

Inglourious Basterds

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EXT-DAIRY FARM-DAY

The modest dairy farm in the countryside of Nancy, France (what the French call cow country).

We read a SUBTITLE in the sky above the farmhouse:

CHAPTER ONE

"ONCE UPON A TIME IN . . .
NAZI-OCCUPIED FRANCE"

This SUBTITLE disappears and is replaced by another one:

"1941
One year into the German
occupation of France"

The farm consists of a house, a small barn, and twelve cows spread about.

The owner of the property, a bull of a man, FRENCH FARMER, brings an ax up and down on a tree stump, blemishing his property. However, simply by sight, you'd never know if he's been beating at this stump for the last year or just started today.

JULIE

one of his three pretty teenage daughters, is hanging laundry on the clothesline. As she hangs up a white bedsheet, she hears a noise. Moving the sheet aside, she sees:

JULIE'S POV

A Nazi town car convertible, with two little Nazi flags attached to the hood, a NAZI SOLDIER behind the wheel, a NAZI OFFICER alone in the backseat, following TWO OTHER NAZI SOLDIERS on motorcycles, coming up over the hill on the country road leading to their farm.

JULIE

Pappa.

The French farmer sinks his ax in the stump, looks over his shoulder, and sees the Germans approaching.

The FARMER'S WIFE, CHARLOTTE, comes to the doorway of their home, followed by her TWO OTHER TEENAGE DAUGHTERS, and sees the Germans approaching.

The farmer yells to his family in FRENCH, SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH:

FARMER
Go back inside and shut the door.

FARMER

(to Julie)

Julie, get me some water from the pump to wash up with, then get inside with your mother.

The young lady runs to the water pump by the house. She picks up a basin and begins pumping. After a few pumps, water comes out, splashing into the basin.

The French farmer sits down on the stump he was previously chopping away at, pulls a handkerchief from his pocket, wipes sweat from his face, and waits for the Nazi convoy to arrive. After living for a year with the sword of Damocles suspended over his head, this may very well be the end.

Julie finishes filling the water basin and places it on the windowsill.

JULIE

Ready, Pappa.

FARMER

Thank you, darling, now go inside and take care of your mother. Don't run.

Julie walks inside the farmhouse and closes the door behind her.

As her father stands up from the stump and moves over to the windowsill with the water basin . . .

. . . The SOUND OF THE ENGINES of the two motorcycles and car get LOUDER.

The farmer SPLASHES water from the basin on his face and down his front. He takes a towel off a nail and wipes the excess water from his face and chest, as he watches the two motorcycles, the one automobile, and the four representatives of the National Socialist Party come to a halt on his property.

We don't move into them but keep observing them from a distance, like the farmer.

The TWO NAZI MOTORCYCLISTS are off their bikes and standing at attention next to them.

The NAZI DRIVER has walked around the automobile and opened the door for his superior.

The NAZI OFFICER says to the driver in UNSUBTITLED GERMAN:

NAZI OFFICER

This is the property of Perrier LaPadite?

NAZI DRIVER

Yes, Herr Colonel.

The Nazi officer climbs out of the backseat of the vehicle, carrying in his left hand a black leather attaché case.

NAZI OFFICER

Herrman, until I summon you, I am to be left alone.

NAZI DRIVER

As you wish, Herr Colonel.

The S.S. colonel yells to the farmer in FRENCH, SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH:

NAZI OFFICER

Is this the property of Perrier LaPadite?

FARMER

I am Perrier LaPadite.

The S.S. colonel crosses the distance between them with long strides and says, in French, with a smile on his face:

NAZI OFFICER

It is a pleasure to meet you, Monsieur LaPadite. I am Colonel Hans Landa of the S.S.

COL. HANS LANDA offers the French farmer, PERRIER LAPADITE, his hand. The Frenchman takes the German hand in his and shakes it.

PERRIER

How may I help you?

COL. LANDA

I was hoping you could invite me inside your home and we may have a discussion.

INT-LAPADITE FARMHOUSE-DAY

The door to the farmhouse swings open, and the farmer gestures for the S.S. colonel to enter. Removing his gray S.S. cap, the German steps inside the Frenchman's home.

Col. Landa is immediately greeted with the sight of the farmer's wife and three pretty daughters standing together in the kitchen, smiling in his direction.

The farmer enters behind him, closing the door.

PERRIER

Colonel Landa, this is my family.

The S.S. colonel clicks his heels together and takes the hand of the French farmer's wife . . .

COL. LANDA

Col. Hans Landa of the S.S., Madame,
at your service.

He kisses her hand, then continues without letting go of his hostess's hand . . .

COL. LANDA

Please excuse my rude intrusion on your routine.

FARMER'S WIFE

Don't be ridiculous, Herr Colonel.

While still holding the French woman's hand and looking into her eyes, the S.S. colonel says:

COL. LANDA

Monsieur LaPadite, the rumors I have heard in the village about your family are all true.
Your wife is a beautiful woman.

His eyes leave the mother and move to the three daughters.

COL. LANDA

(CON'T)

And each of your daughters is more lovely than the last.

PERRIER

Merci. Please have a seat.

The farmer offers the S.S. colonel a seat at the family's wooden dinner table. The Nazi officer accepts the French farmer's offer and lowers himself into the chair, placing his gray S.S. cap on the table and keeping his black attaché case on the floor by his feet.

