was an easy mistake to make.
 (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KLENZENDORF (CONT'D)

I should have been more clear. You're doing a great job.

Finkel smiles back at Klenzendorf.

KLENZENDORF (CONT'D)

(to Jojo)

Hello. How can we help you today, Mr Betzler? What's up? Walk with me.

Jojo walks with Klenzendorf.

JOJO

If someone turned in a Jew would they get a medal or something?

KLENZENDORF

You still going on about those people? You know we're preparing the city for imminent invasion, right? I'm trying to plan a defense strategy here. We've got American's to the West, Russians to the East.

FRAULEIN RAHM

My friend once met some Russians and they ate him.

JOJO

I'm really learning a lot about Jews. Did you know they can read each others minds? And when they sleep, they hang from the ceiling like bats.

KLENZENDORF

And where did you come by this information?

JOJO

Research. I'm writing a book.

KLENZENDORF

What's it called?

JOJO

"Yooohoo Jew". It's an exposé on Jews.

KLENZENDORF

(giggling)

"Yooohoo Jew", oh my god, I love it! You could also call it "Jew, Who?"

(CONTINUED)

FRAULEIN RAHM

What about "Jews News"?

KLENZENDORF

Oh Jojo, you do have a wonderful imagination!

JOJO

But it's real, not imagi--

KLENZENDORF

Oh, of course it's real! When I was your age I had a "friend" called Conny who used to wet my bed when I was asleep. He got me in so much trouble. Hey, you might like to check out what I'm working on.

He holds up a sketch of a man wearing a tasseled uniform, cape, and a helmet adorned with feathers. The drawings are in coloured pencil, some of the pencils still lay about the desk and as Klenzendorf talks, Jojo secretly pockets a couple.

KLENZENDORF (CONT'D)

As part of our preparations for the invasion I'm re-designing my uniform. Note, the feathers for aerodynamics, the sparkly colour to dazzle the enemy, the boots are purely decorative.

(then)

And this is a Gatling gun mounted with a radio which emits annoying music to dishearten the enemy.

(suddenly covering the picture with his hand)

This is all copyrighted by the way.

FINKEL

That means you can't copy it.

KLENZENDORF

Don't get any ideas kid. The kids tell me that your father's away fighting. So it appears you are now the man of the house. How's the going?

JOJO

It's ok.

Klenzendorf chuckles.

JOJO (CONT'D)

What jobs do you have for me today?

CONTINUED: (3)

KLENZENDORF

I've got one. I won't lie, it's a bit of a step-down from what you're used to but we need all hands on deck right now.

EXT. TOWN - HOUSE - DAY

SFX: DOOR KNOCKING. A door opens, revealing an OLD WOMAN.

REVERSE ANGLE reveals a strange ROBOT CHARACTER made from cardboard and silver paint, standing before her.

Written in paint along its front we see:

HELF! UNS DEUTSCHLAND! (Help us Germany!)
WIR BRAUCHEN METALL! (We need Metal!)

A little door opens on the robot and we see Jojo's face within.

JOJO

Good morning Frau. Our brave troops and wonderful Führer need your help. I am collecting much needed metal for the war effort which will provide our troops with bullets and airplanes. And guns, tanks, ships, U-boats, bombs. And Iron Crosses.

OLD WOMAN

What?

JOJO

Do you have anything metal? Nuts, bolts, pans, toothpaste tubes...

She stares at him a while.

OLD WOMAN

What?

EXT. TOWN - STREET - DAY

Jojo wanders past torn propaganda posters of Hitler. In his barrow are various items; a piece of RUSTED STEEL, a LEAD PIPE, a few NUTS & BOLTS. Jojo chants as he moves through the town.

JOJO

Metal for Hitler!
Nuts and bolts!
Pots and pans!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He comes face to face with another METAL COLLECTING ROBOT. They stare at each other a moment and go their separate ways.

Just then, Jojo sees a someone familiar. His mother, Rosie. Hidden from sight within his Robot costume, he watches as she secretly places flyers around the street - in doorways, on tables, in letterboxes. She slips away around a corner.

Jojo walks to a little table and picks up one of the flyers she placed there only seconds earlier. He reads aloud.

 JOJO (CONT'D)
Free Germany. Fight the party.

EXT. TOWN - METAL DEPOSIT - DAY

Jojo unloads his barrow of metal into a large pile of other donated things.

 VOICE (O.S.)
Jojo?

He turns to see, Yorki.

 JOJO
Yorki!

The two embrace. Jojo steps back to take in his old friend who is now dressed in a soldier's uniform. A cigarette hangs from his mouth but it's still the same old dorky Yorki.

 JOJO (CONT'D)
You're a soldier now?

 YORKI
At your service! I even drink schnapps
and smoke cigarettes now. Except I don't
light them because they taste like arse.

He theatrically "smokes" with his cigarette which isn't lit.

 JOJO
But you're only eleven.

