

For Your Consideration

“EXTRAORDINARY.

THE QUIETEST ACTS OF RESISTANCE ARE PART
OF WHAT SAVE CIVILIZATION.”

Owen Gleiberman, VARIETY

Written and Directed by
TERRENCE MALICK

A
**HIDDEN
LIFE**

*Based on the True Story of Franz Jägerstätter's
Act of Courage & Sacrifice*



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LIFE

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J cast of characters

Franz Jägerstätter
Franziska (Fani), his wife
Rosi, Maridl, Loisi: their daughters (6, 5, 4)

Resie, Fani's sister
Rosalia, Franz's mother

Fr. Fürthauer, the St. Radegund priest
Ohlendorff, a painter
Hessler, an old friend

Neighbors: the blacksmith, miller, etc
Eckinger
Postman
Policeman
Mayor Kraus
Clerk, etc.

Joseph Fliessen, Bishop of Linz
Major Kiel
Lieutenant
Guards
Captain
Fellow prisoners Rogowski, Andro, Dimo, Levan, etc.

Lueben, First Judge, Reich's Military Tribunal
Warder Stein
Cellmate
Prosecutor
Friedrich Feldman, court-appointed defense attorney
Tegel guards
Tegel prisoners
Fr. Kreuzberg, Tegel chaplain
The Scharfrichter (executioner)
Josef, a young man

The tyrant dies, and his rule is over;
the martyr dies, and his rule begins.

- Kierkegaard

The following is a true story, based on actual events, and on the letters between Franz Jagerstatter and his wife, Franziska.

FADE IN:

1 PRE-CREDIT SEQUENCE - TIANANMEN SQUARE (BEIJING, 1989) 1

A man in a white shirt, holding a grocery sack, stands in front of a line of tanks, blocking their progress toward Tiananmen Square. *

NEWSREEL FOOTAGE FROM THE 1930s (B&W) - OVERTURE

Crowds wait for Hitler to appear. At last his car approaches. A roar goes up. They worship him. Hundreds of thousands. Tears of adoration sting their eyes. They stretch their hands out towards him. *

The Führer smiles, his confidence unbounded.

2 EXT. ST. RADEGUND, UPPER AUSTRIA (1940) - IN SUDDEN SILENCE 2

A single man, raking hay: Franz Jagerstatter, 36 years old. In the distance the steeple of a church and the village where he lives. A few dozen houses, the mountains rising up beyond them. *

St. Rade Gund is a small, peaceful village of 500 souls. At its center stands a small square; on one side a Gasthaus, or inn; on the other, the rectory.

A river flows nearby. The Salzach. Cows graze in the sun. The clank of their bells, the lazy swish of their tails. *

Returning home from the fields, Franz exchanges greetings with his neighbors. A burn-in reads: "Austria, 1940."

3 EXT. JAGERSTATTER HOUSE 3

He joins his wife, Franziska, 30. Their daughters, 2 and 3 years old, run out of the barn which stands next to the house. A calf, just born, wobbles to its feet. Franz calls Franziska by her nickname, Fani. *

FANI

Girls, help your father!

The girl's names are Rosi and Maridl. Franz picks Maridl up and puts her on his shoulders, while Rosi begs to be taken up the same way. A bell rings in the distance.

4 SCENES OF ST. R LIFE - GASTHAUS 4

Franz dances on the terrace of the inn. Fani laughs and claps.

Together they gather plums and apples from the trees in their small orchard.

Fani yokes up a cow and sets her to plow.

Armed with stones, the children drive crows off the fresh-sown fields.

Fani milks the cows, makes soap, churns butter. She negotiates with the local miller to have their wheat ground into flour.

Rosalia, Franz's mother, lives with the family and joins them out in the fields. She is a widow. Franz's father died in the First World War. *

FRANZ

Mother, stay out of the sun. *

Husband and wife help their neighbors and are helped in turn: haying, whitewashing their houses, digging out a well. They rely on each other, a close-knit community.

5 INT./EXT. ST. R CHURCH 5

Beyond his work as a farmer, Franz serves as a sacristan at the church. He trims the candles, polishes the pews, rings the bell. He refuses to accept any payment the parishioners offer him for his role in arranging baptisms, weddings and funerals.

He watches as a painter refurbishes the ceiling with cherubs and seraphim in transports of ecstasy.

He pinches the dead blooms off the roses that grow over the graves of the churchyard outside.

6 INT. J HOUSE 6

Franz helps his mother up a flight of stairs. She is a brooding woman, worn by trouble and care.

7 NEWSREEL FOOTAGE (B&W) - WAR IN RUSSIA 7

War scenes from the Eastern Front. German and Russian forces plod through the snow, exhausted. Tanks advance by night. Howitzers light up the sky. Stalingrad. Kursk.

8 INT. J HOUSE - NIGHT 8

Franz and Fani put the children to bed. The girls cry out with delight as their father makes shadows on the ceiling. Soon they are asleep, and the house is still.

FANI

These last weeks you're different.
What is it? Talk with me.

She remembers him in a happy time, riding through the Alps on his motorcycle, at a time when he still owned one. His smile *
as she looked at him.

There has been no threat to their happiness. Only a moment, a few weeks ago, when she heard a faint roar and, looking up, barely made out the silhouettes of British planes, bombers, in the sky high above, far away.

How could the war touch their kingdom, or disturb their peace, when they are so insignificant in the scheme of things, so far from Vienna and Berlin.

He touches her belly. She is pregnant now.

FANI (CONT'D)

We have all we want. All we need.
Nothing can change our love. We
have our children. Our home. Each
other. Nothing can take our
happiness away.

They pass under a wreath they have set above their door.

FRANZ

Yes, my wife. We'll always have
each other.

9 BABY 9

A child is born. A girl: Loisi. Her two older sisters look on in amazement. Franz turns to Fani and laughs. Their happiness is complete.

10 POSTMAN 10

The next day they hear the ring of a little bell. The Postman appears on his bicycle with a letter. Franz reads it.

FRANZ
I've been called up.

11 EXT. ORCHARD - RESIE, FANI'S SISTER 11

Fani is with her sister, Resie.

FANI
Just for training. A transportation unit.

RESIE
Are you afraid?

12 EXT. PARADE GROUND (20 OCTOBER 1940) 12

Franz marches in step with a group of draftees.

FRANZ (O.S.)
After six months we'll be done with this training. Will the war be over? For now I can only be with you in my thoughts. It's hard when I think of you -- when I remember our home. How is our baby? When I come home, I'll be surprised at how big she is... Have you considered using a horse? I don't think your team of cows would be offended if you put them in retirement.

13 ROSALIA, FRANZ'S MOTHER 13

Franz's mother, Rosalia, helps Fani load a pig into a car. Fani is courteous to her mother-in-law, but Rosalia answers with a certain degree of distrust and suspicion, as if she imagined Franz had married beneath him.

14 EXT. FIELDS, ST. R 14

Fani reaps a field of fresh grass, with Resie and a family of neighbors.

FANI (O.S.)

Your mother helps me in the fields. It's no good when we have to rely too much on the neighbors, always asking for help, and thanking them. The Strohofers have been kind.

(she thanks the neighbors)

The pig almost didn't fit in the car. Only a boy came for it. It weighed 326 pounds. There was a wedding at the church.

(a happy bride outside the church)

I've finished tilling the oats. At the start, I had a hard time with the potatoes. It brought me to the point of tears.

She puts hay up in the barn.

15 INT. J HOUSE - THE CHILDREN

15

Fani feeds the children and puts them to bed.

FANI (O.S.)

Rosi is always asking about you. When we're going to bed, she says, "Papa's locked out!" At meals, "Save some for Papa." If I get up at night, "Is Papa home?" Her sister tells her, "He'll bring sausage!"

16 THE CHILDREN

16

The older girls play with Loisi, their new sister.

FRANZ (O.S.)

You know how the children bring me joy. A feeling of good fortune comes over me here, so that tears flow from my eyes, when I think of them, and you, and our reunion. You're doing so much. When I come home, there'll be no more work for me. I'll become a babysitter!

She scolds the girls when they get into mischief, as often they do.

17 EXT. J FARM

17

Fani washes the cows. She churns milk into butter. She gathers a wagonload of straw. She lays the hay out in windrows to dry.

FANI (O.S.)

I have to scold the girls. They argue terribly. They're always demanding my attention. Maridl hits Rosi, who says "You're bad." Then Maridl says, "I'm good," and Rosi says, "I'm good, you're bad." Maridl pulled a leg off of Rosi's doll and said, "Now the other one comes off, too!" Rosi wanted to go to the doctor to get the leg put back on.

(a man in a dark forest)

When Sterz is done with his work he goes into the forest and weeps. Toni Strohofer is always hungry.

(a hungry man, stealing beets)

I could use your help washing the cows. They're always pleasant in the morning when they eat the leaves of the beets. Mathilde doesn't wash them before she milks them, so I wash them myself.

Mathilde; a lonely girl, knitting as she tends the sheep.

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

I sold a few pounds of cabbage 3 pfennigs a pound. Frau Huber bought 44.

Fani notices a man walking by, looking at Resie.

FANI (CONT'D)

He's interested in you. Look!

RESIE

I don't trust men.

18 EXT. KASERNE - COURTYARD

18

Franz, with other soldiers from his unit.

He sees how they defer to the Nazi captain, who lords it over them, puffed up with a sense of his importance.

They watch newsreels of Nazi victories in the West, shown on a bedsheet strung from a clothesline.

FRANZ (O.S.)
 Much beloved wife! I am grateful
 for every word you send.
 Hopefully, winter won't come too
 soon. The farmers have their beets
 still in the field. Are you glad
 we don't have beets?

Franz listens as his comrades roar with delight at the misfortunes of their neighbors. Bewildered French peasants gaze at their German conquerors, ask them for food or fuel. *

19

EXT. J FARM

19

The children are older now. Loisi has learned to crawl. Franz's mother holds her in leading strings.

FANI (O.S.)
 Loisi is a little pest. She always
 wants to be held. Rosi wanted to
 take your picture to bed with her
 tonight. You were supposed to
 sleep beside her. I told her that
 when father comes home, he will.
 She answered that father is
 already home. They gave your photo
 so many kisses. Rosi recognizes
 you, but Maridl simply said,
 "Man."

This morning, I was picking up the
 piglets. Szailler was there. The
 calf is now five weeks old. We
 worked hard this past week,
 spreading the manure. Toni Stott
 was given 4 months in prison
 because he spoke out. He opened
 his mouth too wide. You'll not do
 the same. Those who speak out lose
 their leave.

20

EXT. ROAD - MOVING MOTORCYCLE

20

Franz speeds down a road on his motorcycle in a military overcoat.

FRANZ (O.S.)
 Dearly beloved wife! I was
 delighted to hear from you.

FRANZ (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 Hopefully the straw will not run out too early in the spring. You must use it sparingly. Have you greased the scythes and hung them up? Warm greeting from your loving husband, Franz. Many warm greetings to Mother, too, and to the little ones. See you again.

Franz watches an officer swagger and shout. A cadet, passing by, gives him a Hitler salute. Franz looks away, pretends not to see.

21 EXT. J FARM

21

Fani and Franz's mother whitewash the house.

FANI (O.S.)
 Besenbock will be called away. We must send him a goose.
 (the girls scuffle)
 Loisi is a dear sparrow. Always trying new things. She doesn't go far yet. At most a step. She flutters about and falls. Then she is up again. She keeps your mother busy. She wants to be in every scuffle, though she always gets the worst of it. I feel badly for her, and I cannot help her. Her sisters are always the same rascals. Tomorrow I'll do the cultivating. Hopefully, I'll hit no hard spots. I have a fear of such places.

Fani works in the fields, spreading manure with a pitchfork. Fani greases the scythes and hangs them up in the barn.

22 EXT. LAKE (SOUTH TYROL)

22

While on maneuvers, Franz meets a fellow soldier a few years younger than himself. His name is Rogowski.

There is no pretense about this man. He is kind, generous, honest, and endlessly optimistic. He lives in the moment, forgetful of the past, with no thought to the future. *

Rogowski's face wears the innocent expression of a child, and like a child everything he says or does is spontaneous and genuine. *

Franz wonders how he lives as he does.

Franz's unit is bivouacked by a lake. After early morning calisthenics, they learn their weapons.

Franz plunges his bayonet into a straw dummy.

FRANZ (O.S.)

It need not be that everything in this world comes about as we want for ourselves. We don't see the future. It may be a good thing that we don't. Let's resolve to begin the new year in confidence and good cheer. I have a few oranges for you. Speak with Schirk. They have the best oats. Whether our oats are also among the best is a good question.

Concerning the butchering of the swine, do not wait for me.

Fani and Franz's mother prepare a sow for butchering.

23 EXT. KASERNE

23

A Sergeant takes Franz aside.

SERGEANT

Lucky man! You've been let go from military service -- to manage your farm! France has surrendered. We'll have peace now.

24 EXT. ST. R SQUARE

24

Franz returns to Radegund. Home! He greets his neighbors as he passes through the main square on the way back to his farm.

25 EXT. J FARM

25

Fani and the children rush out to greet him.

FRANZ

You see? We just had to pray.

They celebrate. Franz dances for the children. In the windows a light burns past dusk.

26 EXT. VILLAGE SQUARE

26

A few days later, Franz comes across a neighbor in the village square, a farmer named HESSLER. His friends are consoling him. There has been some unexpected event.

FRANZ
Hessler, what is it?

HESSLER
I've been called up. We thought there would be peace, but this war goes on. I don't know why.

His friends look at each other. Their eyes dart left and right.

FRIEND
Shhh.

They pat him on the back. It could happen to anyone.

27 EXT. FIELD - LATER, ALONE

27

Franz questions his friend. Now they are alone.

FRANZ
Do you believe in what we're fighting for?

HESSLER
A little. No. Not really.

FRANZ
We've invaded other countries. Stolen their land. And now we're doing it again. Aren't they the heroes, who fight against us -- who defend their homes?
(no reply)
Is something right -- just because the crowd is shouting it?

Hessler bows his head.

28 EXT. WOODS

28

Passing through the woods, Franz sees a madman in the distance. Dishevelled, his hair and beard grown out; a mad look in his eyes, of fear or dread. It seems the poor fellow had not expected anyone to pass this way. He looks at Franz for a moment, then slips off, into the darkness of the trees.

29

INT. J HOUSE

29

Fani can see that Franz is holding something back.

FANI

What is it?

(after a pause)

Toni opened his mouth too wide.

FRANZ

I wouldn't do anything that would
bring you reproach...

He looks in on his children. He kisses them as they sleep.

FANI (O.S.)

To have a good husband -- a home --
they're enough to make you
happy... To love and be loved is
the greatest happiness on earth.

30

INT. J BEDROOM - NIGHT

30

Franz wakes up with a gasp. He lights a candle. Fani looks at him, startled.

FRANZ

I had a dream. I saw my father. I
asked him what it was like in
death. Could he tell me? He shook
his head... Then I saw a train --
a wonderful train -- coming
through the mountains. The
locomotive was powerful -- dark --
it drew the children. They ran to
it and weren't held back. You
couldn't see where it was going --
just the trees and fields,
flashing by.

31

EXT. TRAIN (STOCK FOOTAGE, B&W) - DREAM

31

A train. A black locomotive. Coal is shovelled into the
furnace. The tracks weave in and out. Pistons drive the
engine forward: an overwhelming, relentless force.

FRANZ (O.S.)

Then a voice -- the voice said
"This train is going into
darkness!" I think it was a
message.

Franz on his motorcycle, the wind in his hair, the lovely sense of being free of all constraint, rushing on.

32 NEXT MORNING 32

The next morning, at breakfast:

FRANZ

Those other men were like brothers.

33 EXT. ECKINGER HOF - DAY 33 *

The neighbors debate with Franz.