The farmer (perfect host) turns to his wife and says:

PERRIER

Charlotte, would you be so good as to get the Colonel some wine?

COL. LANDA

Merci beaucoup, Monsieur LaPadite, but no wine.
This being a dairy farm, one would be safe in
assuming you have milk?

CHARLOTTE

Oui.

COL. LANDA

Then milk is what I prefer.

CHARLOTTE

Very well.

The mother of three takes a carafe of milk out of the icebox
and pours a tall glass of the fresh white liquid for the colonel.

The S.S. colonel takes a long drink from the glass, then puts it
down LOUDLY on the wooden table.

COL. LANDA

Monsieur, to both your family and your cows I
say: Bravo.

PERRIER

Merci.

COL. LANDA

Please, join me at your table.

PERRIER

Very well.

The French farmer sits at his wooden dinner table across from
the Nazi.

The women remain standing.

Col. Landa leans forward and says to the farmer in a low tone of
confidentiality:

COL. LANDA

Monsieur LaPadite, what we have to discuss
would be better discussed in private. You'll
notice, I left my men outdoors. If it wouldn't
offend them, could you ask your lovely ladies
to step outside?

PERRIER

You are right.

PERRIER

(to his women)

Charlotte, would you take the girls outside.
The Colonel and I need to have a few words.

The farmer's wife follows her husband's orders and gathers her daughters, taking them outside, closing the door behind them.

The two men are alone at the farmer's dinner table, in the farmer's humble home.

COL. LANDA

Monsieur LaPadite, I regret to inform you I've exhausted the extent of my French. To continue to speak it so inadequately would only serve to embarrass me. However, I've been led to believe you speak English quite well?

PERRIER

Oui.

COL. LANDA

Well, it just so happens, I do as well. This being your house, I ask your permission to switch to English for the remainder of the conversation.

PERRIER

By all means.

They now speak ENGLISH:

COL. LANDA

Monsieur LaPadite, while I'm very familiar with you and your family, I have no way of knowing if you are familiar with who I am. Are you aware of my existence?

The farmer answers:

PERRIER

Yes.

COL. LANDA

This is good. Are you aware of the job I've been ordered to carry out in France?

PERRIER

Yes.

The colonel drinks more milk.

COL. LANDA

Please tell me what you've heard?

PERRIER

I've heard the Führer has put you in charge of rounding up the Jews left in France who are either hiding or passing for gentile.

The S.S. colonel smiles.

COL. LANDA

The Führer couldn't have said it better himself.

PERRIER

But the meaning of your visit, pleasant though it is, is mysterious to me. The Germans looked through my house nine months ago for hiding Jews and found nothing.

COL. LANDA

I'm aware of that. I read the report on this area. But like any enterprise, when under new management, there's always a slight duplication of efforts. Most of it being a complete waste of time, but it needs to be done nevertheless. I just have a few questions, Monsieur LaPadite. If you can assist me with answers, my department can close the file on your family.

Taking his black leather attaché case and placing it on the table, he takes out a folder from inside. He also extracts an expensive black fountain pen from his uniform's front pocket. Opening the folder and referring to it:

COL. LANDA

Now, before the occupation there were four Jewish families in this area, all dairy farmers like yourself: the Loveitts, the Doleracs, the Rollins, and the Dreyfuses, is that correct?

PERRIER

To my knowledge those were the Jewish families
among the dairy farmers.
Herr Colonel, would it disturb you if
I smoked my pipe?

Looking up from his papers:

COL. LANDA

Please, Monsieur LaPadite, it is your house.
Make yourself comfortable.

The farmer gets up from the table, goes to a shelf over the
fireplace, and removes from it a WOODEN BOX that contains all the
fixings to his pipe. He sits back down at the table with his Nazi
guest.

As the farmer loads the bowl of his pipe with tobacco, sets a match
to it, and begins slowly puffing, making it red hot, the S.S.
colonel studies the papers in front of him.

COL. LANDA

Now, according to these papers, all
the Jewish families in this area have been
accounted for—except the Dreyfuses. Somewhere in
the last year it would appear they have
vanished.

Which leads me to the conclusion that they've
either made good their escape
or someone is very successful hiding them.

(looking up from
his papers, across
the table at the
farmer)

What have you heard about the Dreyfuses,
Monsieur LaPadite?

PERRIER

Only rumors—

COL. LANDA

—I love rumors! Facts can be so misleading, where
rumors, true or false, are often revealing. So,
Monsieur LaPadite, what rumors have you heard
regarding
the Dreyfuses?

The farmer looks at Landa.

COL. LANDA

Speak freely, Monsieur LaPadite, I want to hear what the rumors are, not who told them to you.

The farmer puffs thoroughly on his pipe.

PERRIER

Again, this is just a rumor—but we heard the Dreyfuses had made their way into Spain.

COL. LANDA

So the rumors you've heard have been of escape?

PERRIER

Yes.

COL. LANDA

Were the LaPadites and the Dreyfuses friendly?

As the farmer answers this question, the CAMERA LOWERS behind his chair, to the floor, past the floor, to a small area underneath the floorboards, revealing:

FIVE HUMAN BEINGS

lying horizontally underneath the farmer's floorboards. These human beings are the DREYFUSES, who have lived lying down underneath the dairy farmer's house for the past year. But one couldn't call what the Dreyfuses have done for the last year living. This family has done the only thing they could—hide from an occupying army that wishes to exterminate them.