 YORKI
I know! And look at this uniform, it's
state of the art!

Jojo feels the uniform. It is made out of CARDBOARD covered in GREEN MATERIAL.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

 JOJO
It's pretty thin. Is that... paper?

 YORKI
Hmm, that's what I thought at first too.
But it's "paper-like". It's the latest
material invented by our top scientists.

He holds up his arm, the sleeve is way too long.

 JOJO
Well, I'm impressed. You finally made it.
Next stop, Hitler's guard.

Jojo shuffles on the spot.

 JOJO (CONT'D)
Hey Yorki... I caught a Jew. A real one.

 YORKI
Wow, good for you! I saw some that they
caught hiding in the forest last month.
Personally I didn't see what all the fuss
was about. They weren't at all scary and
seemed kind of normal. But don't tell
anyone I said that.
 (then)
Hey what's all that metal stuff? Are you
collecting metal stuff? This gun's metal
stuff. Argh, I'm getting distracted, I
gotta go!

He runs off.

 YORKI (CONT'D)
Oh my God it's so hard to run in this
thing!

INT. JOJO'S HOUSE - INGA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Jojo lightly taps on Elsa's wall, opens the door and holds
something out for her: the coloured pencils.

 JOJO
You can have them. I don't care. They're
probably broken. Doesn't mean anything.
That's a good chair.

He walks to chair, looks at it.

 ELSA
Thank you.

(CONTINUED)

JOJO

Yeah well, maybe you can draw some more pictures for my book. Or not.

ELSA

I could draw you again?

JOJO

No one wants to see pictures of cripples.

ELSA

You're hardly a cripple. Besides, true artists don't see that stuff.

JOJO

Blind artists you mean. Look, it's fine, I'll just accept that I'll be one of those guys who will never get to kiss a girl.

(beat)

And I'm not fishing for anything by the way. I feel quite strongly about this.

ELSA

You will be kissed, Jojo.

(beat)

Do you want me to kiss you?

JOJO

Ok, two things. Thing number one: it's illegal for Nazis and Jews to hang out like we do, let alone kiss, so already it's out of the question. And thing number two: it would just be a sympathy kiss which doesn't count.

ELSA

You're not a Nazi.

JOJO

What are you talking about? Of course I am.

ELSA

Not a real Nazi.

JOJO

I'm massively into Swastikas so I think that's a pretty good sign right there.

CONTINUED: (2)

ELSA

You're not a Nazi, Jojo. You're a 10 year old kid who 'likes' Swastikas and 'likes' dressing up in a funny uniform and wants to be part of a club. But you're not one of them. Not you.

JOJO

(rolling his eyes)
 Okayyy, let's just agree to disagree, alright?
 (beat, to himself)
 Not a Nazi, ha.

He picks at an imaginary thing on the wall. Elsa stares at herself in the mirror.

ELSA

What a dirty Jew.

Jojo shuffles nervously. He opens the bedroom door.

INT. JOJO'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - LATER

Elsa soaks in the tub while Jojo sits outside the door.

INT. JOJO'S HOUSE - ROSIE'S ROOM - LATER

Jojo sits on the bed as Elsa brushes her hair.

Yep, she's beautiful.

As he watches her, Jojo shivers a little. He looks down and sees butterflies in his stomach, then looks back at Elsa, worried.

Yep, he's in love.

INT. JOJO'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Downstairs, Elsa looks around, trying out chairs, looking at photos, taking in the normality of the room.

ELSA

'Living room'. Funny name.

JOJO

Stay away from the windows.

Suddenly there's a KNOCK at the door. They freeze.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

 JOJO (CONT'D)
 (whispering)
 She's home. You better hide.
 (calling out)
 Lost your key, Mama?

INT/EXT. JOJO'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - CONTINUOUS

Jojo reaches the door and opens it, revealing FIVE MEN in trench-coats - GESTAPO AGENTS - led by an intense fellow named CAPTAIN DEERTZ.

 DEERTZ
 Heil Hitler. Allow me to introduce
 myself. I am Captain Herman Deertz of the
 Falkenheim Gestapo. This is Herr Mueller,
 Herr Junker, Herr Klum, and Herr Frosch.
 (then)
 Heil Hitler.

 JOJO
 Heil Hitler.
 (to Mueller)
 Heil Hitler.

 MUELLER
 Heil Hitler.

 JOJO
 (to Junker)
 Heil Hitler.

 JUNKER
 Heil Hitler.

 JOJO
 (to Frosch)
 Heil Hitler.

 FROSCH
 Heil Hitler.

 JOJO
 (to Klum)
 Heil Hitler.

 KLUM
 Heil Hitler.

 DEERTZ
 Now, we--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KLENZENDORF (O.S.)
 Sorry I'm late, my bicycle got a flat
 tire. I carried it.

They are interrupted by Captain Klenzendorf entering,
 carrying a bicycle, trailed by Finkel.

DEERTZ
 Captain Klenzendorf? Heil Hitler.