NEIGHBOR

Who are you? Even the Cardinal ordered us to pray for Hitler -- to ring the bells on his birthday. Fly the swastika from the steeple. You forget. *

ECKINGER

You can't blame the Cardinal for that. He hoped, by doing it, that the regime would be more tolerant toward the church. But now the priests are sent to concentration camps. Church processions banned. Mass on feast days, even Christmas, prohibited unless the feast falls on Sunday! We don't have a say. It's them up the hill that decide our fate. *

Officials from a fortress near St. Radegund wander through the street, singing. *

34 EXT. FORTRESS (BURG SAND) 34

The fortress, far away. Seat of the military authorities, it sits on a high hill, overlooking the valley below. It stands alone in the dusk.

ECKINGER (O.S.)

What do you say, Franz? *

35 EXT. FIELDS - WIESENKREUZ

35

Franz wanders through the fields, disturbed by the sense that a decision may soon be required of him, one that will put the happiness of his family at risk and set him at odds with the village, which he has loved since he was a boy. *

Out in the fields, a crucifix stands on a pole, a gabled roof above it to shelter it from the snow. Uncanny. It stops him in his tracks. *

The figure on the crucifix looks down at him in silence. Franz turns away, embarrassed. The path wanders on through the fields of barley. But he cannot leave. He looks up again, takes off his hat. There is no one else in sight. The fields thrum with crickets.

Franz takes off his hat, afraid. There are monuments to pain everywhere in these mountains. So incongruous. What is it he now finds in that face? *

Franz can tell no one. Especially not those closest to him. He cannot tell his wife. *

36 EXT. ST. R CHURCH

36

One afternoon, Franz is cleaning up the church when he comes upon a painter, a stranger to these parts.

OHLENDORFF, A PAINTER
I'm here to touch up the ceiling. *

Franz watches the stranger mix his paints. Above them, on the ceiling, spreads a pleasant view of the heavens.

37 INC POV ON THE CEILING

37

OHLENDORFF (O.S.)
They look up and imagine that if they'd lived back in his time, they wouldn't have done what the others did. They would've stood by him. They wouldn't have run. His friends did, though. They would, too. *

As the painter is talking, scenes from Franz's life flash through his mind:

- 38 FLASHBACK MONTAGE - EXT. FIELD 38
 Franz sows a newly-ploughed field. *
- OHLENDORFF (O.S.) *
 And I -- do I imitate him? No, I
 live off his life. I make a living
 by presenting him.
- 39 FLASHBACK MONTAGE - EXT. FIELD 39
 Franz works with his neighbors, remembers how they help each
 other here, neighbors depending on each other, like a family,
 and drawing closer to each other because of it.
 What else is there in life but getting closer to each other?
- OHLENDORFF (O.S.) *
 Others will look at this picture,
 and think that sympathizing with
 him -- being moved by his story --
 will benefit them in the beyond.
- 40 FLASHBACK MONTAGE - EXT. FIELDS 40
 Franz cuts wheat with a scythe, stopping from time to time to
 sharpen it with a whetstone he carries on his waist.
- OHLENDORFF (O.S.) *
 They'll count themselves lucky
 that they didn't live in times
 like ours, when your life might be
 demanded of you.
- 41 FLASHBACK MONTAGE - EXT. FIELDS 41
 Franz threshes the wheat by hand.
- OHLENDORFF (O.S.) *
 Instead of suffering for the
 truth, I paint it.
- 42 FLASHBACK MONTAGE - EXT. BARN 42
 The girls leap down from the hay loft onto the fresh straw.
- OHLENDORFF (O.S.) *
 I turn the suffering of the brave
 into my livelihood. So people can
 look up from these pews and dream!

- 43 FLASHBACK MONTAGE - J HOUSE 43
Fani pulls a loaf of bread out of the oven. *
- 44 FLASHBACK MONTAGE - CHICKEN COOP 44
A hen shelters her chicks. *
- 45 FLASHBACK MONTAGE - INT. BELL TOWER 45
Franz cranks up the counterweights for the clock in the bell tower.
OHLENDORFF (O.S.) *
I paint this comfortable man. A
halo over his head. Some day I'll
paint the true one.
- 46 EXT. FIELDS 46
Franz rings the bell. Its sound rolls out through the fields.
- 47 FLASHBACK MONTAGE - EXT. ST. R CHURCH 47
Franz looks on a procession. The men carry banners and statues. A statue sits on a platform, set aside, ignored, but seemingly looking on, with what emotion he cannot tell.
- 48 EXT. GRAVEYARD - RAIN 48
Franz remembers a man bent over a fresh grave by the church, weeping in the driving rain, spreading an umbrella to keep the water from soaking down into the freshly-turned sod.
- 49 EXT. FIELD 49
Fani in the fields, bent under a load of hay. She goes quietly about her tasks.
Franz comes forward and kisses her. She wonders what has moved him to, out here in the open, just now.
FRANZ
Can I do anything for you?
She shakes her head.

He sees his mother, her arms hardened by a life of ceaseless labor, like the limbs of an old tree that has passed through many a storm.

He plays with the elder two girls, whom he has put up into a tree to pick apples. They look down at him from the branches and laugh. Their little sister hugs his knees, clamoring to be picked up.

Franz takes Fani's hand.

FRANZ (CONT'D)

I've always felt I didn't have
much to give you. But you took me.
Even though I was a plain man.

FANI

I took the best man I've ever
known.

How could he have loved anyone who came short of that mark?

FRANZ

Maybe others thought you could've
done better.

FANI

Our children have a good father.

50 RURAL SCENES - CATTLE TRUCK, PLOW, HORSES, ETC 50

Images flash through Franz's mind. A plow breaking through the earth. Oxen. Patient, resigned, as he waters them. A gaggle of geese. None strays far from the others.

Taking up a jug of water he has left to cool in a shock of wheat, some bumblebees fly out. He laughs as he retreats, swatting them away.

Hot metal hammered out at a blacksmith's forge. *

Dusk. Cattle in the back of a truck, on their way to the slaughterhouse. They stir and stamp, uneasily.

51 INT. POOR WOMAN'S COTTAGE 51

Franz cleans the cottage of a poor old woman, an invalid. He prepares a meal for her and cheers her with his conversation. *
Someone rarely visited by others. *

- 52 EXT. GASTHAUS 52
- Franz sits alone at the end of the day, drinking a beer.
- His neighbors are gathered nearby. The mayor. The blacksmith and farrier. The policeman. The clerk.
- They sing old songs. Franz does not join in.
- 53 SPRING FESTIVAL 53
- Radegund celebrates the Fasching festival.
- The people gather in a procession to drive out winter and prepare for the return of spring. They wear carved wooden masks, with crowns of flowers on their heads. They ring cowbells and dance. *
- Why would he set himself at odds with those whom he has grown up to cherish -- to whom he owes every consideration? *
- 54 EXT. PATH 54
- Franz passes a neighbor on his way home through the fields.
- NEIGHBOR
- Heil Hitler!
- Franz ignores him. The neighbor frowns, waiting for an explanation.
- FRANZ
- Pfui Hitler!
- The neighbor looks around to see if anyone has heard, then goes silently on his way. Franz trembles all over; his heart is in his throat.
- 55 EXT. ST. R CHURCH 55
- Franz is tidying up around the church when he sees Fr. Fürthauer, the young pastor of the parish. He has taken the place of another priest, Fr. Josef Karobath, who, a few years earlier, was jailed for giving an anti-Nazi sermon, and subsequently banished from the district. Fr. Fürthauer has good reason to be careful about what he says to this troubled young man coming to him for guidance.

Franz finishes ringing the bell. No one has come to mass today. They are alone.

FRANZ

Father -- I'm troubled -- if I'm called up, I can't serve. We are killing innocent people. Raiding other countries. Preying on the weak. And the priests call them heroes, even saints -- the soldiers that do this.

FR. FÜRTHAUER

Have you spoken with anyone else? Your wife? Your family?

(Franz shakes his head)

Don't you think you ought to consider the consequences of your actions -- for them?

Fürthauer is wary of Franz, who might after all be a Gestapo agent, trying to see if he can extract some incautious word from the priest.

FR. FÜRTHAUER (CONT'D)

You'd almost surely be shot.

FRANZ

Yes.

FR. FÜRTHAUER

Your sacrifice would benefit no one.

FRANZ

You might be right. More I fear that I might do--

FR. FÜRTHAUER

Wrong? Which is the greater wrong?

FRANZ

Speak freely, Father.

FR. FÜRTHAUER

I have often wished that I might act on all I believe. But I have to think whom I might harm -- Why do you look at me that way? You'd be taking your own life.

FRANZ

If it were that --

FR. FÜRTHAUER

I'll speak with the Bishop about
your case. A wiser man than I.

57 EXT. STREET

57

The priest takes Franz aside.

FR. FÜRTHAUER

No Catholic who refuses military service will get any support from his spiritual leaders. You know that, don't you? Can you blame them? For all they know you might be a Gestapo agent coming to trap them with your questions -- to lead them into an act of treason. To bring the wrath of the State down on our Church. They'd arrest any confessor who showed the slightest sign of sympathy for such inclinations.

Franz searches his eyes. Is the priest really in sympathy with him and just can't say so openly?

FR. FÜRTHAUER (CONT'D)

What can one do?

58 EXT. VILLAGE SQUARE

58

Now, as Franz passes through the village, it seems to him that his neighbors might not all be as happy, or as close, as he once imagined.

That man in the woods. The cry of a lunatic woman he heard one evening across a field from a distant, darkened house.

Swifts chase each other through the streets. The sky is full of their cries.

59 EXT. COUSIN'S FARMHOUSE

59

Franz debates with his cousin whether he should refuse military service or not. He still hasn't told Fani about his qualms.

His cousin warns him not to speak about the matter with others in the village. There are jealous, angry people. A few. They might report him.

60 INT. J HOUSE 60

Franz has told her. She pretends this is a question they need not face.

FANI
(after a silence)
They won't call you up. They need farmers. How else are people going to eat?

61 INT. GIRL'S BEDROOM 61

They look at the girls asleep in their beds.

FANI (O.S.)
Ask, and you'll be answered.

62 INT. MASTER BEDROOM 62

Later, Fani prepares their bed and lays out his clothes. It seems that she is making every effort to be kind and thoughtful, as though it were suddenly clear to her how precious her husband is to her, though her devotion to him has been more than apparent already.

63 THE POSTMAN 63

The Postman rides by on his bicycle, rings his bell and waves. Franz and Fani wait in fear and suspense every time he appears. He might deliver the same induction notice to Franz that his neighbor Hessler received. *

64 INT. BARN 64

Mother and son muck out the stalls.

FRANZ
What is it, mother?

ROSALIA
Will you not spare your family? Do you hate your wife? Your children?

FRANZ
No.

ROSALIA
Did I bring you into the world for
this?

FRANZ
Who's been talking with you?

ROSALIA
How would she maintain the farm?
With three young children. How
would she plow?

65 EXT. ORCHARD

65

Franz and Fani weed the orchard.

FRANZ
I went up to the mountains. They
tell me what to do. The river
does.

66 EXT. ALPS

66

Franz has come up to the high mountains on his motorcycle.
There is a sudden silence when he shuts the engine off.

High above stand the inaccessible peaks. The eternal snow and
rock. Below, the peaceful sound of a river, flowing nearby. A
distant cowbell.

The bluebells and vetch. Clover. Fireweed. Negligence;
vacancy. Peace. Why not always?

O, for the wings of a dove! To fly far from trouble and
grief!

To his wife Franz presents a face of confidence and strength,
but inwardly he is assailed with torment, doubt and fear.

From time to time we hear him inwardly expressing those
feelings or recalling his past, to strengthen himself against
them.

*

FRANZ O.S. (INTERIOR VOICE)
My wife! You seemed like someone
come from heaven. Humble. Kind.
Through your eyes you sent a
sweetness into my heart.

FRANZ O.S. (INTERIOR VOICE) (CONT'D)
 You make me feel I have no enemy
 in all the world.

67 EXT. BARN - RESIE 67

Fani's sister takes Franz aside.

RESIE
 You took Fani's happiness into
 your hands. She might have had
 other men. Not many besides you
 would think it a duty to add to
 their troubles this way.

An image of the onrushing train passes through Franz's mind.

68 INT. LINZ CATHEDRAL 68

Franz and Fani have come to Linz to meet with the Bishop.
 They look up in awe as they enter the cathedral. The organist
 is practising a hymn.

69 INT. WAITING ROOM 69

Franz paces back and forth. Bishop Fliessen has kept them
 waiting for more than an hour.

CLERK
 The Bishop will be with you
 shortly.

70 INT. BISHOP'S CONSULTING ROOM 70

Franz bows to the Bishop, who holds out his hand and, after
 some pleasantries, moves quickly to business.

BISHOP
 You have a responsibility -- to
 those within your private circle.
 Your family! Have you had a
 personal revelation from above?
 Was your conscience told to ignore
 the instruction of those
 responsible for your spiritual
 guidance?

FRANZ
 I'm not sure.

BISHOP

Not sure? I have a responsibility for the souls of your parish. It weighs heavily on me. I wouldn't be able to sleep were I either to keep silent -- or to speak out at the wrong time. Each of us must fulfill his duty -- willingly, loyally -- devote himself wholly to the service of his Fatherland... You know the words of the Apostle: let every man be subject to the powers placed over him.

FRANZ

And if our leader is -- a monster --
- what does one do?

BISHOP

Our home's at stake. Our people. Be a man. Be strong... Our Leader knows war's horror. He himself was a soldier at the front. He tried to spare Europe from this conflict. But there was no avoiding it. Our enemies would make us slaves.

71

INT. WAITING ROOM

71

Fani paces back and forth. When Franz comes out of the consulting room, he looks sad, or fearful.

FRANZ

(in a whisper)

I think he was afraid -- that I might be a spy. He said we have to obey. But that was in other times. When there were clergy who could be obeyed -- They don't dare commit themselves. Or it could be their turn next.

(later)

They're flesh and blood, as we are. They can be weak. Maybe they're even more tempted.

72 EXT. CLOISTERS 72

Franz sees a group of monks tending a garden, smiling and chatting amiably. It seems they have no trouble with their conscience. They live unperturbed by the world.

Fani wraps her arms around him -- determined to support him, not to insist on herself, but they do have three girls.

Perhaps he will be exempted if ever he is called to military service, or assigned to a hospital job. Perhaps he would accept such a position. Perhaps he won't be called at all.

73 HITLER (NEWSREEL) 73

Images of Hitler, his face half-seen. *

FANI (O.S.)
 What difference will it make?
 He'll go on doing as he pleases.

74 EXT. PATH THROUGH WOODS 74

They walk home in silence, Franz's heart full to bursting.

FRANZ (O.S.)
 You didn't make the world the way
 it is.

75 EXT. J HOUSE 75

The girls run out to greet them. Rosalia looks on.

76 EXT. FIELDS 76

They are working in the fields when Franz's mother turns to him.

ROSALIA
 Good children obey. Their mother
 and father only want what's good
 for them. They know it. If they
 work hard, they can buy a house
 with a garden -- live happily to
 the end of their days.
 (after a pause)
 A man brings his wages home to his
 wife.

ROSALIA (CONT'D)

She puts them away, so that if ever they get sick, they can be nursed at home and won't need charity -- to raise their children or live into old age. People get what they deserve. Bad workmen come to bad ends.

Fani glancing up -- sees a sow's carcass, hanging from a pole outside the barn.

77 EXT. FIELD 77

Franz trembles inwardly. What does his honor require of him? It seems that no one can tell him the answer. He alone must decide. Never has he felt so alone -- he who has always been so close to his family, his neighbors.

78 EXT. GASTHAUS, BEER GARDEN 78

Franz sits in the beer garden, surrounded by friends, including the Mayor and the Policeman.

POLICEMAN

He got us into this war. The young men are gone --

MAYOR KRAUS

He did what he had to. He wasn't content to watch his nation go under. He saw what we'd become. No destiny. Everyone chasing after comfort, success. No ideals.

BLACKSMITH SPITZ

...Breaking into homes! Tearing the earrings off women's ears. My mother's old. I hope she dies soon.