PERRIER

We were families in the same community, in the same business. I wouldn't say we were friends, but members of the same community. We had common interests.

The S.S. colonel takes in this answer, seems to accept it, then moves to the next question.

COL. LANDA

Having never met the Dreyfuses, would you confirm for me the exact members of the household and their names?

PERRIER

There were five of them.
The father, Jacob . . . wife, Miriam . . . her
brother, Bob . . .

COL. LANDA

—How old is Bob?

PERRIER

Thirty—thirty-one?

COL. LANDA

Continue.

PERRIER

And the children . . . Amos . . . and Shosanna.

COL. LANDA

Ages of the children?

PERRIER

Amos—six—I believe. And Shosanna
was fifteen or sixteen, I'm not really sure.

CUT TO

EXT—DAIRY FARM—DAY

The mother and her three daughters finish taking the laundry off
the clothesline.

They can't hear anything going on inside.

The three Nazi soldiers watch the three daughters.

BACK TO LANDA AND PERRIER

COL. LANDA

Well, I guess that should do it.

He begins gathering up his papers and putting them back into his
attaché case.

The farmer, cool as a cucumber, puffs on his pipe.

COL. LANDA

However, before I go, could I have another glass
of your delicious milk?

PERRIER

But of course.

The farmer stands up, goes over to the icebox, and takes out the carafe of milk. As he walks over and fills the Nazi colonel's glass, the German officer talks.

COL. LANDA

Monsieur LaPadite, are you aware of the nickname the people of France have given me?

PERRIER

I have no interest in such things.

COL. LANDA

But you are aware of what they call me?

PERRIER

I'm aware.

COL. LANDA

What are you aware of?

PERRIER

That they call you "the Jew Hunter."

COL. LANDA

Precisely! Now I understand your trepidation in repeating it.

Before he was assassinated, Heydrich apparently hated the moniker the good people of Prague bestowed on him. Actually, why he would hate the name "the Hangman" is baffling to me. It would appear he did everything in his power to earn it. But I, on the other hand, love my unofficial title, precisely because I've earned it.

As "the Jew Hunter" enjoys his fresh milk, he continues to theorize with the French farmer.

COL. LANDA

The feature that makes me such an effective hunter of the Jews is, as opposed to most German soldiers, I can think like a Jew, where they can only think like a German or, more precisely, a German soldier. Now if one were to determine what attribute the German people share with a beast, it would be the cunning and predatory instinct of a hawk.

COL. LANDA

(CON'T)

Negroes—gorillas—brain—lips—smell—physical strength—penis size.

But if one were to determine what attributes the Jews share with a beast, it would be that of the rat.

Now the Führer and Goebbels's propaganda have said pretty much the same thing. Where our conclusions differ is I don't consider the comparison an insult. Consider for a moment the world a rat lives in. It's a hostile world indeed. If a rat were to scamper through your front door right now, would you greet it with hostility?

PERRIER

I suppose I would.

COL. LANDA

Has a rat ever done anything to you to create this animosity you feel toward them?

PERRIER

Rats spread disease, they bite people—

COL. LANDA

Unless some fool is stupid enough to try and handle a live one, rats don't make it a practice of biting human beings. Rats were the cause of the bubonic plague, but that was some time ago. In all your born days, has a rat ever caused you to be sick a day in your life? I propose to you, any disease a rat could spread a squirrel would equally carry. Yet I assume you don't share the same animosity with squirrels that you do with rats, do you?

PERRIER

No.

COL. LANDA

Yet they are both rodents, are they not? And except for the fact that one has a big bushy tail, while the other has a long repugnant tail of rodent skin, they even rather look alike, don't they?

PERRIER

It is an interesting thought,
Herr Colonel.

COL. LANDA

However, interesting as the thought may be, it makes not one bit of difference to how you feel. If a rat were to scamper through your door this very minute, would you offer it a saucer of your delicious milk?

PERRIER

Probably not.

COL. LANDA

I didn't think so. You don't like them. You don't really know why you don't like them. All you know is, you find them repulsive.

(lets the
metaphor
sink in)

What a tremendously hostile world a rat must endure. Yet not only does he survive, he thrives. And the reason for this is because our little foe has an instinct for survival and preservation second to none. And that, Monsieur, is what a Jew shares with a rat. Consequently, a German soldier conducts a search of a house suspected of hiding Jews. Where does the hawk look? He looks in the barn, he looks in the attic, he looks in the cellar—he looks everywhere he would hide. But there are many places it would never occur to a hawk to hide. However, the reason the Führer brought me off my Alps in Austria and placed me in French cow country today is because it does occur to me. Because I'm aware what tremendous feats human beings are capable of once they abandon dignity.

(changing tone)

May I smoke my pipe as well?

The farmer's cool facade is little by little eroding.

PERRIER

Please, colonel, make yourself at home.

The Jew Hunter removes both a pipe and a bag of tobacco fixings. The pipe, strangely enough, is a calabash, made from an S-shaped gourd with a yellow skin and made famous by Sherlock Holmes.

As the Nazi colonel busies himself with his smoking, he continues to hold court at the Frenchman's table.

COL. LANDA

The other mistake the German soldiers make is their severe handling of the citizens who give shelter and aid to the Jews. These citizens are not enemies of the state. They are simply confused people, trying to make some sense out of the madness war creates.