KLENZENDORF
 Heil Hitler. This is Freddy Finkel.

Finkel joins in and the two men Heil Hitler everyone in the
 room all over again. Finally...

KLENZENDORF (CONT'D)
 So, did I miss anything?

DEERTZ
 No, we were just Heil Hitlering each
 other and were about to conduct a routine
 inspection.

He nods to the other agents who start snooping around the
 house, inspecting drawers, cupboards, shelves.

DEERTZ (CONT'D)
 And what brings you here, Captain?

KLENZENDORF
 We were passing by and wanted to drop off
 some pamphlets for the boy. He works for
 us.

DEERTZ
 I see.

KLENZENDORF
 And yourself?

DEERTZ
 Oh you know how it is. Routine
 inspections. We're following up on a few
 leads that will probably lead to nothing,
 but it's all part of the job, isn't it?

Deertz smiles and moves into Jojo's bedroom.

DEERTZ (CONT'D)
 So, young Johannes, you're helping out at
 the Hitlerjugend office.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JOJO

Yes.

DEERTZ

Good for you. I wish more of our citizens had your commitment.

KLENZENDORF

Johannes is a fantastic volunteer. He's very imaginative.

There is a loud bang upstairs, something being overturned. Jojo and the Officer look up.

DEERTZ

What on earth are those oafs up to? Why don't we go upstairs and see. Yes?

He puts an arm around Jojo and they head upstairs.

INT. JOJO'S HOUSE - UPSTAIRS HALL - CONTINUOUS

They stop at Jojo's mother's room. The officers are looking through her dresser and wardrobe, under the mattress.

DEERTZ

Do you know where your mother is?

JOJO

No. I think she's in town.

DEERTZ

And tell me, what has she been up to of late? Does she get to spend much time at home?

JOJO

Well, she is quite busy.

Klenzendorf accidentally knocks over a chair. He exhales heavily, clearly uncomfortable.

DEERTZ

Is she? Hm. Well it's good to see you are still wearing your Jugend uniform.

(beat)

But... where is your DJ knife?

Jojo looks down to his little sheath, it is still empty. From behind them.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ELSA (O.S.)

It's here.

They turn to see Elsa standing at the door to Inga's room. She holds the knife in her hand and wears a dress and shirt of Inga's. She looks beautiful and... quite German. Jojo is wide-eyed, panicked.

DEERTZ

And who might you be?

ELSA

Who might YOU be? And what are you doing in my house?

DEERTZ

You live here too?

JOJO

This... is...

ELSA

(mocking Jojo)

Thiss... issss...

(to Deertz)

Speak properly idiot. I'm Inga. His sister.

There is an awkward pause. Klenzendorf COUGHS. Jojo tries to stall.

JOJO

Heil Hitler.

ELSA

Heil. Hitler.

DEERTZ

Heil Hitler.

The others agents join in and we go through another long round of Heil Hitler salutes, this time with Elsa.

DEERTZ (CONT'D)

I didn't know you had a sister, Johannes.

ELSA

Well sometimes he'd prefer I was dead. Wouldn't you, little Frankenstein?

Klenzendorf looks back and forth between everyone, confused.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DEERTZ

Now, now, no need to attack his physicality. It's a war wound. And why do you have his knife?

ELSA

I'm guarding my room because he refuses to stay out of it.

DEERTZ

What do you have hidden in there?

ELSA

(smiling)

Oh you know, girl's stuff.

Deertz goes to enter Inga's room.

DEERTZ

May I?

ELSA

Naturally.

He wanders in, inspecting the room. He walks past Elsa's secret door. Klensendorf enters, walks past Jojo, eyeing him.

DEERTZ

You see we deal with an overwhelming number of reports, denunciations, and general investigations which means we are severely understaffed and overworked.

Deertz opens the curtains and looks out the window.

DEERTZ (CONT'D)

Now, of course we are indeed interested in problems of crime and anti-party sentiment, but we still have one greater concern; that of the Goldilocksies, running amok, taking advantage of other people in this city. Sneaking around, eating people's food, sleeping in their beds... It's quite rude.

(beat, to Elsa)

I don't suppose I could see your papers could I?

Elsa freezes.

DEERTZ (CONT'D)

Hmm?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

KLENZENDORF

Papers, Ms Betzler. Quickly please, we don't have all day.

ELSA

Yes, of course.

Elsa goes to a drawer in Inga's dresser and opens it. She then tries another drawer and another. Eventually she pulls out INGA'S PAPERS. Her hand is beginning to shake, Klenzendorf takes the papers from her and looks at them, now and then flicking a look to Elsa.

POV of the papers shows Inga when she was sick, GAUNT and PALE; the two girls share a vague resemblance.

KLENZENDORF

How old are you in this photo?

ELSA

They're 3 years old, I was 14.

KLENZENDORF

Date of birth?

A tense moment as Elsa pauses. Pin drop stuff.