MAYOR KRAUS

People saw that a fraud had been perpetrated against us. We found out that liberalism is a sham. Democracy. A mask for the commercial spirit. If we don't lift the youth out of this swamp, they'll drown in it.

The Mayor is a member of the Nazi party. Franz has looked up to him since he was a child. No one dares to contradict him.

MAYOR KRAUS (CONT'D)

Let's be glad democracy has died.
See where it led us! To deadlock.
Paralysis. Slaves of the rich! It
has no strength to stop the
crisis. Hitler is a new era. A new
truth.

(turning to Franz)

Your father would have stood here
and told you the same. He was in
the war. He fought! What did he
die for? In the trenches! The mud!

79 EXT. BONFIRE - NIGHT

79

The Mayor addresses a gathering of men in SA uniforms.

MAYOR KRAUS

Flame, teach us! Light us! Show us
the road! There's no way back!
Flame, ignite! Hearts, burn!

80 THE FOHN

80

The Föhn blows over the fields -- a dry, burning wind, that
melts the snow and clears the skies. Avalanches are loosed.
The risk of fire is great. Everyone is on the alert, in a
state of nervous expectation.

ECKINGER

The snow looks clear. We might be
able to send the flocks up early.

*

81 MONTAGE

81

Franz debates what he should do. Omens of death flash through
his mind; an open door, a curtain beyond which he cannot see,
a scythe cutting through the hay, the Salzach's far shore.

Evil takes on so many disguises. His conscience is restless.
He vacillates. No one can give him any advice in these
circumstances, even his own bishop.

All that was familiar to him now seems far away.

82 EXT. J HOUSE

82

Men in Nazi uniforms have come by the house to seek his
family's contribution to a collection they are making on
behalf of the war effort.

Franz looks at them, says nothing. The men go away; astonished. This will set tongues wagging.

83 INT. J HOUSE

83

Franz hears a knock on the door. He opens to find the Mayor standing before him.

MAYOR KRAUS

You have refused to contribute to our collection on behalf of the veterans! Their families!

This has clearly fanned the flame of suspicion in the community.

MAYOR KRAUS (CONT'D)

That is not like you.

(after a pause)

I also hear that you have refused to accept the family allowance, and other subsidies, that the State would generously have provided you. Why? Are you afraid to fight? Your father. A brave man. You never knew him. You were just a boy. I know what he would expect of you.

*

*

Fani listens from the next room, alarmed.

84 EXT. FIELDS

84

Franz holds his hands out to the youngest girl. She teeters towards him. It hasn't been long since she took her first steps.

From up in a tree, the older two girls drop apples down to their mother. She catches them in her apron.

Franz walks by the Salzach. The river flows peacefully along, whispering, murmuring -- what? What does it tell him? He wishes for some oracle; clear voice.

*

He bows his head in the field with his wife as the angelus rings in the Tittmoning church, to the west.

*

They dig up potatoes, tiny figures in the vast landscape. Fani sings as she works. Peasant faces. Baked by the sun.

*

Their hearts cringe at the sign of the Postman, who rings his bell as he rides by and gives them a friendly wave. They are not comfortable until he is gone.

The thud of cattle's hooves ring through the walls of the barn. It stands next to the house where they sleep, so they can profit from the animals' warmth

A scarecrow. Geese. The sound of a rooster. Light struggling through the slats of the barn doors

Franz digs a grave. The churchyard is silent, except for the sound of his shovel. Empty, silent, still.

Where does his duty lie?

Franz digs out a well. Fani's voice is indistinct as, in the light thirty feet above, she speaks with a neighbor. He looks up toward the blank, featureless sky. What would it be like to be away from her, forever buried in the earth this way? Water gathers at his feet.

FANI

Franz -- you know how proud you are! How stubborn! Make sure it isn't -- that.

The truth is, he can't be sure if his defiance is inspired by conscience, or instead by pride. She touches a nerve.

Is it a sign that you are right with your conscience that everything goes smoothly for you?

The ticking of a clock. A train whistle, far away. Franz trembles under the burden of his decision.

FANI (CONT'D)

Are you taking on too much? What can we do? The world is stronger.

Fani looks away. Surely it will not come to a crisis. She believes if they are good, everything will come out right. This is what she tells the children at bedtime. *

FANI (CONT'D)

Quiet now! Don't fight! Sleep!
(whispering to the eldest)
Every day's not Sunday. Every day
you won't have sunshine. But every
day you're dear to us. *

Franz listens, from the next room.

85 INT./EXT. BARN, HAY RICKS

85

Fani and her sister weave hay into a drying rack. Later, they ride their bicycles home.

RESIE

Does anyone else know? Just the priest? His mother looks at me coldly. Like I was to blame. I want what you want. I can't bear that he makes you suffer. He makes a choice for you, too.

FANI

Yes.

RESIE

Does he know what he's doing to you? Tell him! Pride! That's what it is.

FANI

No, I don't think so.

RESIE

Why don't you resist -- fight with him? You do nothing to stand in his way. He does what he likes -- with your happiness.

FANI

I trust him.

RESIE

Is he just stubborn?

86 FRANZ'S POV ON RESIE

86

Resie does not speak to Franz as they pass each other by. Franz is left to guess why. He risks cutting himself not only from his community, but from his family as well.

87 EXT. OBERSTALLER ALM

87

Franz walks though the alms, the high summer pastures where the farmers bring their cattle up to graze. *

He enters a deserted village. He looks around, puzzled. Where have the others gone? There is no one else in sight.

88 EXT. FIELDS

88

Franz talks with his neighbor Spitz, the Blacksmith, as he pounds a blade out on an anvil. *

FRANZ

If you don't think well of me,
never mind. That's neither here
nor there.

BLACKSMITH SPITZ

Don't make things worse for
yourself. The horse may have a
heavy load, but it won't help him
to throw it over into a ditch when
it's his own feed... *

Till now it hasn't occurred to Franz that any of his
neighbors would consider such a thing.

BLACKSMITH SPITZ (CONT'D)

Don't sail into the wind. Wait for
the storm to subside. Then you can
do your good. Your wife will be
destitute -- Your mother will have
no fire in the winter. *

FRANZ

We're going to pay for these
crimes.

BLACKSMITH SPITZ

You won't forget the evenings we
played together in the fields.
Till the dark came down. You loved
us all! We were friends together.
Take a friend's advice. Leave well
alone. You come too late. There's
nothing we can do. *

(seeing Franz unmoved)

Well, then I leave you to your
fate. Let's not quarrel. I only
tell you what you already know. *

89 FANI'S POV ON THE CHILDREN

89

The sight of their children playing with a duck fills their
mother with dread.

90 EXT. CHURCHYARD

90

Franz has come to visit Fürthauer, the priest.

FR. FÜRTHAUER

Don't say it.

(after a pause)

Does a man have the right to let himself be put to death for the truth? We can't all be martyrs -- Could it possibly please God? -- an act that would destroy your family's happiness?

*

(Franz looks away)

I know you were closer to my predecessor. Perhaps you had more faith in -- his judgement.

FRANZ

Ah, Fr. Karobath! He smoked. He liked wine. He liked to hunt, but he never came back with anything. He was a bad shot. We teased him.

*

Gradually, the voice of the priest becomes that of the painter who was restoring the ceiling of the church.

OHLENDORFF (O.S.)

The trouble with Christians is that no one wants to kill them anymore. There was a time when you'd be afraid to say you followed him, because it meant so much. Now it means nothing.

*

91 EXT. ROAD 91

Franz sees how the neighbors treat Fani coldly. Radegund has turned against them. Their home! Those whom they love!

92 INT. J HOUSE - NIGHT 92

Fani can tell there is something on her husband's mind. She dreads what it might be. She avoids speaking with him about it, as though by saying nothing he might in time forget these new whims and come to his senses.

FRANZ

Tell me.

FANI

Are the children asleep?

FRANZ

Did they say anything to you? I saw them speaking to you by the road.

FANI

They said their husbands have gone off. To war. Why should they fight to save us?

FRANZ

Did they hurt you? With their words?

FANI

I don't care.

FRANZ

Are you crying?

FANI

I never cry. It gives me a headache.

FRANZ

I love you.

FANI

I know.

Franz blows out the candle.

93

EXT. MILL

93

Franz has brought a load of oats to Trakl, the miller. They step outside by the water wheel as the grain is separated from the chaff.

TRAKL

If we could just see the beginning of his kingdom. If we could see only the sun of his kingdom rise. But -- Christ came and went. Nothing happened. Years go by, so many years. And nothing. Nothing ever!

*

(over the thud of the wheel)
So hard to make the good grow up.
One spark is all that's needed to set the field on fire. A single match.

*

*

TRAKL (CONT'D)

It takes months to lay it out --
to plough, to plant it -- more
work to make a crop, and then the
sword takes one minute. We're the
party of the plough. They're the
party of the sword. We'll always
be beaten.

Never has the kingdom of perdition
spread so far. A flood! We have to
learn how to live in this flood.

*
*

94 EXT. FIELD - FANI WITH HER SISTER - FIRE 94

Fani and Resie walk down the furrows, each with a sickle,
cutting the bad weeds out of the wheat.

FANI

He'll get an exemption. I know it.
They need farmers.

They gather the bad weeds in bundles and burn them. The grain *
they bring into the barn.

95 EXT. J HOUSE (2.22.43) 95

The postman rings. Fani and Franz look up with a start. *

They go out to meet him. He hands them a letter in an
official envelope, looking away as he does.

Franz rocks, like a tree in the wind.

They go away from the children, out to the field in back of
the house, beneath the apple tree. There he opens the
envelope. It is what they thought.

FANI

You could hide in the woods! I
could bring you food! We could run
away, to the mountains, where
nobody could find us. To
Switzerland.

FRANZ

The border is closed.

96 EXT. VILLAGE SQUARE 96

Others have heard of his refusal.

MAYOR KRAUS

You know what this means. Not only for your family. For the whole town! You'll be hanged. Your wife and children will have no one to support them. Your mother will die unconsolated.

97

FRANZ'S MOTHER

97

His mother looks at him in disbelief.

ROSALIA

Is this how you repay us?

Her will is set against his.

ROSALIA (CONT'D)

You've thrown away everything you had and gone down a step in life -- when your father gave you the means of rising.

FRANZ

We differ, mother. I'm sorry. But I'm grateful to you for wishing me the best.

ROSALIA

I have no more to say. I only hope your own children make you a better return for the pains you've spent on them. None of us can imagine how you could get into such a position when you're so law-abiding. It's a riddle. I'm an old woman, and the additional work will be considerable. How could I ever have imagined that, in the evening of my life, things would turn out this way? Haven't we had trouble enough already? Without inventing more?

*

FRANZ

Forgive me.

ROSALIA

Let's say no more.

His spirit rises a little at her certainty that she is in the right and wishes her to lecture him.

FRANZ

I know it seems to you I'm doing the worst to people I wish the best for. But they haven't given up on me. I don't see why you should.

ROSALIA

Young people are blind to everything but their own wishes. They seldom imagine how much those wishes cost others. You've thrown yourself away -- made their sacrifices vain. Let us say no more.

An image flashes through Franz's mind of the train he dreamed of -- its power, its onrushing force -- carrying them all to their ruin.

*
*

FRANZ

Mother, your life has been hard enough. I would never do anything to bring you needless -- pain.

*

ROSALIA

Trust me enough to know the reasons. Why people who have been loyal to you shouldn't expect loyalty in return?

*
*

FRANZ

You taught me: be brave, be true.

ROSALIA

Not just to yourself. Can you imagine how they are treated -- your wife, your children?

98 FANI AND FRANZ

98

Fani draws Franz's arm around her waist. Are they not one?

99 EXT. VILLAGE SQUARE

99

The local Policeman, his friend, approaches Franz on finding him alone.

POLICEMAN

I've known you since you were a boy. Spare me the pain of arresting you.

FRANZ
We'll go quickly.

103 EXT. SQUARE 103

Franz and Fani walk through the village. They exchange courteous greetings with their neighbors, who assume that Franz has put aside his rumored qualms and that he is now going off, like others before him, to assume his duties to the fatherland.

FRANZ
(to Fani, in a whisper)
I haven't said anything. There'd
be quarrels.

104 EXT. WOODS 104

Franz and Fani walk in silence through the woods.

105 EXT. SALZACH 105

They cross over the river.

FANI
Are you afraid?

FRANZ
Are you?

106 EXT. TRAIN STATION 106

They embrace each other, well out of the sight of others. The sound of an approaching train fills them with dread.

107 EXT. PLATFORM 107

The train is gone. Fani wanders the platform; lost, alone.

108 EXT. J HOUSE 108

Fani and Resie yoke up the cows. They note their neighbors in the distance.

RESIE
They think he went off because he
decided to serve. That he is with
the troops.

RESIE (CONT'D)
 (after a pause)
 I hate men.

109 POLICEMAN - NEW ANGLE 109

The Policeman bows to Fani.

POLICEMAN
 Thank you. I don't know how I
 would've done it.

Neighbors tell her how glad they are that Franz has changed his mind. She does nothing to undecieve them. Nor does she tell the children.

She looks up sharply at a knock on the door.

110 EXT. ENNS BARRACKS (INDUCTION CENTER) 110

Franz approaches the barracks in Enns, a city not far from Radegund. A line of conscripts snakes out the front door -- older men along with teenagers.

111 INT. ENNS BARRACKS, RECEPTION AREA 111

Franz's heart pounds in his ears. He approaches a young CAPTAIN sitting at a desk at the front of the line.

CAPTAIN HERDER
 Name?

FRANZ
 Jagerstatter

CAPTAIN HERDER
 From --

FRANZ
 St. Radegund. Upper Donau.

CAPTAIN HERDER
 Age?

FRANZ
 36.

CAPTAIN HERDER
 Children?
 (Franz nods)
 Names.

*

*

*

*

*

FRANZ
Rosalia. Maria... Aloisia.

112 NEW ANGLE 112

The men have lined up to take their oath to Hitler. Franz gathers his courage, says nothing as the others speak.

CAPTAIN HERDER
You. I didn't hear you. Step out
of the line. You will not take the
oath? You refuse?

*

Franz nods. The Captain looks at him; -- puzzled, not angry; almost embarrassed.

*

CAPTAIN HERDER (CONT'D)
Do you understand what you are
doing?

*

He motions to a pair of soldiers to take Franz away.

113 INT. CORRIDOR 113

Franz is led down a row of cells. The prisoners look at him, curious about the nature of his crime.

114 INT. CELL 114

Franz is put in a cell with four other prisoners, Frenchmen from the Lorraine: Andro, Levan, Max and Ermin.

*

CELLMATE MAX
We wouldn't take the oath. They
gave us 10 years hard labor.

*

They are taken with Franz's smile. He will find him honest, quiet, helpful -- ready to give them his last piece of bread from the meals they take in their cell, and satisfy himself with a little black coffee.

115 EXT. PRISON COURTYARD (LINZ/ENNS) 115

The prisoners are allowed a morning walk. Ten times around the yard.

PRISONER
You love your country?
(Franz nods)
Why won't you serve?

FRANZ
This war is senseless. Cruel.
Doomed.

PRISONER
Others do.

FRANZ
I know.

PRISONER
You'll be executed.

FRANZ
Better than do others' evil. And
die anyway.

116 MONTAGE (LINZ/ENNS PRISON)

116

The routine of the prison. Rise at 6, breakfast at 7, clean the cell, a few gymnastics. Whispered conversation. Tappings at the wall. Notes passed behind the backs of the guards.

FRANZ (O.S.)
Dearest wife! Warmest greetings
from my new residence. I have 24
hours in this place behind me. I
will be here for the duration of
my interrogation. So far it hasn't
been bad. There are five of us in
this cell. So many foreigners! The
food is not bad. There is no need
for you to be concerned about my
physical well-being. When we
submit ourselves to God's will,
everything turns out for the good.
May things come about as He wants.
If only they go well for you!