These citizens do not need punishing. They simply need to be reminded of their duty in wartime.

Let's use you as an example, Monsieur LaPadite. In this war, you have found yourself in the middle of a conflict that has nothing to do with yourself, your lovely ladies, or your cows—yet here you are.

So, Monsieur LaPadite, let me propose a question. In this time of war, what is your number-one duty? Is it to fight the Germans in the name of France to your last breath? Or is it to harass the occupying army to the best of your ability? Or is it to protect the poor, unfortunate victims of warfare who can not protect themselves?

Or is your number-one duty in this time of bloodshed to protect those very beautiful women who constitute your family?

The Colonel lets the last statement stand.

COL. LANDA

That was a question, Monsieur LaPadite. In this time of war, what do you consider your number-one duty?

PERRIER

To protect my family.

COL. LANDA

Now, my job dictates that I must have my men enter your home and conduct a thorough search before I can officially cross your family's name off my list.

COL. LANDA

(CON'T)

And if there are any irregularities to be found, rest assured, they will be. That is, unless you have something to tell me that will make the conducting of a search unnecessary.

(pause)

I might add also that any information that makes the performing of my duty easier will not be met with punishment. Actually quite the contrary, it will be met with reward. And that reward will be your family will cease to be harassed in any way by the German military during the rest of our occupation of your country.

The farmer, pipe in mouth, stares across the table at his German opponent.

COL. LANDA

You are sheltering enemies of the state, are you not?

PERRIER

Yes.

COL. LANDA

You're sheltering them underneath your floorboards, aren't you?

PERRIER

Yes.

COL. LANDA

Point out to me the areas where they're hiding.

The farmer points out the areas on the floor where the Dreyfuses are underneath.

COL. LANDA

Since I haven't heard any disturbance, I assume that while they're listening, they don't speak English?

PERRIER

Yes.

COL. LANDA

I'm going to switch back to French now, and I want you to follow my masquerade—is that clear?

PERRIER

Yes.

Col. Landa stands up from the table and, switching to FRENCH, says,
SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH:

COL. LANDA

Monsieur LaPadite, I thank you for your milk and
your hospitality. I do believe our business here
is done.

The Nazi officer opens the front door and silently motions for his
men to approach the house.

COL. LANDA

Madame LaPadite, I thank you for your time. We
shan't be bothering your family any longer.

The soldiers enter the doorway. Col. Landa silently points out the
area of the floor the Jews are hiding under.

COL. LANDA

So, Monsieur and Madame LaPadite,
I bid you adieu.

He motions to the soldiers with his index finger.

They TEAR UP the wooden floor with MACHINE-GUN FIRE.

The little farmhouse is filled with SMOKE, DUST, SPLINTERS,
SCREAMS, BULLET CASINGS, and even a little BLOOD.

With a hand motion from the colonel, the soldiers cut off their
gunfire. The colonel keeps his finger in the air to indicate
silence.

UNDERNEATH THE FLOORBOARDS

The entire Dreyfus family lies dead. Except for sixteen-year-old
SHOSANNA, who miraculously escaped being struck by the Nazis'
bullets. With her dead family surrounding her, the young girl goes
for freedom (represented by a wire-mesh vent).

COL. LANDA

hears a movement underneath the floor, looks down, and sees a SHAPE
moving forward between the planks in the floor.

COL. LANDA

It's the girl. Nobody move!

VENT
is KICKED open, the girl SPRINGS out.

COL. LANDA
as he crosses the floor, sees the young girl RUNNING toward the
cover of the woods. He unlatches the window and opens it. Shosanna
is perfectly FRAMED in the windowsill.

SHOSANNA
RUNNING toward the woods. Farmhouse and Colonel in the window in
B.G.

FILTHY BARE FEET
SLAPPING against wet grass.

CU SHOSANNA'S FACE
same as an animal being chased by a predator: FLIGHT-PANIC-FEAR.

SHOSANNA'S POV
the safety of trees, getting closer.

COL. LANDA
framed by the window, takes his WALTER, and straight-arm aims at
the fleeing Jew, cocking back the hammer with his thumb.

COL. LANDA POV
of the fleeing Shosanna.

CU COL. LANDA
SLOW ZOOM into his eyes as he aims.

PROFILE CU SHOSANNA
mad dash for life.

COL. LANDA
changes his mind. He yells to the rat fleeing the trap, heading for
the safety of the woodpile, in FRENCH SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH:

COL. LANDA
Au revoir, Shosanna!

SHOSANNA
makes it to the woods and is gone.

The S.S. colonel closes the window.

EXT-DAIRY FARM-DAY

The Nazi town car DRIVES away.

EXT-NAZI TOWN CAR (MOVING)-DAY

Col. Hans Landa sits in the backseat of the convertible that's speeding away from the French farmhouse.

Landa speaks to his driver in GERMAN, SUBTITLE IN ENGLISH:

COL. LANDA

Herrman, I sense a question on your lips?
Out with it?

DRIVER

Why did you allow an enemy of the state to
escape?

COL. LANDA

Oh, I don't think the state is in too much
danger, do you?

DRIVER

I suppose not.