ELSA

May 1, 1929.

Another long pause. Elsa wipes her sweaty hand on her dress.

KLENZENDORF

Correct.

(beat)

Thank you Inga. Get a new photo. You look a bit like a ghost in this one.

Klenzendorf goes to hand the papers to Deertz who waves them away.

DEERTZ

Wait. What is this... Yoohoo...Jew?

Jojo gulps. Deertz spies Jojo's BOOK sitting on the dresser. He opens the book and starts flicking through the pages. The atmosphere is palpable. Slowly Deertz begins to smile, and then... he giggles.

DEERTZ (CONT'D)

(stifling laughter)

Oh my... Oh my! Tell me, who did this?
Was it you, Inga?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

ELSA

Yes, it's an exposé on Jews, how they look, behave, think. It'll be a gift to the Fuhrer.

DEERTZ

This is amazing. Guys, look at this.

Klenzendorf and the others gather round Deertz as he shows them Jojo's fantastical drawings and writings. There are pictures of crazy animals and fairies and magical worlds.

DEERTZ (CONT'D)

Where did you get all of these ideas?

JOJO

It's an... exposé. For the Fuhrer.

ELSA

I just said that, Johannes.

DEERTZ

An exposé. Oh, I think he would absolutely adore this. Oh my, this guy is riding a dragon. "Mode of Transport".

(turning a page)

Ooh, this is a drawing of their anatomy. Look, this one here shows the inside of their heads. How wonderful.

The officers are all giggling now.

KLENZENDORF

I too am quite an accomplished drawer. I actually have slightly better perspective and cross-hatching.

Ignoring him, Deertz points at a drawing of David killing Goliath.

DEERTZ

Oh look, this guy is killing a giant. Oh boy.

(beat)

And what is this? "Die, Nathan, Die. Ways of killing Nathan." Oh this is hilarious. Look at this guy Nathan, look at all the ways he's dying!

(beat)

Tell me, who is this Nathan?

Jojo looks at Elsa sheepishly. She stares at him for a moment, then looks away.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

ELSA

No one. Just a stupid boy.

Deertz chuckles. The other officers join in.

DEERTZ

Well, I must thank you for this. You have really made my day. I do hope you continue with it. And, of course, if you see anything suspicious, give us a ring. Good day.

More Heil Hitlers as they leave. Jojo just stands there, watching.

KLENZENDORF

We're scaling down our operations at the Youth Office, Jojo, so your participation is no longer required. Stay home, kid. Look after your family. Look after this knife.

Jojo nods. Klenzendorf leaves.

INT. JOJO'S HOUSE - ELSA'S HIDEOUT - MOMENTS LATER

Jojo finds Elsa huddled in the corner clutching Inga's papers.

JOJO

Elsa, you fooled them.

ELSA

May 7.

JOJO

What?

ELSA

She was born May 7, not the first.

Jojo takes the papers and reads. The DOB reads: **May 7, 1928.**

JOJO

He was helping us.

ELSA

They'll be back. They'll find out she's dead. Then I'll be dead.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOJO

Nobody really knows Inga died. You can be her Elsa. It's okay, I'll tell mama everything when she gets home. I'll tell her I know you, that we're friends.

Elsa retreats away from Jojo.

ELSA

Jew and Nazi are not friends.

This hits Jojo. Elsa buries her head into her hands and begins to cry. She goes into her hideout. Jojo leaves.

INT. JOJO'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Jojo sits at the kitchen table twiddling his thumbs while Adolf, wearing oven gloves, stirs a pot on the stove.

ADOLF

So that was pretty much a bust. I can't believe they fell for her disguise. Mind explaining that?

JOJO

She doesn't seem like a bad person.

ADOLF

(immature)

Poor Jojo, he's a widdle bit tired and confused and the only thing he can cook is invisible soup.

He is suddenly serious, elements of the real Hitler start building as he gives an impassioned speech.

ADOLF (CONT'D)

I am beginning to question your loyalty to myself and the party. You say you are a patriot but where is the evidence? The German soldier was born out of necessity, Germany depends on the passion of these young men, passion and a readiness to fall for the fatherland. Their resurrection will be seen in the rise of the German folk, despite the futile efforts of Allied war profiteers who send their ill-prepared armies clumsily into the lair of the wolf.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ADOLF (CONT'D)

And only those zealous men who stand steadfast in the face of the enemy will be remembered, their names etched into German memory forever.

But it is up to you to decide if you want to be remembered, or forgotten like a grain of sand, disappearing without trace into the desert of insignificance!

(beat)

To put it plainly - get your shit together and sort out your priorities. You're ten, Jojo. Start acting like it.

He walks out, dramatically knocking over a cup.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - TOWN SQUARE - AFTERNOON

Jojo wheels his barrow down an alley which opens up into the town square. He rests a moment and sees a BUTTERFLY moving past him along a row of flowers.