Franz sits with his eyes closed. The guards taunt him, as do a number of his fellow prisoners. (Improvvised)

117 EXT. ST. R FIELDS - FANI ALONE

117

Fani shears the sheep. No one from the village comes forward to help her. She sees them in the distance, nods. They look away.

At first they assumed that Franz had given up his scruples, gone off to answer his induction notice and serve with the troops. It must be that they begun to learn the truth.

Fani cuts the hay and rakes it out in aromatic rows. Little Rosi helps her mother drag a harrow through an uncultivated field. They bend their backs like beasts of burden.

118 INT. INTERROGATION ROOM (LINZ/ENNS)

118 *

Franz is led into a meeting room with a hundred chairs and a long table. He marvels at this world unlike any he has ever known.

CAPTAIN HERDER
(to the guard)
You may leave us alone.

*

He strides back and forth. He never looks directly at Franz.

CAPTAIN HERDER (CONT'D)
The company commander isn't here.
What good do you imagine your
defiance is doing anyone?
(no reply)

*

Do you expect to change the course
of things? Do you think the
authorities are aware of you? That
your protest will come to their
attention? That anyone will know
of it? Ever hear you? Do you think
it will influence some decision?
No one knows what goes on here.
Behind these walls. What purpose
does it serve?

His voice is calm and measured. There is no shouting; no abuse. Franz is surprised, a little pleased.

CAPTAIN HERDER (CONT'D)
Are you alone wise? Do you know
something I don't? Tell me what
that is.

*

(no reply)
Do you think it matters to God? Do
you think you matter to him? Then
why are you here?

*

He looks out the window, waiting for Franz to speak.

CAPTAIN HERDER (CONT'D)
Your God does nothing. Would I
pray to a spider? Poor man. No
individual bears a responsibility
for all this. That responsibility
belongs to one man. He stands
alone.

*

*

*

FRANZ
I won't follow his evil orders...
Does it make no difference whether
this war is just or unjust?

CAPTAIN HERDER
Has heaven told you this? What
does your priest say? Your bishop?

*
*

Franz must be careful not to compromise them.

FRANZ
We can't simply ask what our
bishop would do. We have to ask
what our conscience says to this.
It's hard to find the right path
now, when the signposts have been
blown around by the wind. Our
spiritual leaders -- are silent.

*
*

CAPTAIN HERDER
They might have their reasons. I
tell you this as someone who is
kindly disposed toward you. Do you
judge me?

*
*

FRANZ
I can't look into another man's
heart. I judge no one.

119 EXT. COURTYARD

119

Franz is led back to his cell. The guards are bored. There is
no Gestapo here, no SS. This is a provincial jail, and the
matter is a small one in the great scheme of things.

FRANZ O.S. (INTERIOR VOICE)
I waited... No one else seemed
troubled in the same way. It
seemed they knew something that I
didn't.

*

120 INT. CELL

120

Franz talks with a cellmate, Carlo.

CARLO
A good war. For them to make money
on. I've seen lots of things since
I was a boy. It only gets worse.
They leave the poor man behind.
This is the big folks' world.

CARLO (CONT'D)

When the ship goes down, it's the boys in the engine room who go first.

*
*

FRANZ

What did you do before you got there?

CARLO

A robber age. The law is: rob or be robbed.

FRANZ

Do you have a family?

Carlo shakes his head. He has no way of learning the uncertainty Franz feels. Franz is alone, in many ways.

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

My wife. My children. Lead me. Tell me what I should do.

CARLO

I see no use for the church. It's left the stage. Each man has to find his way alone.

FRANZ

How have you?

CARLO

If I had, I wouldn't be here. But it makes me sick to see men get down on their knees. The church is a whorehouse. The whole idea of it -- loathsome, low. As if men got down in the mud to worship. They never get down on their real knees. Myself, I bow to nothing.

*
*

The image of the train, which has haunted Franz from the beginning, passes quickly before his mind's eye. The engineer shovelling coal into the firebox. The pistons, the interweaving tracks.

CARLO (CONT'D)

How can you cast your care on him - or make him your hope? Look what happened to him! The same will happen to you!

*

121 INT. PRISON (LINZ/ENNS) - SERIES OF ANGLES

121

Franz goes about his daily routine. The prisoners are rounded up for a walk in the courtyard. They empty out their slop buckets, are given bread and beans, and a wooden spoon to eat them with.

FRANZ (O.S.)

(from a letter)

Dearest wife, I am once again grateful for all of the love and faithfulness and sacrifice that you have shown me and the whole family -- and that you are continuing to show me. It will also be a difficult sacrifice not to have someone with whom you can be angry and perhaps not to have anyone who will hurt you. Love requires it, always striving for more perfection. It will become easier for you. At least you know to whom you can entrust your hurts.

122 EXT. ST. R HOUSE

122

Fani helps a poor woman, a widow who lives on the outskirts of St. Radebund. The widow is grateful to Fani, while others regard her with suspicion.

FRANZ (O.S.)

Forgive everyone, including me, if you suffer because of me. Help the poor for as long as you can... Don't be angry with mother even if she does not understand.

123 INT. PRISON COURTYARD (LINZ/ENNS)

123

Franz gives his letter to one of his cellmates, who hides it away.

FRANZ (O.S.)

This letter will leave here this morning with a cellmate who is being released. It will come to you without being censored. You should not give testimony to anyone.

FRANZ (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 If someone asks you if you agree
 with my decision not to fight,
 only say how it has been most
 difficult for you. You cannot
 lighten things for me.

New officers interrogate Franz. They try to trap him with
 trick questions, but still there is no physical abuse, if
 anything, they find a strange curiosity about him.

FRANZ (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 I have no fear of the officials.
 If I did, I wouldn't be here. I
 want to save my life, but not
 through lies. They try to trap me
 with trick questions. It hasn't
 been easy to stick with my
 decision. It may become more
 difficult.

OFFICER
 What did your priest say?

FRANZ
 To report for military service.

OFFICER
 Do you know better than he?

FRANZ (O.S.)
 I had to keep silent concerning
 his words, or he would no longer
 be free... One runs into bitter,
 disillusioned men. Men who broke
 various kinds of laws. It is
 horrible, what they have suffered.
 For the slightest offense, they
 are imprisoned for years. But it
 is all forgiven if one agrees to
 fight on the front.

124 EXT. ST. R CHURCH

124

The three girls play in the yard. Loisi turns to her mother:

LOISI
 When will Father be home? Will he
 bring sausage?

The two older girls look puzzled.

STILLS



Valerie Pachner and August Diehl



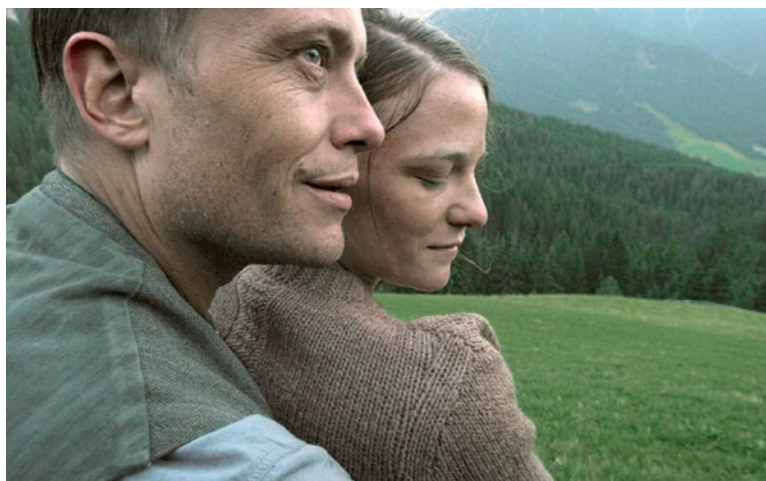
Valerie Pachner and August Diehl



August Diehl



August Diehl



August Diehl and Valerie Pachner



August Diehl and Valerie Pachner



August Diehl



Valerie Pachner and August Diehl

FANI (O.S.)
 ...Her older sisters understand
 that you can't come home so
 quickly. Maridi prays for you.
 (the child, praying)
 Rosl even makes small sacrifices --
 (She hides a doll in a tree)
 so that our loving Father will
 bring you home soon. She sang a
 song for you -- wondered if you
 could hear. I write about only the
 good things that your children do.
 You already know their lesser
 traits.

The girls bicker, push each other.

FANI (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 We haven't yet told the children
 where you are. I have told only
 the pastor about your situation.
 Breinbauer died March 1st, in
 combat. A son of the Hofbauers is
 missing.
 (war scenes; stock)
 How do you find yourself
 spiritually? Do you find solace?
 Writing to you now, in your
 current situation, makes me
 terribly sad. I still had a small
 hope that you would change your
 mind because you have compassion
 for me and know that I cannot help
 being as I am.

125 INT. CELL

125

Franz paces his cell. A moan of despair comes faintly to his ears.

FRANZ (O.S.)
 I fear you suffer much because of
 me, dear wife. Forgive me for
 everything I have done wrong.
 Don't be concerned about me. The
 food and the conditions here are
 good.

Franz overhears his neighbors, wrangling with each other. *

CELLMATE MAX *
 Why not? Tell me: why not? Get it
 out of my mind, into my body.

CELLMATE MAX (CONT'D)

Why not's what I say. Mind over matter. I've seen things. Know things. I know their weakness.

CELLMATE ERMIN

They see a weak spot, they go for it. Now I think before I do stuff. They didn't read me my rights. They said I didn't comply. Only dogs are free.

*
*
*

CELLMATE MAX

I don't get the point of things.

*
*

CELLMATE ERMIN

I got thrown off the train the rest of them are riding on. Now I've got to crawl back up a hill of broken glass, get back on that train going a thousand miles an hour. Work my way from the cattle car up. I blame myself.

*

*

126

EXT. ST. R FIELDS, WELL, FOREST ETC.

126

FANI (O.S.)

We could use you here for work. Especially to break in the calf.

The calf refuses to be harnessed. Fani has to run to catch it. Swaying its head, it knocks her to the ground, then looks at her with innocent, apologetic eyes.

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

Twice it was harnessed to the manure spreader and pulled it here and there. When there's no one else, one must think about everything. If only you could come home to cultivate the oats... to rake the hay!

Fani gathers brushwood from the forest. She moves though the dark woods, looking for dead limbs.

127

EXT. FARM - FANI WITH ROSALIA

127

Fani and Franz's mother carry water from a stream. The well has run dry. Rosalia's frustration grows when her bucket spills on the ground.

ROSALIA
Now they know.

FANI
Who?

ROSALIA
The others. Everyone. Someone must
have told them. Your sister!

FANI
She would never say anything.

FANI (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Our well has run out of water. We
have to carry water with buckets.
If you could come home to improve
things... We don't trust ourselves
in the well, so it still is full
of mud... Already we need rain to
cultivate the oats. Greetings from
your three little women.

The girls play nearby, unaware of their grandmother's
mounting displeasure with Fani.

FANI (O.S.) (CONT'D)
They say to tell you only about
the good things they are doing. Of
course! But I would not surprise
you by telling you about their
disobedience.

MARIDI
If pappa comes home, we won't
fight anymore.

128 INT. J HOUSE

128

When, at the end of the day, Fani goes to close the door, her
youngest daughter cries out. *

LOISI
Don't lock it!

FANI
Why?

LOISI
When he comes home -- he won't be
able to get in.

FANI (O.S.)

One must accept everything that He sends us with gratitude. He loves us. He won't send us more than we can bear.

129 EXT. FIELDS OF OATS

129

Rosalia's hostility has grown to a settled disposition.

ROSALIA

Do you tell him? Everything?

FANI

Write him yourself.

ROSALIA

My hand would tremble. I'm afraid that, when he's gone, I'll hate him for it. I, his own mother!

FANI (O.S.)

Today we finished the cultivation of the oats. The calf now walks with such ease that it can be with the cows. The weather is lovely, and so we have much to do. I remain continually concerned about you. Warm greetings from your loving wife, Fani! Greetings, too, from mother, sister and the children! Be well. See you again!...

130 EXT. ROAD BACK FROM THE FIELDS

130

Two neighbor women pass Fani on the road.

FANI

Why do you look at me that way?

FRAU PATE

We know.

FANI

What is it? What?

FRAU PATE

Our husbands fight so you can be safe?

They look at her with cold, unforgiving eyes.

FRAU PATE (CONT'D)
 An act of madness. A sin against
 his family. His village!

2ND WOMAN
 His church.

FRAU PATE
 You kept it a secret.

2ND WOMAN
 An uneducated farmer.

FRAU PATE
 He'll be forgotten.

They leave Fani, fighting back her tears.

131 EXT. ST. R SQUARE 131

Driving her cart through the main square, Fani is treated to the cold stares of neighbors whose warm greetings she has been accustomed to.

132 EXT. MILL 132

As she gives her grain to Trakl, the miller, she lowers her eyes in confusion and shame.

133 INT. MILL 133

A water wheel drives the mill. Fani watches as the grain is separated from the chaff.

134 EXT. MILL 134

Trakl loads the sacks of milled grain back onto her cart.

FANI
 But -- You've given me back --
 more than I gave you.

He does not meet her eyes. He bows in silence. Fani goes away, moved.

135 INT. CELL

135

Franz calms a cellmate who is trembling and shaking with fear and despair.

FRANZ (O.S.)

Now my little ones! Dear Rosl, Maridl and Loisi. Thank you for praying for me. It will bring me great joy if I am able to see you again soon. I urge you not to quarrel. Also, do not lie. I believe the heavenly Father will bring it about that I shall come home to you. Since this won't happen soon, Mother must be able to lock the door at night. I shall come home during the day. And dear wife, have you brought in the straw from the pasture? Yesterday I saw buds on an apricot tree. My three girls will already be running barefoot and picking flowers. It would be better to tell them where their father is than to tell them stories. And, dear wife, I wish to ask something of you. Would it be possible to put some pieces of edelweiss in the next letter? A cellmate here requested that I get him some -- a young Frenchman condemned to death a few weeks ago. He would like to send edelweiss to his beloved as a farewell gift.

136 EXT. WELL

136

Fani scrapes in the darkness at the bottom of a well. Resie looks down from above. They both are covered with mud.

FANI (O.S.)

The well went dry on Thursday. We dug it out. Now we need a good rain. At the moment we must carry our water. Here are some violets, though they will be dead by the time you get them. The children, when they see beautiful flowers, immediately want to send them to their father, who will laugh when he receives them.

They carry water home in pails.

ROSALIA
 (to the sisters)
 You should've dug it out. You
 waited!

137

EXT. FIELD

137

Strohofer, a neighbor, gives the sisters a ride in his wagon. When Fani goes to pay him, he shakes his head. Resie is moved to tears by this small kindness. It seems not everyone in the village has turned against them.

FANI (O.S.)
 Strohofer gave us a ride to
 Tittmoning. He did not demand
 payment and would not accept any.
 Greetings to you in God, most
 beloved husband.

They cut sedge grass from the banks of the Salzach river.

FANI (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 Many think things aren't going
 well for you. Though I can't help
 you and can send you nothing, I
 would like to visit you, if only
 for a few minutes. I don't know
 whether I may. What do you think?

138

EXT. BARN

138

The sisters put up straw.

FANI
 I tried to get in touch with the
 fortress. They don't answer. My
 husband loves his country. They
 don't answer the phone! When I can
 even get a signal. How do you get
 their attention? Who are they
 accountable to? You can't get at
 them. There's nobody to connect
 the call. If you get someone, he's
 not the one in charge.

Resie has now come to live with Fani, to help with the farm. They are more and more cut off from life in the community. Neighbors pass by, without exchanging a word, eyeing them coldly.

Fani thinks of the fortress -- remote, dark and incomprehensible. The place where their fates will be decided.

FANI (CONT'D)

They don't explain! Anything! Why should they be in charge? Why -- should they run the world? Did they ask him if he would accept work in a hospital? We don't want any favors from them. Just his rights.

RESIE

How was it when you went?

FANI

So strange! At first I couldn't find anyone.