COL. LANDA

I'm glad you see it my way. Besides,
not putting a bullet in the back of a fifteen-
year-old girl and allowing
her to escape are not necessarily
the same thing. She's a young girl, no food, no
shelter, no shoes, who's just witnessed the
massacre of her entire family.
She may not survive the night. And after
word spreads about what happened today, it's
highly unlikely she will find any willing farmers
to extend her aid.
If I had to guess her fate, I'd say she'll
probably be turned in by some neighbor.
Or she'll be spotted by some German soldier. Or
we'll find her body in the woods, dead from
starvation or exposure. Or, perhaps . . . she'll
survive. She will elude capture. She will escape
to America. She will move to New York City,
where she will be elected President of
the United States.

The S.S. colonel chuckles at his little funny.

FADE UP

CHAPTER TITLE APPEARS:

CHAPTER TWO

"INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS"

FADE UP

EXT—SOMEWHERE IN ENGLAND—DAY

A bunch of SOLDIERS are lined up at attention.

LIEUTENANT ALDO RAINE, a hillbilly from the mountains of Tennessee, walks down the line. He recruits the men the Germans will later call "The Basterds." Lt. Aldo has one defining physical characteristic, a ROPE BURN around his neck—as if, once upon a time, he survived a LYNCHING. The scar will never once be mentioned.

LT. ALDO

My name is Lt. Aldo Raine, and I'm puttin' together a special team.

And I need me eight soldiers.

Eight—Jewish—American—soldiers.

Now y'all might of heard rumors about the armada happening soon.

Well, we'll be leavin' a little earlier. We're gonna be dropped into France, dressed as civilians.

And once we're in enemy territory, as

a bushwackin', guerrilla army, we're gonna be doin' one thing, and one thing only—Killin' Nazis.

The members of the National Socialist Party have conquered Europe through murder, torture, intimidation, and terror. And that's exactly what we're gonna do to them. Now I don't know 'bout y'all? But I sure as hell didn't come down from the goddamn Smoky Mountains, cross five thousand miles

of water, fight my way through half Sicily, and then jump out of a fuckin' air-o-plane to teach the Nazis

lessons in humanity. Nazi ain't got no humanity. They're the foot soldiers of a Jew-hatin', mass-murderin' maniac, and they need to be destroyed.

That's why any and every son-of-a-bitch we find wearin' a Nazi uniform, they're gonna die.

LT. ALDO

(CON'T)

We will be cruel to the Germans,
and through our cruelty, they will
know who we are. They will find the evidence of
our cruelty in the disemboweled, dismembered,
and
disfigured bodies of their brothers
we leave behind us. And the Germans
will not be able to help themselves
from imagining the cruelty their brothers
endured at our hands, and
our bootheels, and the edge of our knives.
And the Germans will be sickened by us. And the
Germans will talk about us.
And the Germans will fear us.
And when the Germans close their eyes at night
and their subconscious
tortures them for the evil they've done, it
will be thoughts of us
that it tortures them with.

He stops pacing and looks at everybody.

LT. ALDO

Sound good?

They all say:

ALL

Yes, sir!

LT. ALDO

That's what I like to hear. But I
got a word of warning to all would-be warriors.
When you join my command,
you take on debit. A debit you owe
me, personally. Every man under my command owes
me one hundred Nazi scalps. And I want my
scalps.
And all y'all will git me one hundred
Nazi scalps, taken from the heads of
one hundred dead Nazis . . .
or you will die trying.

CUT TO

EXT-MOUNTAIN TOP CHALET-DAY

A huge chalet on a misty mountaintop in Bavaria.

A SUBTITLE APPEARS:

"BAVARIA
BERCHTESGADEN
(HITLER'S PRIVATE LAIR)"

INT-BERCHTESGADEN-DAY

In a huge room, ADOLF HITLER pounds on a big table with his fist as he rants at TWO GERMAN GENERALS.

They speak GERMAN SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH:

HITLER

How much more of these Jew swine
must I endure? They butcher my men
like they were fish bait! This pack
of filthy degenerates are doing what
the Russian army didn't and Patton's army
couldn't—turning soldiers of
the Third Reich into superstitious
old women!

GERMAN GENERAL

Just the cowards among them, mein Führer.

Hitler pounds furiously on the desk with his fist.

HITLER

No, no, no, no, no, no! I have heard
the rumors myself! Soldiers of the Third Reich,
who have brought the world to their knees, now
pecking and clucking like chickens. Do you know
the latest rumor they've conjured up, in their
fear-induced delirium? The one that beats
my boys with a bat. The one they call "the Bear
Jew" . . . is a golem.
An avenging Jew angel, conjured up by
a vengeful rabbi, to smite the Aryans!

GENERAL

Mein Führer, this is just soldiers' gossip. No
one really believes the
Bear Jew is a golem.

HITLER

Why not? They seem to be able to elude capture
like an apparition.
They seem to be able to appear and disappear at
will.

HITLER
(CON'T)

You want to prove they're flesh and blood? Then
BRING THEM TO ME!
I will hang them naked, by their
heels, from the Eiffel Tower!
And then throw their bodies in
the sewers, for the rats of Paris
to feast!

The Führer sits down at the table to compose himself and
wipe his greasy black hair out of his face.

HITLER
(disgusted)

The Bear Jew.

He hits the button on the intercom on his desk.

HITLER

Kliest!

KLIEST'S VOICE comes out of the intercom:

KLIEST'S VOICE (OS)

Yes, mein Führer.