Jojo smiles at this, takes interest and follows the butterfly, crouching low to the ground, he follows the butterfly deeper into the square. Low to the ground, he admires the butterfly which has now come to a stop upon another flower.

The butterfly flutters away. Jojo notices the light on the ground is disturbed by shadows moving back and forth.

He stands.

Right in front of him are a pair of shoes, dangling. He is in the middle of bodies hanging from the GALLOWS. He backs away from the body and into another pair of feet. We recognize these shoes. They are his mother's.

He stumbles back, shaking, tears welling.

After a moment he moves back towards his mother. He tries to reach her hand. It is too high. He looks back down towards her shoes and notices her lace is untied. He tries to tie them but can't.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - TOWN SQUARE - DUSK

As the sun sets Jojo remains in the park, sitting beneath the bodies. Quiet. Still.

INT. JOJO'S HOUSE - ELSA'S HIDEOUT - NIGHT

Elsa sits in Inga's room, reading by candlelight. Jojo enters the room. Elsa looks down to see he's holding his DJ knife, tears streaming down his face.

He walks up to Elsa and stabs her just below the collarbone. He's too weak to drive it all the way in but she does little to stop him.

Slowly she raises her hand, places it over his and pulls out the bloody blade. Blood seeps down her chest. She nods at him. Jojo struggles against her until he collapses to the floor. He lies on his back. Elsa kneels next to him. They look at each other.

EXT. JOJO'S HOUSE - ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Jojo and Elsa sit on the ROOF while distant bombing lights up the horizon.

JOJO

Did you know?

ELSA

She didn't tell me much, only that she worked with friends and that your father was somehow involved from afar.

JOJO

No, he's fighting in the war.

ELSA

She said he'll return as soon as the war is over. She didn't want to tell you anything for obvious reasons.

JOJO

(nodding, tearing up)
Because I'm a Nazi. Because she hated me. I'm the enemy.

ELSA

She didn't want you to know anything that could get you in trouble. She wanted to protect you - more than anything, more than me. You were the most important thing to her.

JOJO

But they found out what she was doing in the end. They got her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ELSA

I'm sorry. She died trying to save lives. That is the greatest honor any person can achieve.

JOJO

But now I have nothing. No one.

Elsa puts an arm around his shoulder. More bombs.

ELSA

The last time I saw my parents was at the station. They were put on a train. I ran. Slowly found my way back to the city. A friend of my father's hid me. Then another friend, then friends of friends... till your mother took me in.

(then)

So far I am still here. But my parents went to a place you don't come back from.

JOJO

What is the first thing you'll do when you're free?

ELSA

Dance.

MUSIC CUE: 'EVERYBODY'S GOTTA LIVE' BY LOVE

MONTAGE - JOJO AND ELSA

- Jojo walks past a group of women and other locals as they clear rubble and debris from their houses.
- Jojo barterers with a local PEASANT for some OLD VEGETABLES.
- Elsa draws pictures of her surroundings; the view, the objects in the room, Jojo.
- Jojo reads Elsa a "Nathan letter".
- Various shots of the kids living together. Dinners. Reading. Talking. Being.
- Jojo is out in the snow collecting sticks. He sees a RABBIT.
- Jojo is eating a water soup while Adolf eats a roast UNICORN HEAD.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

- Jojo's bedroom; Jojo pins another one of Elsa's drawings on the wall. There are now as many of them as his pictures of Hitler.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Jojo heads down a street and finds a group of civilian locals being given weapons and instructions on how to use them. There are a couple of women and young boys among them, all looking very out of their element and bewildered.

We hear an explosion a few blocks away. Civilians run the opposite way towards safety. Jojo moves towards the chaos.

He rounds a corner and sees Yorki, his uniform in tatters, running on the other side of the street with another kid. They're carrying a ROCKET LAUNCHER.

JOJO

Yorki!

Yorki sees Jojo, waves, trips and falls. The Rocket Launcher hits the ground and fires - sending a missile across the road where it blows up a shop. GLASS and DEBRIS shower the street.

YORKI

Scheisse! I'm so clumsy.

(beat)

Jojo! I've missed you. I'm sorry about your mama. I cried for ages when I heard what happened.

They hug.

JOJO

Yorki, what's going on out there?

YORKI

The Russians Jojo, they're coming. And the Americans from the other way. And England and China and Africa and India and Australia. The whole world is coming!

JOJO

How are we doing?

YORKI

Terribly! Our only friends are the Japanese and just between you and me, they don't look very Aryan. Germany's completely run out of money.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

YORKI (CONT'D)

I mean look at this uniform, it really IS made of paper. They just glued cotton on top of it.

He turns around and we see the back of his jacket has been completely burned off.

YORKI (CONT'D)

I gotta get this ammo to the gunners. You can help.

Yorki puts the ammo in Jojo's barrow and they head off.

EXT. TOWN - STREET - DAY

The kids make their way down a street, the fire-fight in the distance getting closer. It's loud and chaotic. Other soldiers run around, old people and kids mainly.