139 EXT. BURG (SAND)

139

Inside the fortress, the narrow streets are curiously deserted. There are small buildings here and there, the plaster flaking off the walls. The battlements are crumbling from neglect.

Everyone Fani meets is amiable enough, but no one seems to know the name of the official she asks to speak with. At last she arrives at the office of a Major Kiel. He sits behind a desk. A corporal in an S.S. uniform plays Mozart in the next room.

MAJOR KIEL

Here you are! Take a seat. Tell me your wishes!

(shuffling his papers)

Ah, I remember. The whole business! Now that you've been so kind as to visit, I must tell you the truth of the matter. I see nothing this department can do. But I will send your papers along to Linz. Let's see, where are they? *

His desk is overflowing with papers, bundles of them.

MAJOR KIEL (CONT'D)

There's always business left undone. Things to put away. *

MAJOR KIEL (CONT'D)

You can be sure your case will be treated with the greatest understanding. Why don't we say that when we've given it all our proper attention, we'll send for you? The Colonel must be consulted.

*
*

FANI

May I meet with him?

MAJOR KIEL

Ah, Madame, he can't meet with everyone! A busy man! But phone. Make an appointment!

FANI

I've tried to. My call isn't answered.

MAJOR KIEL

That surprises me. The problem must be on your end. The telephone works quite well up here. It speeds up our work. But there's no fixed connection, I know. And sometimes, these lazy fellows leave the receiver off the hook.

*

FANI

Then how can I make an appointment? You don't answer my letters. It took me two days to get here. A difficult journey.

- | | | | |
|-----|---|-----|---|
| 140 | INT. ADJACENT ROOM | 140 | * |
| | The soldier playing the piano has stopped to talk with Fani. | | * |
| | Fani feels herself in a labyrinth, a soulless world, with no way out. | | |
| 141 | EXT. COURTYARD (BURG) | 141 | |
| | As Fani wanders through the courtyard, the officials avoid her eyes. | | |
| 142 | EXT. BURG (SAND) - BELL | 142 | |
| | Fani hears a distant bell. She looks up towards the fortress. The stone walls stand dark and indifferent. | | |

She looks up with awe.Strange, uncanny, remote and cruel,
demonically illogical. *
*

FRANZ (O.S.)

I advise you not to visit at this
time. Maybe later. I still have
not received a trial. Most people
think that things are bad for me
here, but we get enough to eat.
They did not lock us up to make us
fat. Things could be worse.

A petty, obstinate, unaccountable bureaucracy of documents
and procedures; a hierarchy of fearful men.

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

You know, dear wife, that I do not
engage in this struggle in order
to make my life wonderful. As long
as I don't lose my faith, nothing
can be unfortunate. Our sadness
will be changed to joy. All this,
in relation to eternity, is less
than half a second.

Who are they, these men -- this authority that she can never
reach? *

143 FLASHBACK - EARLIER IN THEIR LIVES

143

Franz remembers when he rode his motorcycle where he pleased.
His was the first motorcycle in the village. Everyone came
out to look at him. He was a wild one then. He played cards,
bowled, danced. He had just come back from working in the
mines, full of life and hope. It was then that he first met
Fani: *

FRANZ

Who do you have the next dance
with?

FANI

With you -- if you will ask me.

FRANZ (O.S.)

Seeing you again would bring me
joy. Yet I advise you to wait a
while. Also, to buy a pair of
scythes. So you will at least have
one sharp blade for reaping.

FRANZ (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 When I look back and think of all
 the good fortune and graces that
 have come to us in the seven years
 since we were married, I see many
 things that border on being
 miracles. If someone were to say
 to me there is no God, or God has
 no love for us, and, if I were to
 believe this, I would no longer
 understand what has happened to
 me. He has preserved us. He will
 not abandon us.

*

144 EXT. CROSSROADS - FANI

144

On her way back to St. Rade Gund, Fani sees a pretty young woman -- she must be in her late teens -- laughing, carefree as Fani herself once was -- innocent, free of suffering.

FANI (O.S.)
 (to the children)
 God knows what we need... want.

She remembers a neighbor putting a finger to her lips, shushing her:

NEIGHBOR (O.S.)
 Watch out!

The authorities might hear of her protests. She might end up as her husband has. What would become of the children?

The villagers ostracize her, more from fear than from dislike or disapproval. She remembers telling Franz:

FANI
 My husband! I want to die with you
 -- together -- but I have to live -
 - for the children!

Officials from the fortress stop at the Gasthaus on their travels. Free from the eye of their superiors, they drink, flirt with the barmaids, strut about.

Rosi brings her mother an apple.

FANI (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 Rosi has set aside a beautiful
 apple, which I am supposed to send
 you, if I may. The girls went
 today to see the pony at the
 Schirks.

FANI (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 Resie was glad to get out of the
 house. The children are too
 playful for her.

The girls play with a pony that belongs to some neighbors.

FANI (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 Loisi said to tell you she wants
 you to come home to play.

145 EXT. CHURCH (PALM SUNDAY)

145

The villagers carry willow branches decorated with ribbons,
 fruit and cookies to the church. Children, singing, lead the
 way.

FANI (O.S.)
 Palm Sunday our little ones went
 in the procession with the other
 children. Each held a willow
 branch.

Fani sees other women on the arms of their husbands.

146 INT. CELL

146

Franz turns in circles in his cell. He closes his eyes. He
 wants to pray, but he cannot; his anxiety is too great. He
 continues to pace, in torment.

FRANZ (O.S.)
 Dear children, I'm grateful for
 the violets which you sent me. I
 can see you don't forget your
 father who doesn't forget you and
 would love to be with you.
 However, the heavenly Father wants
 to have it otherwise. Thank him
 that he has sent me a good wife
 and you a good mother. Always have
 love for your mother. Obey her.
 You can't run outside with bare
 feet. O my wife, I know you fear
 for me, but my burden is light.
 When I compare my suffering to
 that of other people, I see that
 mine is the smallest of crosses.

Many of the other prisoners suffer in silence, with no one to
 write home to, no one who cares about them.

FRANZ (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 How are things going with the
 haying?

The apple that his daughter Rosi sent him rests on a table in his cell.

147 EXT. COURTYARD (LINZ/ENNS) 147

As Franz walks in the courtyard, he looks over the walls at the buildings on a street across the way. There people still live in some degree of freedom. He could join them. It would take but a single word. One small act of relenting, and he might see his family again.

148 INT. INTERROGATION ROOM (LINZ/ENNS) 148

The Captain walks in a circle around Franz. *

CAPTAIN HERDER *

You feel no fear at following a
 line of conduct which leaves you
 in danger of the death penalty?

FRANZ

A man worth anything has only one
 thing to consider: whether he is
 acting rightly or wrongly -- *

CAPTAIN HERDER *

Is your God stronger than the
 Führer?

(Franz does not reply)
 Why does He let him rule the
 world?

FRANZ

That is a mystery.

CAPTAIN HERDER *

How do you know what is good and
 bad? Do you know better than I?
 You seem to think there is a
 nobility in this. Who is this God
 that requires you destroy the life
 of your own with that of family? *

You think he wants your blood in
 order to satisfy him? Will it get
 you on his good side? Blood-
 drinker! *

(no reply) *

CAPTAIN HERDER (CONT'D)
 What have you done to him to make
 him send you this misfortune? *

(Franz nods; he will not deny it)
 Knowing that your Jesus suffered
 shouldn't make you want to suffer.
 He never sought it out. There's a
 difference between the kind of
 suffering we can't avoid and that
 we choose. You suffer for no
 reason. *

(no reply)
 Pride? Are you better than the
 rest? *

FRANZ
 He doesn't cause anyone to suffer.
 He doesn't tempt anyone. We tempt
him.

CAPTAIN HERDER *

You know his mind? He speaks with
 you?... Have you seen beyond the
 grave? *

Franz thinks of Hitler. Newsreel images of the Fuhrer,
 untroubled, hailed by all.

CAPTAIN HERDER (CONT'D) *

A private revelation! Would you
 not participate in any war -- or
 just this one? You have other
 plans? Is it because war isn't the
 best way to solve our problems? *

Franz does not answer.

CAPTAIN HERDER (CONT'D) *

You prefer to stay out of fights? *

FRANZ
 No.

CAPTAIN HERDER *

Is it because you're afraid? *

FRANZ
 I'm afraid -- of the devil.

CAPTAIN HERDER *

Am I the devil? A servant of his?
 I? I don't feel that way. Christ
 is dead. Forsaken, as you'll be. *

He said so himself. *

CAPTAIN HERDER (CONT'D)

You, too, will say, "I thirst."
 You love a dead man -- more than
 your wife. Your children. You love
 a ghost.

*
 *

FRANZ

You say we should do what the
 State wants because other people
 are responsible for what we do. No
 one wants to be accountable for
 the crimes done in our name.
 Responsibility is shifted from one
 person to another.

*

CAPTAIN HERDER

Are you mad?

*

FRANZ

You say, think of the times we
 live in. Well, those men and women
 in olden days, who put their lives
 at risk, because they wouldn't
 carry out Caesar's orders -- what
 do you say of them? Did they live
 in better times?

CAPTAIN HERDER

It's one thing to take a stand on
 a big stage. But you are
 nowhere... You have no power.

*

FRANZ

Enough.

*

CAPTAIN HERDER

We live in a new world now.

*

Night settles on the cell. The Captain is still with Franz. A
 single candle burns in the darkness.

*

CAPTAIN HERDER (CONT'D)

Are you afraid of death? The end?

*

*

Images of death flash through Franz's mind: a shore, a veil,
 a window sill, a fence in a pasture, an open door in the
 jail, a stairwell leading down into the darkness, a candle
 blown out.

*

In his mind's eye, from his memories of St. Radegund; often analogies of death present themselves to him: a neighbor laboring at a plough, the ploughshare cutting through the earth, heaving it up. A sower, sowing. A harvester bringing in the sheaves, threshing the grain, winnowing it out.

The Captain listens, silent. *

FRANZ O.S.

Better to suffer injustice than to commit it. Nothing can harm a good man, in life or after death. I bear them no grudge -- they can't hurt me. Who can harm us if we follow our conscience? They can only harm themselves. I suspect this that has happened to me is a blessing -- *

Dawn shines through the bars of the window.

150 EXT. FIELDS - 2ND UNIT (APRIL)

150

The fresh green fields, in their spring glory. The fruit trees, blooming.

FRANZ (O.S.)

I can't tell you anything about my future. I again had no trial this week. Dearest wife, we must not lose hope. If we can no longer celebrate together in the trusted family circle a joyful Easter in this world, then we await with full confidence the day when the eternal morning breaks. Then no one from our family will be missing. Then we can rejoice together. Forever.

151 EXT. ST. R FARM

151

Easter has come. The children pick flowers and roll Easter eggs. (According to this custom, the children roll hard-boiled eggs on a flat surface, the winner is the one whose egg goes the farthest.)

Fani cleans the house. She embroiders towels and the hems of the girls' dresses. A clock ticks on the wall.

FRANZ (O.S.)

I am in good health. I hope all of
you are too. What fine weather!
The fresh green of the grass is
good for a person. Someone with
freedom may not notice it.

Outside, the villagers pass by, with fearful glances at the
house of shame and doom.

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

Spring has come. You can again
pick flowers and roll eggs. Thank
Rosl for the apple which she sent
me. I've saved it.

Rosl does a curtsy when her mother gives her this news.

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

Tell the girls to be good so their
mother doesn't get put out with
them.

152 EXT. FARMHOUSE 152

As the children play outside, Fani leans her face against the
wall in despair.

153 STOCK FOOTAGE (1943) 153

The cities of Germany, in ruins. Those of Russia and Poland
as well. Streams of bewildered refugees.

FANI (O.S.)

This week we finished the raking.
We gathered wonderful straw. Your
mother whitewashed the kitchen.
The front of the house. All look
beautiful.

(to Resie)

I'm sure it will work out. We just
need to pray!

154 INT. FARMHOUSE - ROSALIA 154

Franz's mother has a way of taking over the house,
shouldering Fani aside.

ROSALIA

You go take care of the children.
I'll stay here.

FANI (O.S.)

Our primroses are almost completely dried up. It is too bad you aren't here to arrange everything. You are much better at this. Zauner was by and said things are getting worse. She was inconsolable. Her husband goes back. Where they will send him is anyone's guess.

ROSALIA

He was never this way before. He was a fun-loving man till he met you! He danced! Then he got so serious. You -- with your religion! He used to laugh!

155 EXT. FIELDS

155

Fresh green shoots of wheat and barley have begun to appear in the fields.

Fani and Resie cut hay. A sow eyes them warily.

FANI (O.S.)

We finished with the haying. Already it is so warm one can see the green shoots coming up! Tomorrow the sow will be butchered. I am happy about this. She has become more and more difficult. She would not eat the oats.

156 INT. BARN

156

A cow gives birth.

FANI (O.S.)

The Tiefenhaler cow gave birth. The calf came out crosswise. We turned it with great trouble -- seven or eight people, pulling it out with much effort.

157 EXT. ORCHARD GARDEN

157

Pear and plum trees in flower. The girls scoop up the fallen blossoms.

FANI (O.S.)

Our fruit garden is glorious. Pear and plum trees already in bloom, the apple trees partly so. It is too bad you cannot be here. Be well. Warmest greetings to you from your loving wife, Fani. See you again!

158 INT. PRISON (LINZ/ENNS)

158

Through Fani's efforts to cheer him with news from home, we follow Franz's life in prison. He keeps his torment a secret from her. He does not want to disturb her. She has trouble of her own. *

FRANZ (O.S.)

One need not always think about what one cannot have at the moment. Dearest wife, I cannot tell you the joy of these days. I am still a fortunate child. Heaven will not abandon us.

159 EXT. SALZACH RIVER (& ALTÖTTING) - 30 APRIL, 1943

159

Fani and her sister ride their bicycles down a road by the river.

FANI (O.S.)

Resie and I rode our bicycles to Altötting. Our trees -- the pear and apple trees, the plums -- are blossoming here more strongly than ever before. How beautiful it is when I go walking with the children -- sad you cannot be with us to marvel at it all. It would be doubly beautiful if you were.

160 EXT. FEED GRINDER

160

Gänshänger, a neighbor, catches his fingers in a grinder.

FANI (O.S.)

Gänshänger cut off four fingers in the feed grinder. He was on leave from the front. He shouldn't have been working on a holiday. The police showed up. He is now under suspicion for self-mutilation. *

FANI (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 People are speaking much about it
 all. Poor man -- whether he did it
 to himself or not!

The police sneer at Gänshänger roughly. It is as though they
 felt obliged to make a show of their skepticism.

Fani is out planting potatoes.

FRAU SCHUSTER
 May I put some plants in your
 field?

FANI
 Of course!

She looks at the poor widow, stooped over them on her knees
 in the mud. A widow.

161 FANI, LATER, PRAYING 161
 Fani, under her breath:

FANI
 Spare him! O, please! Tell me what
 I should do!

She can tell Franz nothing of her anxieties, her doubts,
 though sometimes she cannot help herself.

162 INT. PRISON (LINZ/ENNS) 162
 Nor does Franz tell Fani of his ill-treatment, not only from
 the guards, but also by many of his fellow prisoners; insults
 he greets with courtesy, humility.

FRANZ (O.S.)
 Girls, your Mother will scold you
 if you roll around too much in the
 grass. Your father greets you
 warmly. Do not forget me!

Popular tunes -- sentimental songs -- play on the guards'
 radio.

The apple Franz's daughter sent him sits uneaten, as though
 he wished to keep it as a remembrance of his home.

163 INT. CELL - BLACKBIRDS 163
 Dawn breaks outside his window. The birds sing.

FRANZ (O.S.)

Dear wife, I still can't say how my future will unfold. What comes next is seldom better... And still, now begins the month of May, the most beautiful month. Nature does not notice the sorrow that has come over the people.

A blackbird appears on the window ledge.

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

At dawn, we can hear blackbirds singing loudly outside our windows. They seem to have more freedom, and to know more of peace and happiness -- though they are only unreasoning animals -- than we humans do -- we who have the gift of understanding...