HITLER

I have an order I want relayed to all German
soldiers stationed in France.
The Jew degenerate known as the Bear
Jew henceforth is never to be
referred to as the Bear Jew again.
We will cease to aid the Americans
any longer in their attempt to
undermine the German soldier's psyche. Did you
get that, Kliest?

KLIEST'S VOICE (OS)

Yes, mein Führer. Do you still wish
to see Private Butz?

HITLER

Who and what is a private Butz?

KLEIST'S VOICE (OS)

He's the soldier you wanted to see personally.
His squad was ambushed
by Lt. Raine's Jews. He was its only survivor.

HITLER

Indeed I do want to see him. Thank
you for reminding me. Send him in.

CUT TO

EXT-FRENCH WOODS-DAY

CU FACE OF DEAD GERMAN SOLDIER

His head lies on the ground, horizontal. A HAND reaches into the FRAME, KNOCKS aside the dead German patriot's helmet, and grabs a handful of the cadaver's blond hair. A LARGE KNIFE ENTERS THE FRAME and begins SLICING ALONG THE HAIRLINE.

This process is called SCALPING.

After SLICING is complete, the SCALP easily peels off, like a banana skin.

GERMAN PRISONERS PVT. BUTZ AND SGT. RACHTMAN on their knees, hand behind their heads.

Pvt. Butz NARRATES the scene in GERMAN SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH:

PVT. BUTZ (VO)

Werner and I were the only ones left alive after the ambush. While one man guarded us, the rest removed the hair. All the Basterds wore German scalps tied to their belts.

CU SCALPS

hanging from belts.

PVT. BUTZ (VO)

They not only took valuables . . .

WE SEE QUICK CUTS OF

rings, weapons, an iron cross, and somebody digging out a gold tooth with a knife, being removed from dead Germans.

PVT. BUTZ (VO)

. . . They also took their identification papers . . .

CU IDENTIFICATION PAPERS

taken from the inside pocket of a dead German's uniform.

BASTERD PFC. UTIVICH

flips through the I.D. papers till he gets to the page that contains the German soldier's name, statistics, and photo.

PFC. UTIVICH

Sigfried Muller.

PVT. BUTZ (VO)
. . . They then removed their boots . . .

CU GERMAN COMBAT BOOTS
laces untied . . . boots pulled off . . .

SOCKS
removed, revealing dead bare feet . . .

BASTERDS
tossing the boots off a hill.

PVT. BUTZ (VO)
Throwing them away from the bodies . . .

DEAD GERMANS
scalps removed from their heads, pink bare feet . . .

PVT. BUTZ (VO)
The Basterds took their lives, their hair,
their valuables, their identity, and finally
their dignity in death.

True that. The sight of the dead soldiers with bare feet
does rob the tableau of a certain dignity that is normally
felt in battlefield shots.

BACK TO HITLER

HITLER
The dogs!
He fights his frustration, then . . .

HITLER
Continue.

BACK TO THE BASTERDS
Aldo screams to the Basterd who's guarding the two German
prisoners.

LT. ALDO
Hey, Hirschberg, send that kraut
sarge over.

BASTERD PFC. HIRSCHBERG
KICKS Sgt. Rachtman in the back.

PFC. HIRSCHBERG

You! Go!

Sgt. Rachtman is a little slow to respond. So Hirschberg grabs him by the hair, YANKS him to his feet, and KICKS him in the ass, sending him on his way.

Most of the Basterds sit in a circle, Indian style, with Aldo in the middle.

As Sgt. Rachtman walks toward this circle of Basterds, An OFFSCREEN LITERARY NARRATOR (not Pvt. Butz) speaks over the SOUNDTRACK in ENGLISH:

NARRATOR (VO)

Sergeant Werner Rachtman has seen many interrogations since Germany decided it should rule Europe. But this is the first time he's ever been on the wrong end of the exchange. It's always been his belief that only a weakling in mind, body, and spirit complies with the enemy under threat of consequence. As Werner watched men cry like women, pleadingly offer their knowledge, in exchange for their worthless lives, he made a vow to himself. If his role is to die in this conflict, when they put him under the earth, his dignity would be buried with him. For in the other world, the gods only respect the ones they test first. Well, Sergeant, this is your test. And the gods are watching.

The captured German sergeant enters the circle of Basterds, stands straight before the sitting southern lieutenant, and salutes his captor.

SGT. RACHTMAN
(ENGLISH)

Sgt. Werner Rachtman.

Aldo returns the salute, looking at up him.

LT. ALDO

Lt. Aldo Raine. Pleased to meet cha.
You know what sit down means, Werner?

SGT. RACHTMAN

Yes.

LT. ALDO

Then sit down.

The German sergeant does.

LT. ALDO
How's your English, Werner? Cause if need be,
we gotta couple fellas
can translate.

Aldo points at one of the Basterds in the circle,
CPL. WILHELM WICKI.

LT. ALDO
Wicki there, an Austrian Jew, got the fuck
outta Salzburg while the
gettin' was good. Became American,
got drafted, and came back to give
y'all what for.

Then Aldo points to another Basterd. A big, scary-looking Basterd,
in a German sergeant's uniform, named SGT. HUGO STIGLITZ.

LT. ALDO
And another one over there you
might be familiar with, Sgt. Hugo Stiglitz.
Heard of 'em?