JOJO

Hey, remember that Jew I told you about?

YORKI

Oh yeah. You caught one.

JOJO

I still have her. She's basically my girlfriend now.

YORKI

Good for you Jojo! A girlfriend!

JOJO

But she's, y'know... Jewish.

YORKI

There are bigger things to worry about than Jews, Jojo. There's Russians somewhere out there. They're worse than anyone. I heard they eat babies and have sex with dogs. I mean, that's bad, right?

JOJO

Sex with dogs?

YORKI

Yeah, the Englishmen do it too. We have to stop them before they eat us and screw all our dogs. It's crazy. And now Hitler's gone we're really on our own.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOJO

What?

YORKI

You didn't hear? He's dead. He gave up and blew his brains out.

JOJO

No. That's impossible!

YORKI

Blew them out. His brains. Turns out he was hiding a lot of stuff from us. Doing some really bad things behind everyone's backs. I'm not sure we chose the right side.

Jojo and Yorki round a corner. As they approach another MACHINE GUN POST we see an ENEMY TANK in the distance trained on the fortification.

It fires and there's a huge explosion. The boys drop everything and RUN OFF.

EXT. BATTLE GROUND - CONTINUOUS

The fighting is more intense and we see more KIDS and OLD PEOPLE, dressed in stupid paper uniforms, huddled in corners, trying to figure out what to do. Some are crying.

The boys round a corner and find Fraulein Rahm preparing for battle. She's sticking a GRENADE into the back pocket of a CLONE.

FRAULEIN RAHM

Ok, little clone! Go find a Russian or an American and give them a big hug!

She pulls the PIN on the grenade and sends the kid out into the battle.

YORKI

Y'know, I'm not sure we chose the right side. I'm beginning to wonder if we might be the bad guys.

FRAULEIN RAHM

Yorki! Here, you've been promoted. Take a gun and go kill anyone who looks different to us! Go! Go! Go!

She shoves Yorki out into battle.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FRAULEIN RAHM (CONT'D)

Jojo! Here, put on a jacket so you know what side you're on!

She hands Jojo a jacket.

FRAULEIN RAHM (CONT'D)

The Russians are over there! The Americans are that way! We must kill everything we see! For HITLER!

She grabs a massive MACHINE GUN and runs out into the fray.

FRAULEIN RAHM (CONT'D)

Die, DEVIL SCUM!!!

Suddenly there's a huge explosion and the street is engulfed in smoke and dust - Jojo and Yorkki are separated.

YORKKI (O.S.)

Jojo!

JOJO

Yorkki! Where are you?

But Yorkki has disappeared. More shots and yelling.

Dazed and disoriented, Jojo makes his way through the haze of smoke and debris, passing the last defenders of the town - women, children, the elderly - all desperately trying to fend off a much stronger enemy, and failing.

KLENZENDORF runs past. We see that he is wearing his uniform but it has been altered according to his earlier drawing. It has SPARKLY SEQUINS on the collar, TASSELS down the sleeves.

FINKEL is with him, dressed in a similar outfit. There is an electric energy between them. Klenzendorf sees Jojo, gives a triumphant smile, and runs off.

Jojo follow suit and finds shelter behind a wall. He watches as German soldiers retreat from the enemy. Some are gunned down, others hide behind vehicles and continue to engage.

There are fires burning throughout and the scene echoes the crazed frenzy of the book burning bonfire from earlier. Only this time everyone is confused, freaked out and crying.

Jojo ducks into a doorway and hides in a hole.

FADE OUT.

EXT. TOWN - STREET - DAY

Jojo walks through the ruins of his town. He sees a soldier playing A PIANO in a bombed out house.

German POWs are being led away at gunpoint by AMERICAN SOLDIERS.

Just then Jojo hears a whimper and looks down to see a dusty hand reaching out from some rubble.

Jojo lifts an old door up and finds Fraulein Rahm. She's dying.

FRAULEIN RAHM

Oh, Heil Hitler, Jojo. Can you lift this building up so I can get out?

She does indeed have a building on top of her.

FRAULEIN RAHM (CONT'D)

Tell Hitler I'll be waiting for him in Heaven where everyone is perfect.

She dies.

EXT. TOWN - STREET - DAY

Music blares, it's an anthem of some sort. Jojo stares wide-eyed as AMERICAN TROOPS officially enter the city in a convoy. Some people are waving, happy. Others are crying. Officer Deertz is also there, along with and a couple of his Gestapo agents being taken away.

A WOMAN holding her child waves at the passing ALLIED CONVOY.

WOMAN

The war is over! America is here!
Everyone is free! We're all going to get
Levi jeans! America! Americaaaaa!

Tanks pass by. Adolf sits perched on a local STATUE. He's disheveled and looks frightened.

EXT. BACK STREET - LATER

Jojo walks down a small street. We see more discarded photos of Hitler and burned Nazi banners.

VOICE (O.S.)