(over the blackbird's song)

It should not sadden us if we must do without many things and give up what our hearts desire when we may be rewarded a thousandfold in eternity. Let our hearts yearn for everlasting gifts... How does the grain look? One loves his home. Greetings to our neighbors!

Two guards enter Franz's cell.

Without a word of explanation, they shackle him hand and foot, then drag him roughly down the corridor, outside to a waiting car.

Where is eternity now?

164 EXT. LINZ - TRAIN STATION

164

Franz asks an officer who is accompanying him for permission to write a letter. The officer, a Captain, nods. Kneeling down by the locomotive, Franz jots down a few words.

FRANZ (O.S.)

Dearest wife! I leave for Berlin at 10:13 AM. Have no concerns about me.

The locomotive steams and hisses. It stands like an icon of overwhelming force.

165 INT./EXT. MOVING TRAIN

165

Franz sits next to the Captain, a polite man who seems only to want to be done with his distasteful duty.

FRANZ (O.S.)

This departure came as a surprise. I had no time even to say goodbye to my companions. The officer accompanying me is a pleasant man. My decision remains the same. During the interrogations, they wanted me to take it all back -- deny everything...

166 STOCK FOOTAGE - TRAIN TO BERLIN

166

The train crashes through the countryside. The tracks weave in and out.

FRANZ (O.S.)

If things in Berlin should go bad for me, have no concern. Now I must close. It is almost time to leave. Greetings to Mother, to you, the girls and all. See you again!

It is night when they enter Berlin. Franz turns to the Captain.

FRANZ (CONT'D)

Why are they bringing me here? To the Capital?

The Captain shrugs.

167 STOCK FOOTAGE - POVS ON BERLIN ["SYMPHONY OF A CITY"]

167

Franz marvels at the vastness of the great city. He has never before been outside his corner of Austria.

FRANZ (O.S.)

I arrived safely on May 4. If it had been a vacation, it would have been a lovely ride. The farms and villages we travelled through were beautiful. Though I am still removed from you, have no heavy heart because of me. You know under whose protection I stand. I trust.

168 EXT. TEGEL PRISON, COURTYARD

168

Franz bids farewell to the Captain. They have arrived at Tegel prison, on the outskirts of Berlin.

FRANZ

I hope that I haven't caused you any inconvenience.

CAPTAIN

No, I was coming up in any case. Good luck!

Now, suddenly, things change.

GUARD

You! When I say frog, you jump!

The guards treat the prisoners roughly, especially during their first days. Franz's silence in response to their blows only infuriates them the more.

FRANZ (O.S.)

On the way I caught a glimpse of the vastness of the city. All goes well for me here. It is a little different than back home, but one need not suffer here, and many things are better.

169 INT. ADMISSIONS CELL, TEGEL

169

The guards shove Franz into a cell. He looks around. There is a bed that folds up during the day, a small table with a glass on it. A towel, a jug of water. In the corner, a toilet bucket. There is also a small wardrobe and a lamp that can only be switched on from outside in the hall, that goes on and off without warning.

The blankets on the bed have a foul smell. He throws them into the corner. *

FRANZ (O.S.)

I have a small closet of my own. Very nice... If one dismisses an occasional harsh word, one's heart remains at peace.

He sets his chair beneath the window. He looks out. Rain is falling. He can see nothing of the streets beyond.

GUARD

You! No looking out the window.
Get down!

FRANZ (O.S.)

Here we may write one short letter
only every four weeks. But we can
get mail as often as it comes.
Packages of food are not allowed.

170 INT. CELLBLOCK, TEGEL

170

The prisoners are called out of their cells. Each wears a
black jacket and black trousers with yellow stripes running
down the sides.

As soon as his door is unlocked, each prisoner steps forward
and announces his crime.

FRANZ

Jägerstätter! Undermining morale!

171 EXT. YARD, TEGEL

171

The inmates are allowed half an hour on the yard. They must
keep a distance from each other and speak not a word.

FRANZ (O.S.)

If I had any idea that I would be
taken from Linz without a trial, I
would have invited you there for a
visit. A trip to Berlin would now
be too hard. If it is God's will,
we shall have a reunion with each
other again in this world. If not,
then we hope for it in the next
world, where the visiting time
will be somewhat longer than
fifteen to thirty minutes.

172 TEGEL PRISON LIFE - MONTAGE, WITH FANI O.S.

172

Franz's life at Tegel falls into a routine.

A guard points Franz out to the others:

GUARD

No one is to speak to him.

A prisoner weeps in the next cell. No one takes any notice.

He cannot see how things are run in the building. He can only guess from the incessant shouting of the warders. He is told nothing. From morning till night, he hears their foul oaths. Their ill-treatment of those being held for investigation penetrate his cell. Everyone is treated as a criminal. There is no mercy for the innocent or merely accused, or those locked up for trivial offenses.

GUARD (CONT'D)

If you complain of being struck --
it is, of course, strictly
forbidden -- the boss will never
believe you. Only me. I can always
find a colleague who will testify
for me. Under oath!

The tone is set by those warders who behave in the most evil and brutal way. The whole cellblock resounds with their abuse. The quieter, more fair-minded guards are nauseated by it. But they tend to be the subordinates, and exercise no real influence.

PRISONER MARTIN

We ask for work. Games are
forbidden. Even chess. You can't
make up your own board. Don't try!

The prisoners suffer from a lack of occupation, especially those in solitary confinement. The only work that is given them is folding paper into envelopes for soldiers at the front. They often sit in the dark for hours at a time because the staff are too lazy to switch on the cell lights.

When they put out the little flags designed to get a guard's attention, the guards shout angrily at them, and their light is not switched on.

FANI (O.S.)

My dear husband! Trust in the
heart! If the spirit that sustains
us didn't sustain the world
itself, then everything would be
out of kilter. Why would it
abandon us? How could it?

They are not allowed to lie on their beds before "the Last Post", so they have to spend the prior hours sitting in the dark.

When, late at night, the air raids come, there are no shelters for the prisoners. Franz listens to the anguished cries of the men trapped in their cells. The thud of the bombs.

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

The pain will only make us better
and bind us closer together. For
that I'm grateful -- best of
friends, my man!

Why should there not be for us,
too, a secret power unknown to us,
steering our fate toward the best -
- a power beneficent, consoling?
Why would we despair?

Their days last fourteen hours. He spends three walking up
and down in the cell. It is strange to him that the peace and
composure that were supporting him can sometimes vanish
suddenly. Then he finds himself trembling inwardly with fear
and doubt. It feels to him like an invasion from outside, as
if some evil power were trying to rob him of what is most
necessary to his sanity.

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

Whatever you think best is what I,
too, want. Even if you believe a
total separation between us is
what we really must have, I won't
take it wrongly. The bond will go
on and on, to all eternity -- and
life is short! But -- because life
is short, should we forfeit it?
Oh, tell me, where will we
find one another again? Darling,
my beloved soul! Where can I find
peace? Let me face my duties --
forget about myself, even if it
should be ever so difficult.

WARDER STEIN

(to Franz)

It's a job, like any other. No
talking with the others. No. I can
let you break the rules, or I can
join you there. No. Better a live
rat than a dead lion.

When he walks in the yard he gets pleasure from watching the
ants on a small ant-hill, from the bees in the linden trees,
from the swifts and swallows that dart between the buildings,
chattering gaily.

It strikes him that nature carries on its simple, open life
without interruption. It makes him feel sentimental towards
the world, though not toward the flies that flit about his
cell; they only seem eager for him to die, so they can carry
on their business unopposed.

He stops to look at the remains of a barn swallow nest that some wretch has knocked down and left on the ground.

FANI (O.S.)

Love will keep us close, when we
walk where we can't see. Feel it
with me. The highest love finds no
peace on earth.

*

To seek it would be wonderful --
to die with each other! Together!
But we have duties in this world.

He has no knife or fork. He eats his meals with a spoon.

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

Pain will only make us better --
draw us closer to each other!

*

There are so many things that he could never tell his wife -- that she would not understand -- that would alarm and sicken her. So many times when the world seems nauseating and burdensome to him, when he wonders who he really is: the man who writhes under these experiences and cries inwardly to heaven, or the man who seems composed and cheerful -- in control of himself -- and who allows a few others to admire him for it. The man who plays a part.

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

How I love this pain now! When it
leaves me, when everything in me
goes numb, how I long for it
again. Only my tears can give me
joy. What is this love of ours?

*

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At such times the evening sky, the birds, the clouds do not know him. Nor the two lovers, whose distant laughter he hears. Nor his fellow sufferers, asleep or awake, turning on their beds, shifting in their chains, turning and twisting, unable to find warmth or comfort. Only the tower clock seems aware of him, as it strikes the hour, asking him what can it matter whether one day turns into another.

*

*

*

I thank you for all the happiness
you have bestowed on me. Through
you I've received more than I
could ever have expected. I hope
that I've been worthy of it. I
would like to give you peace. But
I owe you an account of all I
feel. Fear overcomes me. I know
that it should not. But our love
is too deep for me to be able to
deceive you.

*

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It is so hard to keep a strong heart. Not to surrender to sorrow and despair! To hold your head high when everything seems to be going wrong. *

FANI (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 Never doubt my love! It will be yours for all eternity! Who else can I tell my heart to -- my one, my only friend? *

173 EXT. TEGEL COURTYARD - THE SHARP JUDGE - FRANZ'S POV 173

Franz sees a man in black evening dress -- in tails and a stovepipe hat. He looks as though he were on his way to a wedding or a ball.

FRANZ
 Who is that?

FELLOW PRISONER
 (whispering)
 The Sharp Judge! He cuts off your head!

The Sharp Judge looks at them. Steadily. At one point he seems to smile. A strange figure of death; the last person that a condemned man would see. *

FANI (O.S.)
 This won't have been the last time I see you! I can't think that! Let me hope! Why we suffer I don't understand. Will we know some day? I become so downhearted, so quickly. Afterwards, I don't know how to help myself... For all eternity I will be true to you. Best of friends! May I yet be able to give you joy! I'll see you again! No one will take this certainty from me. *

Franz cannot tell Fani, but gradually he has been sinking into a spiritual darkness. At the depth of that darkness he again meets Rogowski, the soldier from his training days, now a fellow prisoner, but unlike Franz himself, as bright and optimistic as ever.

They greet each other warmly, though Rogowski does not seem quite to remember who Franz is.

Over the next several days, Franz observes how this extraordinarily happy man never complains, but treats everyone with an unflinching good cheer, including the guards. Franz marvels at him. *

Rogowski notices his low spirits, and urges him not to grieve. "The dawn is coming," he says, "Trouble lasts an hour." OR: "Imitate the sundial, only count the pleasant days." Franz sees how he loves, every man equally: the Nazis, his fellow prisoners, the cooks, a dog, and Franz himself. *

174 EXT. COURTYARD - FIRE

174 *

A siren is wailing. A fire has broken out in one of the buildings. As the guards rush to put it out, Franz talks with a prisoner a few years older than he is, a revolutionary from Serbia.

CELLMATE DIMO *

Have the meek inherited the earth?
How far we are from having our
daily bread!

(walls)

Don't let your life be a show. No
one's watching. Just these walls. *

We sense his cellmate's doubts are those which torment Franz himself. He does not say a word in contradiction.

A loathsome world! Not a trace of
mercy in their decrees. Not a
trace of love or charity. Their
shamelessness knows no limit. Why
give your life for them?

175 EXT. ST. R FIELDS

175

Fani works in the fields.

FANI (O.S.)

Greetings, beloved husband! The
weather is warm. Almost no day
passes without rain. The grass and
the clover are beautiful... the
grain grown up. I hope no hail
will destroy it, though we fear
the British with their firebombs.
They say the planes are flying
over the countryside to destroy
our crops. It would be terrible.
We would have nothing to eat.

Fani's wagon gets stuck in the mud. Some women from the village, neighbors passing by, look at her coldly. They make no move to help. She is now ostracized in St. Radegund, with notable exceptions.

176 EXT. FANI AND ROSALIA WITH LANTERNS - NIGHT

176

Fani and Franz's mother go out at night in search of two calves that have escaped from the barn.

FANI (O.S.)

We had a scare on Thursday night. We saw, to our shock, that the two yearling calves were no longer in the barn. Nowhere to be seen or heard. You can imagine how upset your mother and I were. We set out to look for them -- found them at last at the Strohofers. It is terrifying to have to search for animals at night... I am always in pain for you. I keep you in my love. You're so far away. I send you many kisses. Mother can no longer sharpen the scythe. No one can as well as you. One can go to Lang, but he is always in a hurry.

Rosalia and Resie take turns trying to hammer the scythe blade into sharpness. The banging works on Fani's nerves.

177 EXT. FOREST (ST. R OUTSKIRTS)

177

Fani and Resie gather wood from the forest. Rosalia helps as she is able. The girls obey their mother more readily now, as though doing so might help to bring their father back home.

FANI (O.S.)

During this week we were in the forest. Together we cut down the brushwood. The children cannot understand why you are away for so long. They pray for you and are well-behaved.

(buying pigs)

I got some piglets from Mossbauer. Four weeks old. I held off for a time because they were expensive. Now I have paid 100 for the pair. Not bad, right? For the children I bought young rabbits. 2 marks each.

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

The children are having great fun with them. We can breed them and make a profit.

(driving calves out of the orchard)

The calves are cute. But I must sell one of them soon. They eat too much. They have already devoured everything in the orchard. The clover, too. If only you could be home, dear husband. Yet many suffer greater blows...

(apples in the heights of a tree;

Fani strikes them with a pole)

We still have some apples which you have always enjoyed eating. I do not have much of an appetite because you cannot be here... and must suffer from hunger. With greetings from your wife!

178 FANI, TRYING TO SELL HER PRODUCE

178

Fani has put a bright face on things for Franz's benefit. When she goes to sell her produce, the villagers shake their heads. They will not buy from her.

How will she support the children? When winter comes, what then?

179 INT. TEGEL PRISON, VISITORS ROOM

179

Franz is led into the presence of a lawyer, a handsome man somewhat older than himself.

FELDMAN

Friedrich Feldman! I've been appointed by the court -- to be your defense attorney.

Feldman smiles cordially and takes some papers out of his briefcase.

FELDMAN (CONT'D)

We must make an effort to answer these charges. I understand that you have refused service in the Wehrmacht -- though you once trained with them, as a motorcycle driver, I believe. As I understand, your resistance is specifically to serving in combat.

FELDMAN (CONT'D)

But I believe if you were to accept medical service -- work as an orderly in a hospital, that sort of thing -- they would probably drop these charges.

FRANZ

Would I be required to swear loyalty to Hitler?

FELDMAN

Words! No one takes that sort of thing seriously -- But yes.

He leaves off. He cannot be sure who might be listening.

FRANZ

I can't.

FELDMAN

Why not?

FRANZ

It hurts my heart. My mind.

FELDMAN

I've spoken in confidence with a member of the court. I think -- we could come to an understanding. In a hospital, you might do some real good.

Feldman waits for Franz to answer. He does not.

FELDMAN (CONT'D)

You're a stubborn man. See here, I'm going to leave this paper with you. Keep it with you... Sign, and you'll go free.

He shakes Franz's hand and leaves.

180

INT. TEGEL, INTERROGATION ROOM

180

A man in dark civilian dress interrogates Franz, who has no idea who this stranger is or where he comes from.

MAJOR SCHLEGEL

What you're doing is wrong. Admit it. We can move on.

MAJOR SCHLEGEL (CONT'D)

We can lessen the
consequences. Given the state of
the world, other people are making
the same mistake. They feel
confused, overwhelmed, sick. You
aren't to blame. You aren't the
cause of all the trouble in the
world.

*

*

He moves closer to Franz, careful to maintain eye contact
with him, allowing him no chance to speak or, when he does,
raising his voice above Franz's own, or talking over him.

MAJOR SCHLEGEL (CONT'D)

I see how you look at me. But I
don't believe in anything. I get
by.