The two German sergeants look at each other.

SGT. RACHTMAN
Everybody in the German army's heard
of Hugo Stiglitz.

The Basterds laugh, and a couple pat Hugo on the back.

The NARRATOR comes back on the SOUNDTRACK.

NARRATOR (VO)
The reason for Hugo Stiglitz's
celebrity among German soldiers
is simple.

WE SEE A PHOTO OF HUGO on the front page of the Nazi version
of Stars and Stripes (the military newspaper).

NARRATOR (VO)
As a German enlisted man, he killed thirteen
Gestapo officers, mostly
majors.

WE SEE THE MILITARY PHOTOS OF ALL THIRTEEN GESTAPO OFFICERS.

NARRATOR (VO)

Instead of putting him up against a wall, the High Command decided to send him back to Berlin, to be made an example of.

Hugo in chains, being put in a lone troop truck, part of a prison convoy, en route to Berlin.

NARRATOR (VO)

Needless to say, once the Basterds heard about him, he never got there.

EXT-FRENCH COUNTRYSIDE-DAY

The Basterds AMBUSH the prison convoy, killing everybody.

They walk to the back of the troop truck. Inside, Hugo, in chains, stares back at them.

LT. ALDO

Sgt. Hugo Stiglitz?

Hugo nods.

LT. ALDO

I'm Lt. Aldo Raine, and these are the Basterds. Ever heard of us?

Hugo nods his head, yes.

LT. ALDO

We just wanna say, we're a big fan of your work. When it comes to killin' Nazis, I think you show great talent, and I pride myself on havin' an eye for that kind of talent. But your status as a Nazi killer is still amateur. We all came here to see if you wanna go pro?

BACK TO THE BASTERD CIRCLE.

LT. ALDO

Now Werner, I'm gonna assume you know who we are?

SGT. RACHTMAN

Aldo the Apache.

The circle of Basterds giggle.

LT. ADLO

Well, Werner, if you heard of us, you probably
heard we ain't in the
prisoner-takin' business. We in the killin'
Nazi business. And cousin, business is boomin'.

The Basterds laugh.

LT. ALDO

Now that leaves two ways we can play this out.
Either kill ya or let ya
go. Now whether or not you gonna
leave this circle alive depends
entirely on you.

Aldo takes out a map of the area and lays it out in front
of his prisoner.

LT. ALDO

Up the road a piece, there's a
orchard. 'Sides you, we know there's another
kraut patrol fuckin' around
here somewhere. Now if that patrol
were to have any crack shots, that orchard
would be a goddamn sniper's delight. Now if you
ever wanna eat
a sauerkraut sandwich again, you
gotta show me on this map where
they are, you gotta tell me how many they are,
and you gotta tell me
what kinda artillery they carrying
with 'em.

SGT. RACHTMAN

You can't expect me to divulge information that
would put German
lives in danger.

LT. ALDO

Well, Werner, that's where you're wrong.
Because that's exactly what I expect.
I need to know about Germans hidin'
in trees. And you need to tell me.
And you need to tell me, right now.
Now take your finger and point out
on this map where this party's bein' held, how
many's comin', and what they brought to play
with.

Werner sits, head held high, back straight, chin up, every
inch the German hero facing death.

SGT. WERNER

I respectfully refuse, sir.

Aldo jerks his thumb behind him.

LT. ALDO

You see that ole boy battin' rocks?

WE RACK-FOCUS to one of the Basterds not in the circle. He's wearing a wife beater and power-hitting stones with a baseball bat.

Werner's eyes go to the ballplayer.

LT. ALDO

That's Sgt. Donny Donowitz. But you might know him better by his nickname, the Bear Jew. Now if you heard of Aldo the Apache, you gotta heard about the Bear Jew?

SGT. RACHTMAN

I heard.

LT. ALDO

What did you hear?

SGT. RACHTMAN

He beats German soldiers with a club.

LT. ALDO

He bashes their brains in with a baseball bat, what he does.

SGT. DONOWITZ

back to us, still haven't seen his face. He Babe Ruths a rock soaring into the atmosphere.

LT. ALDO

Now, Werner, I'm gonna ask you one last goddamn time, and if you still "respectfully refuse," I'm calling the Bear Jew over here, and he's gonna take that big bat of his, and he's gonna beat your ass to death with it. Now take your Wiener-schnitzel-lickin' finger and point out on this map what I want to know.

SGT. RACHTMAN

Fuck you and your Jew dogs.

Instead of getting mad, the Basterds burst out LAUGHING.

Also says to Werner, with a giggle in his voice:

LT. ALDO

Actually, Werner, we're all tickled
ya said that. Frankly, watchin' Donny beat
Nazis to death is the closest
we ever get to goin' to the movies.

(YELLING)

DONNY!

SGT. DONOWITZ

He turns to the CAMERA and yells:

SGT. DONOWITZ

Yeah?

LT. ALDO

Got a German here wants to die for his country.
Oblige him.

SGT. DONNY DONOWITZ

bat over his shoulder, smiles.

CUT TO

INT-BARBER SHOP (BOSTON)-DAY

Donny, cutting heads, in his pop's barber shop, in Boston.

DONNY

. . . ya got the goddamn, fuckin' Germans,
declaring open season on Jews in
Europe, and I'm suppose to fly to the fuckin'
Philippines and fight a bunch
of fuckin' Japs—not me, pal.
If we just go in this against the Japs,
the whole U.S. of fuckin A can go take a
running jump at the moon.