German! Wehrmacht!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Just then a Russian Soldier grabs Jojo by the scruff of the neck and shoves him into a group of German POW's being marched at gun point down the street.

Among the group we see Christoph, one the asshole kids from the Hitler Youth Camp. He's crying. We also find CAPTAIN KLENZENDORF, his revamped uniform in tatters.

Jojo makes his way to Klenzendorf.

 JOJO
Captain K! What's happening?

 KLENZENDORF
Hysteria my friend. We've come to the end.

 JOJO
Fraulein Rahm is dead. A building fell on her.

 KLENZENDORF
 (wiping away a tear)
And my dear Finkel is gone too. I was very fond of him.

They're led into a private COURTYARD.

EXT. COURTYARD - CONTINUOUS

They're jostled about, pushed and shoved into groups.

 RUSSIAN SOLDIER
Move! You, move there!

 KLENZENDORF
Hey Jojo. I'm sorry about Rosie. She was a good person. An actual good person. And I've been meaning to tell you, I think your book is really great. I'm sorry for laughing at it. There's some very important stuff in there. I wish it was around when all this started.
 (beat)
You're a good kid. Now go home and look after that sister of yours.

He clocks a RUSSIAN SOLDIER approaching. Klenzendorf smiles at him for a moment before ripping off Jojo's jacket and shoving him to the ground.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KLENZENDORF (CONT'D)

Get away Jew!

The soldier levels his gun at them.

RUSSIAN SOLDIER

What's going on? You are a Jew?

KLENZENDORF

Yes. He's scum.

RUSSIAN SOLDIER

Shut up, Nazi.

(to Jojo)

You know this Nazi?

JOJO

(pointing at Klenzendorf)

He helped us...

RUSSIAN SOLDIER

He is Nazi.

(to Klenzendorf)

You know the boy?

A brief moment as Klenzendorf stares at Jojo.

KLENZENDORF

I don't know this dirty Jew.

JOJO

What?

KLENZENDORF

Ugly Jew brat!

The soldier smashes Klenzendorf square in the face with the butt of his rifle.

RUSSIAN SOLDIER

Shut your mouth Nazi.

(to Jojo)

Jew, get out of here. Go home.

JOJO

No!

He and Klenzendorf exchange one more look before the soldier grabs Jojo and pushes him out onto the street. The large gates close behind him.

Jojo gets to his feet and dusts himself off.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MACHINE GUN FIRE rings out from inside the courtyard.

Jojo runs and, turning a corner...

EXT. TOWN - STREET - MOMENTS LATER

...bumps straight into Yorki. He's covered in dirt and ash and has lost his uniform. He now wears only underpants and an undershirt.

YORKI

Jojo!

JOJO

Yorki! I thought you were dead.

YORKI

No, it seems I can never die.

JOJO

I don't understand what's happening.

YORKI

Me neither. Nothing makes sense. It's definitely not a good time to be a Nazi.

(beat)

I'm gonna go home and see my mother. I need a cuddle. Hey. So now the war's over at least your girlfriend will be free. She can leave now.

Jojo steps back realizing Elsa may leave.

JOJO

I have to go.

He wonders off pondering and confused.

EXT. JOJO'S HOUSE - DAY

Jojo slowly wanders up to his house, pauses a moment outside the front door, and walks inside.

INT. JOJO'S HOUSE - INGA'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Jojo runs into Inga's room. It's empty.

He stands next to the door of her hideout.

INTERCUT between Inge's room and Elsa's hideout.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

 JOJO
Hi. I'm home.

 ELSA
What's going on out there?

 JOJO
Out where?

 ELSA
Outside, dummy.
 (beat)
Jojo, what's going on? Is it safe to come
out?

Jojo thinks for a moment. Conflicted, he makes his decision.

 JOJO
No. You can't leave.

 ELSA
Who won?
 (silence)
Jojo. Who won the war?

She shuffles nervously.

 JOJO
Germany.
 (beat)
Germany won the war.

Elsa looks around at her prison.

 ELSA
I thought I could leave.

Jojo stands in the room. Alone.

He moves to the dresser and looks at a family photo, then at the picture of his sister.

His book - Yoo-hoo Jew - lies on the dresser nearby. He opens it and starts leafing through the pages, taking in everything he and Elsa discussed and worked on together.

He stops at a picture of he and his mother riding their bicycles.

He turns the page and sees another picture, this time it's of a RABBIT IN A CAGE. Outside the cage is a little boy.

Jojo takes a moment, then rips out a blank piece of paper.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

He sits next to the door to Elsa's hideout. He knocks.

JOJO

Hi. I have another letter.

(beat)

Dear Elsa, I know it's hard for you at the moment. I know you feel like giving up. But you have to carry on. Your friend Jojo and I have devised a plan to help you escape. So please listen to him. He will help you get out of there. Then you can come to Paris and live with me and we can eat snails and frogs and other disgusting things that humans aren't supposed to eat.