(walking behind Franz)

I believe in what I own. What I
can touch. Feel. I hate death.

He peels an orange. He points to the paper that would release
Franz from service in the military, and the officials
themselves from a growing discomfort.

MAJOR SCHLEGEL (CONT'D)

Sign -- and you'll go free.

*

FRANZ

I am free. Already.

MAJOR SCHLEGEL

Strange freedom! No, my friend. I
can walk out that door. Into the
street. I am free. Not you.

*

He sees that Franz will not relent, and yet is assailed with
fear and doubt.

MAJOR SCHLEGEL (CONT'D)

This is what happens when you put
honor above everything. What for?
Will you be more innocent than
everyone else? We're soaked in
blood. The whole earth is.

*

FRANZ

Yes -- it is awful!

MAJOR SCHLEGEL

Do I have any obligations? I'm
obliged to do only what serves my
interests. I was once like you. I
learned pretty quick.

*

*

MAJOR SCHLEGEL (CONT'D)

(he claps his hands)

You won't change the world. You
have no power. The Führer has
power. *

FRANZ

What kind?

MAJOR SCHLEGEL

Enough to determine if you live or
die.

(no reply)

I'll bury you, my friend! I'll be
walking around, playing with my
children, when you're in the
grave. Gone to land no one has
come back from. You remember what
Achilles said -- glorious Achilles
-- when Odysseus met him in the
underworld? Odysseus told him that
no man had been more blessed than
he. And Achilles said: "Don't try
to reconcile me to dying. I'd
rather be another man's slave, a
poor peasant without land, and be
alive up on the earth, than lord
of all the lifeless dead. Give me
news of my son instead." That's
what he said. I'd rather be a
slave in the sunlight, than a hero
down here! A shadow! A shade! *

He shakes his head. A hard-necked peasant! No changing his
mind! *

MAJOR SCHLEGEL (CONT'D)

No more family. Children.
Sunlight. No pretty music.
Nothing. Night. *

Night settles on Tegel. Cries resound through the cellblock.
The heat is oppressive.

181 AIR RAIDS - TEGEL - NIGHT

181

Tonight, again, there are air raids. As the sound of the
bombers grows louder, there are cries of fear from the
prisoners, locked in their cells.

182 INT. FRANZ'S CELL - NIGHT

182

It is during a raid that Franz receives a visit from Fr. Heinrich Kreutzberg, the Tegel chaplain. The crunch of explosions can be heard in the distance.

FR. KREUTZBERG

You aren't responsible for their actions. You have no basis on which to reach a judgement as to the justice or injustice of this war. Your only responsibility is to meet your obligations to your family. Your people.

FRANZ

I don't see things as you do, Father. We can't remain silent in the face of evil. We have to confront it.

FR. KREUTZBERG

How? The Church can never make demands of its members that might alienate great numbers of them -- or provoke retaliation from the State.

FRANZ

I don't want to take the slightest part in this war...

*

Franz had expected consolation from the priest, a man of his own faith.

FR. KREUTZBERG

I suppose you prove there's -- an examination. That the exam can be taken. But who knows of this exam? Who can be expected to answer it?

*

Overhead, the light falters, then goes out.

Franz's children come to him in a dream. They hold out their hands, imploring him silently. One opens the door of his cell, show him the way out, the empty corridor, a stairway beyond it.

Then he sees, behind them, a man in a Nazi uniform, his face wrapped in a cloth so that his eyes cannot be seen, or anything of his expression.

183 LATER - DAWN (24 MAY 1943) 183

At dawn, Franz is dragged out of his cell, into the corridor.

FRANZ (O.S.)

I continue to find my situation quite satisfactory. Do not worry, my wife. It could be worse. I am still alone in my cell. Almost daily we have half an hour to move about freely. One can work in his cell as much as he likes --- making envelopes. And I can still pray for you. Here I can make a retreat.

184 EXT. COURTYARD 184

Franz is led to a car in the courtyard below. He has no idea where he is going.

185 MOVING CAR - TRIP TO WITZLEBEN STREET (BERLIN) 185

Two guards drive him to the Reich's Military Tribunal in Witzleben Street (Charlottenburg). He gazes out the window at others going about their daily lives.

FRANZ (O.S.)

May 24 I appeared before the Reich's Military Tribunal for interrogation. It was a long ride by car. The Tribunal is in Berlin, Tegel a little outside the city.

The linden trees are in bloom.

186 WITZLEBEN STREET BUILDING - STAIRS, HALLWAYS, ETC. 186

Franz is led through the hallways of the Tribunal. His hands are bound in chains.

FRANZ O.S.

Hopefully you've had more rain there than we have here. Otherwise it will be disastrous for the fruit.

Stairways lead up towards and opaque skylight.

187 INT. REICH'S MILITARY TRIBUNAL

187

Franz is made to sit down on a chair in the middle of a large, drafty hall.

The Court Martial convenes: The First Judge, Werner Leuben; two military officers; a prosecutor; a clerk, and Franz's defense attorney Feldman. Banners with swastikas hang behind them. Judge Lueben opens the hearing.

JUDGE LUEBEN

Heil Hitler!

Franz trembles at the name. The charges are read out. Against them we hear Franz addressing Fani, as though in a continuation of his letter:

FRANZ (O.S.)

Be at peace... forgive each other.

After giving the personal details of the defendant, the Prosecutor reviews the indictment. Franz marvels at the strange hat Judge Lueben wears. He looks around at the other people in the room, wondering what their lives are like.

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

You must be busy with the haying, and once again picking strawberries and blueberries. Soon you will be looking for cherries at Lang's.

PROSECUTOR LARS

Court-Martial of the Reich... StPL (RKA) I 98/43... Red list... In the criminal case against... Jägerstätter, Headquarters' Company of the Motorist- Replacement Division 17 in Enns, born on May 20th 1907 in Radegrund (Oberdonau)... Wehrmacht remand prison Berlin-Tegel... Judge- Advocate of the Reich Lueben... Air Force General Musshoff... Vice- Admiral Arps... Brigadier General Schreiber... as prosecutor: Judge- Advocate General Dr. Kleint, as records clerk: Court-Martial Inspector General of the Reich Wagner... The accused has been sentenced to death, deprived of army honors and of civil liberties...

PROSECUTOR LARS (CONT'D)

After 8 years of primary school, he worked on farms and mining... married, father of three children, aged 3 to 6 years... displayed the same negative attitude during his hearing with the investigator of the court of Division no. 487 in Linz as well as with the representative of the Reich's War Advocacy.

No one shows much interest in the defendant, much less any trace of compassion.

When, at the end, Franz is called upon to speak in his defense, he says nothing.

Judge Leuben calls the members of the court into another room for a short consultation. It seems they are uncomfortable with the situation that is being forced on them. They would be glad if Franz were ready to accept service as a medic. It would relieve their consciences of a burden they never asked for.

188

INT. ROOM ADJACENT TO THE COURT

188

The Judge steps into the room where Franz is held. Feldman, showing discretion, steps away. The Judge indicates to Franz's guards that he would like to be left alone.

JUDGE LUEBEN

What are you doing, my fine fellow? Would you accept service as a medic? You wouldn't have to take up arms.

Franz does not reply.

JUDGE LUEBEN (CONT'D)

My son was in the Army. He went in when they called him. He had to suffer. He died in Russia. In the snow. He had a conscience. Are you proud of your virtue? Afraid of your conscience? Has it made a coward of you?

*
*

Do you imagine that anything you do will change the course of this war? That anyone outside this court ever hear of you? No one will be changed. The world will go on as before. You'll vanish.

*

JUDGE LUEBEN (CONT'D)

Drop away. Like a stone in the sea. If a man can't benefit the world by his death, how can he decide to sacrifice his life?

*

You're the guilty one. Not I. I didn't make the world the way it is... It makes no sense to will more than is possible at any particular moment.

Life's hard enough as it is. You'll change nobody's mind. Your actions may even have the opposite effect of what you intend. Someone else will take your place.

*

We want to save you. You have nothing more to say?... You know what it means.

FRANZ

I stand by what I've said.

Franz says it in a trembling voice.

JUDGE LUEBEN

You'll have saved no one -- and damned yourself. The truth is, it's you, not I, who pronounce the sentence. You, the judge.

*

Aren't you tired of the whole business? Isn't this a self-inflicted torture? I suspect you have some false belief in the virtues of misery... suffering.

*

Lueben sees that he has gotten nowhere. And now it is he who seems to tremble inwardly, aware that he is going to incur an inescapable guilt in convicting a good man.

JUDGE LUEBEN (CONT'D)

Do you judge me?

FRANZ

No. It's not for me to make your life harder for you. I don't judge you and say, he is wicked, I am right. I don't know everything.

FRANZ (CONT'D)

A man may do wrong, and not be able to get out of it -- get his life clear. Maybe he would like to go back, and can't. That must be a bitter thing. But I have that feeling inside me, that I can't do what I believe is wrong. That's all.

JUDGE LUEBEN

You mean it?

FRANZ

Why would I say it, if I didn't mean it?

JUDGE LUEBEN

I could set you free. *

He speaks with a growing desperation.

JUDGE LUEBEN (CONT'D)

Even now, even now, something might be done. If not, the dreadful...

FRANZ

You send me to our Father. *

JUDGE LUEBEN

He won't have long to wait.

189

INT. COURTROOM

189

The Tribunal has reconvened. Franz is distracted -- cannot bring himself to pay attention to the reading of the document, until the verdict is announced:

PROSECUTOR LARS

According to 60 KStVO. III... He thus became guilty of degrading military strength and has to be punished according to 5 paragraph 1 number 3 KSSVO. The criminal nature of his action will not be suspended due to consideration of conscience or his religious beliefs for legitimate (Section 48 MStGB)... Tegel, the accused is completely normal, there is no sign regarding diminished responsibility. *

PROSECUTOR LARS (CONT'D)

There have been no known cases of mental - or hereditary diseases in his family... The crime of degrading military strength is punishable by death... Since the accused has proven through his actions that he is dishonorable, he will be deprived of civil liberties according to Section 32. And no public honor shall be given him, under penalty of law... Berlin, July 14th, 1943...

190 INT. ANTEROOM & EXT. BUILDING 190

Feldman takes Franz aside and tells him, hurriedly:

FELDMAN

Today they pronounce the sentence, but they still have to confirm it. It might be days, weeks. Sign the paper in your cell. You'll go free. I can work it out. Quietly, you know. I feel sure.

191 INT. MOVING CAR, BERLIN STREETS 191

A Sergeant drives Franz back to Tegel.

SERGEANT

You've been here for the last time. Now it goes to St. Peter!
Eh?
(when Franz does not reply)
Aren't you afraid?

192 INT. TEGEL DEATH ROW 192

Franz is taken from his old cell to the third floor, where these prisoners are kept who have been sentenced to death. As a condemned man, his legs will now be shackled as well as his hands.

GUARD

Now it will be your legs, too. I'm sorry. Now the light in your cell, we can't turn it off. It will be on day and night.

A naked bulb hangs from the ceiling.

193 HITLER - STOCK IMAGES - FRANZ IN HIS CELL

193

Images of Hitler, half-seen, flash through Franz's mind. How does such a man exist? But Franz did not create him. What business does he have standing against him -- a murderer totally unaware of his existence and whom he can do nothing to stop?

FANI (O.S.)

Saturday I sold a calf. We received 630 marks. I fetched the piglets from Moosbauer. Together they weigh 32 pounds, and they cost 80 marks. Not bad. We seldom have good weather, or we would be out. We've brought the hay in from the first meadow.

194 EXT. ST. R FIELDS

194

Fani works in the rain, spreading manure on the fields.

FANI (O.S.)

Warm greetings, most beloved husband, from your faithful wife, Fani. Greetings in God, who will make everything right again. Your mother's feet are hurting. The work is often too much for us. My lungs are weak. So it is, yet there is always more work.

She borrows a wagon from a neighbor.

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

I have a terrifying anxiety about the harvest. Your mother can no longer bear the heat. The grain is magnificent for reaping. I could use you. If only you could come home, for at least four weeks! Sixteen hours each day is no small thing. Wagner was here today and chose the wooden strips for the dung wagon. Till today we had no wagon. Ours was broken.

The girls help as they can. Franz's mother fusses at them for not doing more. Loisi whispers in Fani's ear.

FANI (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 Loisi said that when Father
 returns, she'll no longer sleep
 with me, but always with Father.
 I'd gladly lose her if you could
 be at home. Now we must rake
 leaves because we need the straw.
 The harvest comes nearer. Be well!

195 INT. CELL (TEGEL)

195

Franz studies the letter that sits on the table in his cell,
 awaiting his signature.

FRANZ (O.S.)
 It is not as difficult for me here
 as everyone at home may imagine. I
 remain in good health and hope
 that you do, too.

He paces back and forth. His heart pounds in his throat. Is
 he so sure? Has he heard a voice? Does he hear it still?

Might it be leading him, and his family, to their doom?

FRANZ (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 I know that you are interested in
 knowing whether my future has yet
 been decided. Be patient till I
 know. You need have no heavy heart
 about me.

196 INT. J FARMHOUSE, ST. R

196

Rosalia weeps over their fate. So unexpected! Undeserved! So
 much unanswered pain!

FRANZ (O.S.)
 And dear Mother, thank you for
 your kind words, which my wife has
 reported. I hope that you are no
 longer angry with me for my
 disobedience. It has not rained a
 great deal here, though there have
 hardly been two sunny days in a
 row. I hope the weather will be
 better for the harvest.

197 EXT. J FARMHOUSE

197

The children play outside.

FRANZ (O.S.)

My dear little ones, do not lose heart if your father does not come to tell you stories. Today there are many children whose fathers cannot come to them now, nor will ever come to them again. Be well-behaved. I would have loved to see you wearing those garlands on your heads. From far away your father sends you warm greetings.

198 POSTMAN, FANI, ROSALIA 198

Fani has received a letter from the Postman. She comes to her mother-in-law, reading it with alarm.

FANI

It's from his lawyer. He says that I should come to Berlin. They've condemned him to death! Why didn't he tell us? We have to go! Right now! The lawyer says so: no delay. There still might be time!

199 EXT. RECTORY, ST. R 199

Fani knocks on Fr. Fürthauer's door. The pastor opens to find her in a state of great distress.

200 INT. MOVING TRAIN 200

Fani and Fürthauer have boarded a train to Berlin.

FANI

What will you tell him?

Angles on the train: the steel rails; the villages flashing by; coal shovelled into the firebox; the fierce-burning fires. The locomotive; a blind, unminding force running it knows not where.

201 EXT. STREETS, CROWD (FROM "BERLIN: SYMPHONY OF A CITY") 201

Berliners head to work, to their factories and shops.

How is a man to stand up against the great Baal? It is an obscure battle, more exhausting than struggling with a tyrant, for no decisive point is ever reached. The struggle with the Many begins all over, each and every day.

*

202 EXT. TEGEL (FOR CHARLOTTENBURG) PRISON (13 JULY 1943) 202

When Fani arrives at Tegel, she is told her husband is not there. She looks around in wonder as she and Furthauer are led down a corridor to a visiting room.

203 INT. CELLBLOCK 203

She sees the other prisoners. She has brought some food for Franz, but she is told she will not be allowed to give it to him.

204 INT. VISITING ROOM 204

She is left to sit in the visiting room for half an hour.

Presently, a truck pulls up the courtyard. She goes to the window and looks down. When the truck comes to a stop, the back gate falls open. Some soldiers jump out and form a circle. Then Franz, in chains, is shoved out so roughly that he falls to the ground.

205 EXT. COURTYARD 205

Franz looks up sharply as he hears his wife's cry. He had no idea that she would be visiting him. He looks frantically about him. It is as though her voice had come to him from another world.

206 INT. VISITING ROOM 206

Franz's chains have been removed. He is taken to the visiting room, where he finds his wife, Fürthauer and his defense attorney, Feldman.

Franz is overcome with joy. He has long since reconciled himself to the fact that he might never see her again. Fani throws herself into his arms. One of the guards pulls her away. *

Franz listens in silence as Fani and Furthauer, advised by Feldman, urge him to sign a statement saying he will agree to serve in the Army. (Improvised)

FELDMAN

You're doing no one any good. Will you not abandon this senseless position? If you do, I'll at once petition the court to stay the execution of your sentence.

FELDMAN (CONT'D)

But it must be done without delay.
Today! I'm sticking my neck out
here. This could jeopardize my
career -- if not my personal
safety.

Fani is heartsick to see those traces of hunger and suffering
in Franz that he has attempted to hide from her.

FANI

(to Feldman)

What will they gain by shooting
him?

FELDMAN

Tell your husband, not me!

FANI

Didn't he tell you that he would
accept being assigned to the
medical corps?

FELDMAN

We begged him to do it.

She turns to Franz. Did he prefer that she not know of this
opportunity to save his life -- has he rejected it?

FURTHAUER

The charges would be dropped, I'm
sure, if you just change your
stand. I beg you to. The war may
soon be over. You might never have
to face a situation that would
call on you to do what you oppose.

Franz does not seem to hear, overjoyed to see his wife again.
She gives up any effort to change his decision. She sees that
it would make no difference; he has already made up his mind.

FRANZ

You came.

FURTHAUER

Franz, you must. Don't you see
what's coming? Take the oath.

FRANZ

Is this why they let you come?

FURTHAUER

God doesn't care what you say.
Only what's in your heart. Say the
oath, and think what you like.

FURTHAUER (CONT'D)
Haven't you done as much as he
could ever want?

FRANZ
Who are you to lecture me on my
duty? Why have you come here -- to
distress me and my wife! Leave us
in peace!

The guards end the meeting. It has been just twenty minutes.
Fürthauer gives Franz his blessing. Franz gives Fani a few
pieces of chocolate for the children.

Tenderly, Franz takes Fani in his arms. The Guards look at
each other. *

FRANZ (CONT'D)
Tell me you understand. Tell me
you forgive me. So I can die.

FANI
Pretend -- pretend I do? No! But I
love you. I always will. Whatever
you do! Whatever comes! Even... *

The Guards pull her away.

FANI (CONT'D)
Let me go. Take your hands off me.

GUARD
Do what I say. *

207 EXT. TRAIN STATION - MUSIC

207

Fani and Fürthauer board the train back to Austria. Music
comes in.

FANI (O.S.)
I'd meant to tell you so many
stories about life at home, I
forgot so much. You yourself were
annoyed -- but the pastor meant
well. Don't lose heart! Warm
greetings to you from your loving
wife, Fani, who is concerned about
you. And many kisses! Be well! See
you again!

208 INT. FRANZ'S CELL - MUSIC

208

Franz paces back and forth, in fear and trembling.

FRANZ O.S. (INTERIOR VOICE)

I wanted to give you all I had.
 You never asked for anything. It
 hurt that I had so little to give.
 Sunlight in you. Around you. Have
 I been so good to you? Have you
 missed life? Can you miss it, the
 way you miss a train? You,
 forgiving me. Where are you now?

*

209

ABOARD TRAIN - MUSIC

209

Fani sits on the train with Fürthauer. It hasn't yet left the station. Some children are playing in a vacant lot nearby.

FURTHAUER

(haunted, shaken)

I hope I didn't upset him. I did.

FANI

You always said that if we lived a
 good life, we'd be happy! It seems
 that doing so might bring you
 suffering instead. Sorrow!

FURTHAUER

(after a silence)

It is terrible to represent
 Christianity, as I do, and not
 really to be a Christian. Not yet.
 I know what one is. But if you set
 it forth in all its truth, people
 would revolt against it. This
 collar doesn't protect me from
 hypocrisy. We've made the church
 into the theater. Me, an actor!
 The world will have no benefit
 from my having lived. I will just
 have helped it go on deceiving
 itself. The world wants to be
 deceived.

*

*

*

He looks at Fani in despair.

*

210

MONTAGE

210

Over Fani's return home, we hear Franz's letter in response to her visit:

FRANZ (O.S.)

You made a great sacrifice by
 coming here.

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

It would have spared you much pain and expense if my defense attorney had not written to you. I still have not received a statement that my death sentence has been confirmed. To be sure, I received great joy from our reunion, but not from the fact that you had to make such a great sacrifice. It brought me pain that we could speak so briefly. I am not angry with the pastor. I ask his forgiveness for all my unnecessary words to him. I wanted to spare you the suffering that you've borne for me.

Franz offers his food to another inmate; a man who seems never to have expected mercy from another human being. He receives Franz's portion with suspicion and distrust, convinced that Franz is a fool.

GUARD

You gave him your food. *

FRANZ (O.S.)

Dear wife, do you believe that all would go well for me if I were to tell a lie in order to prolong my life? How our final hours will be, we don't know. Or what struggles we must pass through.

Back in Radegund, Fani reads Franz's letter out loud to Resie, who though she believes all this was unnecessary, yet must admit:

RESIE

He loves you. I love him for it.

211 INT. FRANZ'S CELL

211

The Guard finds Franz alone in his cell.

GUARD

I'm just trying to be a father.
Raise a son. Work hard. Up early.
You think you're better than I am?
Can't call in sick on Monday. No
holidays. Do my duty. So my family
can sleep!
(slapping Franz's face)
Turn the other cheek?

GUARD (CONT'D)

I stand by my brothers and sisters. Proudly. When my land's in danger! You offend me.

FRANZ

Why?

The Guard steps on Franz's hand.

GUARD

How does that feel? You think I care? You think that if you look at me that way I'll stop? Do you? Who can stop me?

FRANZ

No one.

GUARD

I can do what I like with you. You're nothing to me. Nobody would know. Care. Nobody lift a hand to stop me. I have power. Putting on airs! No one hears, my little friend! No one cares. Nobody's minding the store.

*
*
*

The guard attacks him, knocks him to the ground, and kicks him in the mouth.

GUARD (CONT'D)

The Sharp Judge waits for you. They take off your shoes, socks. Tie your hands behind your back. Then no wife! No children! You offend me. What do you say now? Are you the wisest man in the world? Do your betters know less? A peasant!

He strikes him again, stung that Franz will not plead with him.

GUARD (CONT'D)

It's good manners to scream. To beg! To say: "Mercy, Father! I'll pray for your good health!" Say it! "Please, stop! I worship you! The ground you walk on." Don't look around. There's no God here. Inside these walls! Where? Where do you see him? I'm your God.

FRANZ (O.S.)
 (to Fani)
 So much can change. So much goes
 differently from what we would
 like...

GUARD
 Do you forgive me?

FRANZ
 Yes.

GUARD
 How dare you?

He strikes Franz in the eye.

GUARD (CONT'D)
 Didn't think I'd do that, did you!

FRANZ
 I'm not afraid of you.

He strikes Franz again.

GUARD
 Does anyone see? Are you a man?
 (holding Franz to the wall)
 Your God doesn't -- hear you. He's
 put you in our hands. Alone.
 You're alone!

*

FRANZ
 No.

GUARD
 You look in my eyes when you talk
 to me. Bad manners! Look down!

Franz will die with no expectation that his sacrifice will make the slightest difference to anyone. For his neighbors, the refusal of army service is an act of folly, a sin against his family, his community, and even his church, which has called on no one to refuse military service.

He knows that, beyond his family and community, his death will go entirely unnoticed, have no impact on the Nazi movement or hasten the end of the war.

He will be forgotten. Who might remember or care about the vain gesture of an uneducated farmer? One more name among the millions whom the Nazis have executed.

212 IMAGES OF DEATH, FEAR 212

Images of death crowd into his mind: the open cell door (he could walk out), a stairwell leading down from the cellblock into the darkness, the hay-scythe cutting through the grass, and, last of all, the train from his dream of years ago.

FRANZ (O.S.)

Today the sentence was confirmed.

213 INT. CELL 213

Fr. Kreutzberg sits across from him.

KREUTZBERG

Others have done the same. Last year.

Franz brightens at this news. Kreutzberg speak softly, to avoid being overheard.

KREUTZBERG (CONT'D)

I used to think that if you loved others rightly, all would go well for you. Did it go well for Christ? Now I see: if you want happy days, don't get involved with him. It brings trouble.

*
*
*

He looks at Franz in awe.

214 INT. TEGEL PRISON 214

The Prosecutor has come out to Tegel to read Franz the document confirming his death sentence. He explains that the next day the judgment will be carried out. Kreutzberg and a doctor are also present.

PROSECUTOR LARS (O.S.)

The criminal nature of his action will not be suspended due to his beliefs (Section 48 MStGB)... The accused is completely normal, no sign that would...

Later, Fr. Kreutzberg nods at the letter still lying on the desk. Franz has only to sign it.

- 215 INT. FRANZ'S CELL 215
- Franz spends his last night on earth overwhelmed with anguish and doubt.
- In the morning, two guards come to fetch him. His shoes and socks are taken off, his hands bound behind his back. All is just as he was told it would be.
- PROSECUTOR LARS (O.S.)
...Sufficiently informed about the
duties of a German soldier...
tenaciously refuses to fulfill
his patriotic duty as a soldier
during Germany's struggle for
survival.
- 216 EXT. TEGEL COURTYARD (9 AUGUST 1943) 216
- The prisoners look down in silence as Franz is led to the that will take him to the execution site at Brandenburg-Görden. *
- Several other condemned men, strangers, crowd into the back with him. *
- 217 INT. J HOUSE, ST. R 217
- Fani has received a last letter from Franz. She reads it to the children.
- FRANZ (O.S.)
Dearest wife! And all my loved
ones! This morning, at
approximately 5:30, I had to get
dressed immediately, for a car was
waiting. I went with other
condemned prisoners on the ride
from Tegel to Brandenburg. We do
not know what will happen to us.
At noon someone told me that the
verdict would be confirmed at 2:00
p.m., and that it would be fully
enacted at 4:00 p.m.
- 218 INT. MOVING CAR 218
- The condemned ride in silence. One of them, a 19-year-old boy, looks at Franz as though to ask: "Will I not escape?"

219 EXT. BRANDENBURG, COURTYARD AND GARAGE

219

They descend from the truck at Brandenburg prison. At the end of a courtyard stands an old garage. It is here that the executions take place. *

Briefly, in the distance, the Sharp Judge appears -- dressed like a dandy in tails and a top hat, and smoking a cigarette.

The condemned are given writing materials.

JOSEF

Who do I write to? My family's gone.

All take courage from Franz's example.

FRANZ (O.S.)

I want to write all of you a few words of farewell. I am deeply grateful for everything that you have done for me in my life -- for all the love and sacrifices which you have shown me. And I ask you once again to forgive me for everything that I have made you suffer... I ask everyone else, whom I at some time have pained and hurt, to forgive me. Especially the pastor with my words as he visited with me. It was not possible for me to free you, dearest wife and mother, from the sorrows that you have suffered for me.

220 INT. J HOUSE (ST. R)

220

Fani reads Franz's letter to the children.

FANI (O.S.)

Give my warm greetings to my dear children. Do not forget me in your prayers. And may we see each other soon. Greetings to all of you before his last journey from your husband, son, and father, son-in-law and brother-in-law. Heart and my heart be one, bound for time and eternity.

Rosi, the eldest girl, sees her mother in distress. What is she doing, hiding her face that way?

The younger sisters play, oblivious, as with a solemn awe Rosi gets her first glimpse of human suffering and wonders what may lie ahead for her, and for them all.

221 EXT. COURTYARD 221

Fr. Kreutzberg offers to read to Franz, but he shakes his head, preferring to sit in silence.

The pastor marvels at how Franz remains at peace through his final hours; calm, prepared. No word of fear or complaint passes his lips.

His eyes shine with a strange joy.

222 EXT. GARAGE (EXECUTION SITE) 222

The condemned are led to the outbuilding that in the past was used as a garage. There are still a few old tires lying around, wrenches, the rusted parts of a disassembled transmission.

The men -- 18 of them -- stand in a long row, several meters from each other. In front of the execution chamber there is a bench, where three may sit at a time.

GUARD

They call it the Devil's Bench.

The humor goes unappreciated. As each man stands up to be led into the garage, Fr. Kreutzberg comes to him, gives him a cross to kiss and prays with him.

The condemned man is led by two Sergeants into the room. There is a small table, on it a cross between two burning candles. Behind the table stands the Prosecutor, a clerk of the court, a doctor and the priest.

Two executioners step up behind the condemned man, his personal details are read out once again, with the judgment against him.

Across the whole room hangs a black curtain. It is just as they described it to Franz. In front of the curtain, the Sharp Judge. The Prosecutor calls out:

PROSECUTOR LARS

Sharp Judge, fulfill your office!

The curtain rises. The scaffold becomes visible. The guillotine rises above it. Then the curtain closes...

It happens that Franz finds himself next to Josef, who, trembling, turns his back to the instrument, looks up into Franz's face and thanks him:

JOSEF
I'm not afraid of anything while
I'm with you. Not if they make it
quick.

*

FRANZ
They will.

They speak as if they were alone. Eye to eye, heart to heart, at one point hand in hand. Strangers who have come together on life's dark highway, to make their way home together.

JOSEF
What do you see?

He is struck by the strange look in Franz's eyes.

JOSEF (CONT'D)
You comfort me. I'm so ignorant.
May I kiss you? Has the moment
come?

*

*

FRANZ
Yes.

He kisses Franz on the cheek. The young man's hand does not tremble. There is a bright constancy in his face. He goes first, and is gone.

*

FRANZ (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Be strong, my wife! I'll wait for
you!

He steps forward.

*

223 INT. LIVING ROOM, J HOUSE, ST. R 223

Fani looks up as the clock strikes four.

224 ROSALIA 224

Franz's mother regrets her harshness towards her daughter-in-law. Now she has no one else.

ROSALIA
Forgive me! You have been good to
me, and to my son. And I haven't
been good to you!

She kisses Fani's hands.

FRANZ (O.S.)
Mother! Children!

225 RESIE 225

Fani throws herself into her sister's arms.

*

FANI
I don't understand!

*

FADE TO:

226 EXT. ST. R CHURCH 226

Against the Prosecutor's order that there be nothing done to honor Franz's memory, a neighbor goes into the church and, grasping a rope that hangs down from the ceiling, in a small act of defiance, begins to ring the bell, as Franz once did.

The Mayor looks up from a chair in his garden. Unmoved, indifferent. The Policeman weeps, alone.

227 EXT. FIELDS 227

The tolling of the bell reaches out through the fields, gathering the villagers into a single body.

228 EXT. FORTRESS (BURG) 228

The fortress stands in silence.

FADE TO:

229 EXT. RECTORY, ST. R SQUARE 229

Fani speaks with Fr. Furthauer outside the rectory, conscious of the glances of two villagers in the distance.

FANI
I've lost a good husband. A good
father -- for my children. Our
marriage was one of the happiest
in the parish. People envied us!

*

FANI (CONT'D)
 Our beautiful union was lost. Already
 I look forward -- to where no war can
 ever separate us again!... With great
 respect, from the depths of my heart,
 I wish you good for all you've done --
 for my dear husband!

She turns and goes away.

230 EXT. FIELD - FANI AND RESIE, GLEANING

230

Fani and Resie work their way through a field of barley,
 cutting the stalks with a sickle and laying them out in
 windrows.

FANI
 I thought you just had to be good.
 Wasn't he? Franz!

*

Her sister takes her hand.

FANI (CONT'D)
 A time will come when we'll know
 what all this is for -- why
 there's all this suffering. And
 there'll be no mysteries. We'll
 know why we live...

*

Far away they hear singing. The neighbors are working in
 their fields.

*

The life of the land goes on.

*

THE END

Best Picture

Produced by

GRANT HILL, p.g.a. DARIO BERGESIO JOSH JETER, p.g.a. ELISABETH BENTLEY

Best Director

TERRENCE MALICK

Best Original Screenplay

TERRENCE MALICK

Best Actor

AUGUST DIEHL

Best Actress

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