(beat)

And don't worry about Jojo, he'll be ok when you leave.

(beat)

See you in Paris.

(then)

Nathan.

Beat.

Elsa's door opens.

ELSA

He's dead.

JOJO

What?

ELSA

Nathan. He died last year. Tuberculosis.

Jojo holds up his fake letter.

JOJO

Oh, that's weird. But then who wrote this?

She smiles.

ELSA

Thank you, Jojo. You've been so good to me.

JOJO

Elsa, me and fake Nathan have found a way for you to escape Nazi Germany.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ELSA

How do I know I can trust you?

JOJO

Well, the thing is... I love you. I know you think of me as a younger brother and you're too old anyway but--

(beat)

Man, it's hot in here.

ELSA

I love you too, Jojo.

JOJO

As a younger brother.

ELSA

As a younger brother.

JOJO

Well then, maybe you could trust a younger brother?

She smiles. Maybe.

JOJO (CONT'D)

Okay. Get your things together. We're leaving.

INT. JOJO HOUSE - JOJO'S ROOM - DAY

Jojo puts on his jacket and looks at himself in the mirror. A different boy than we met at the beginning of the movie.

JOJO (CONT'D)

Jojo Betzler. 10 and a half years old. Today... just do what you can.

He turns to walk out of his room, BUT...

ADOLF steps into the doorway, blocking his path. He has a gaping wound on the side of his head where he shot himself.

ADOLF

Where in the shit do you think you're going?

JOJO

Out.

(CONTINUED)

ADOLF

Oh no you're not. You're staying right here and you're going to tell me what the hell's going on. Be honest.

JOJO

I can't hang around with you anymore. I'm sorry.

ADOLF

I said be honest.

(beat)

You betrayed me, traitor.

JOJO

You betrayed everyone! I believed in you!

ADOLF

But you stopped believing! And now you're best friends with that thing in the attic.

JOJO

That thing is a girl.

ADOLF

You're in love with her aren't you?

JOJO

Yes.

ADOLF

Admit it.

JOJO

I just said yes!

ADOLF

I knew it! Well she's too old for you and you're ugly.

Jojo stares at Adolf.

ADOLF (CONT'D)

Fine. I'm sad things didn't work out with us, however I'm still kind of proud of you. Massively disappointed, but also proud. I like to think of you as my strange, wayward, disappointing, ugly son.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

JOJO

I already have a dad and now the war is finished he's coming home.

ADOLF

But you need me! I'm all you've got! You'll never make it out there. You're a scared little ugly rabbit. You'll die without me!

Adolf hands Jojo a SWASTIKA ARMBAND.

ADOLF (CONT'D)

Now you listen to me. I'm going to give you one last chance to make things right. You're going to put this on and forget about that disgusting Jewy cow up there, and you're going to come back to me where you belong. Got it?

Jojo screws up the armband and throws it on the ground. Adolf buckles in pain.

ADOLF (CONT'D)

Heyyy... hey, how about you Heil me, yeah? Come on, for old times sake?

(beat)

Heil me, little man.

JOJO

No...

ADOLF

Come on, you know you want to. Just a little Heil. Just a little bittle Heil for your old friend?

JOJO

No. Fuck off Hitler.

And with that, Jojo kicks Adolf as hard as he can in the balls. Adolf screams as he goes FLYING THROUGH THE WINDOW and out into OBLIVION.

Hitler is no more.

INT. JOJO'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

Jojo leads Elsa by the hand down the hall. They reach the front door and Jojo notices something.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOJO

Wait.

He bends down and ties Elsa's shoelaces. She watches as he does this, a small smile creeping across her face. Jojo finishes and stands.

JOJO (CONT'D)

(smiling)

You ready?

ELSA

Yeah.

Jojo unlocks the door.

ELSA (CONT'D)

Jojo. Is it dangerous out there?

Jojo winks a PERFECT WINK.

JOJO

Extremely.

He opens the door. Light fills the entrance to the house. They step outside.

EXT. JOJO'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Jojo and Elsa stand on the front steps of the house. Elsa looks at Jojo and then back out to the street.

A car full of celebrating soldiers drives past - an American flag sticking out the back.

They take in the view and Jojo does a small fist pump.

JOJO

Yes... we made it.

Elsa turns to Jojo and stares at him.

She slaps Jojo.

JOJO (CONT'D)

(nodding)

Yep. Probably deserved that.

(then)

So what do we do now?

Elsa shrugs and stands there. And then, ever so subtly, and very slowly, she begins to sway... rhythmically.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Jojo follows suit and moves his shoulders back and forth.

MUSIC CUE: 'HELDEN' BY DAVID BOWIE

Jojo and Elsa slowly begin to DANCE - not for anyone else,
just for themselves and each other.

BLACK

ON SCREEN:

*Let everything happen to you
Beauty and terror
Just keep going
No feeling is final.*

-Rainer Maria Rilke

END.

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