HEAD

You know, they got a word for what you're
sayin' Donny. It's called treason.

DONNY

Hey, stick your treason up your poop hole. If
I'm gonna kill my fellow man
in the name of liberty, that fellow
man will be German.

INT-SPORTING GOODS STORE-DAY

MR. GOOROWITZ'S sporting goods shop in Donny's Jewish Boston neighborhood. Donny walks in.

MR. GOOROWITZ
Hello, Donny. How are you?

DONNY
Ah, just dandy, Mr. Goorowitz.

MR. GOOROWITZ
Your mother, your father—everything
good there?

DONNY
They're just fine. I'm shippin' off next week.

The store proprietor extends his hand to the young man.

MR. GOOROWITZ
Good for you, son. Kill one of those Nazi
basterds for me, will ya?

DONNY
That the idea, Mr. Goorowitz.

MR. GOOROWITZ
What can I do you for, Donny?

DONNY
I need a baseball bat.

The store owner leads him to a basket with eight bats in it. Donny starts going through them without saying anything.

Mr. Goorowitz watches.

MR. GOOROWITZ
You gettin' your little brother a present
before you ship out?

Donny, concentrating on the bats, not looking up:

DONNY
No.

Donny's "no" silences the gabby Goorowitz. He seems to settle on one, feeling its weight in his hands.

DONNY
Can I try this one on for size, outside?

Extending his arm:

MR. GOOROWITZ

Be my guest.

The phone rings.

MR. GOOROWITZ

I'll get that. You go right ahead.

The proprietor answers the phone and gets into a conversation with his OFFSCREEN mother.

Donny walks outside. WE STAY IN STORE but can see him clearly through the store's big picture window.

However, Mr. Goorowitz instinctively turns his back to Donny to speak with his mother.

Donny starts swinging the bat. It's pretty obvious he's pantomiming beating somebody to death with it. Then he starts yelling:

DONNY

Take that, ya Nazi basterd! You like fuckin' with the Jews? Wanna fuck with the Jews? The American Jews are gonna FUCK with you . . . !

Mr. Goorowitz sees none of this as he speaks to his mother. He hangs up the phone just as Donny walks back into the store. The store owner turns to the store customer.

DONNY

Is this the heaviest ya got?

CUT TO

INT-HALLWAY APARTMENT BUILDING-DAY

Donny, dressed nice, in an apartment building in his Jewish Boston neighbourhood. He knocks on a door.

A VERY OLD JEWISH WOMAN opens the door, only a little, peering out at the young man.

OLD WOMAN

How can I help you?

DONNY

Mrs. Himmelstein?

MRS. HIMMELSTEIN

State your business, young man.

DONNY

Mrs. Himmelstein, I'm Donny Donowitz.
My father, Sy Donowitz, owns the barber shop on
Greeny Ave. Sy's Barber Shop.

MRS. HIMMELSTEIN

I've seen it. Do you live in the neighborhood?

DONNY

All my life.

MRS. HIMMELSTEIN

Again, state your business?

DONNY

May I have a word with you?

MRS. HIMMELSTEIN

What about?

DONNY

Our people in Europe.

She thinks for a beat, then holds the door open for the
young man.

MRS. HIMMELSTEIN

Come in. Would you like some tea?

INT-MRS. HIMMELSTEIN'S APARTMENT-DAY

Donny sits on an overstuffed sofa, holding a tea cup and
saucer in his hand. Mrs. Himmelstein sits on an overstuffed chair,
holding her tea, looking across at her visitor.

DONNY

(sipping tea)

Very good.

MRS. HIMMSELSTEIN

If you like tea.

Donny chuckles at her little joke. The old woman remains
stone. She wasn't joking. He places his saucer on the coffee table
and begins:

DONNY

Mrs. Himmelstein, do you have any loved ones
over in Europe who you're concerned for?

MRS. HIMMELSTEIN

What compels you, young man, to ask a stranger
such a personal question?

DONNY

Because I'm going to Europe. And I'm gonna make
it right.

MRS. HIMMELSTEIN

And just how do intend to do that, Joshua?

He holds up his bat.

DONNY

With this.

MRS. HIMMELSTEIN

And what exactly do you intend to do with that
toy?

DONNY

I'm gonna beat every Nazi I find to
death with it.

She takes another sip of tea.

MRS. HIMMELSTEIN

I thought we were having tea together.

Donny picks up his cup and takes a sip.

MRS. HIMMELSTEIN

And in this pursuit, how is it that I can be of
service?

DONNY

I'm going through the neighborhood.
If you have any loved ones in Europe whose
safety you fear for, I'd like
you to write their name on my bat.

BACK TO BASTERDS

Donna takes a long walk to Werner . . .

PVT. BUTZ

watches all this . . .

As WE CUT BACK and FORTH BETWEEN DONNY WALKING and WERNER WAITING,
WE ALSO CUT BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN DONNY and
MRS. HIMMELSTEIN . . .

MRS. HIMMELSTEIN

You must be a real basterd, Donny.

DONNY

You bet your sweet ass I am.

MRS. HIMMELSTEIN

Hand me your sword, Gideon. I do believe I will
join you on this journey.

She signs the BAT: "MADELEINE."

Donny steps up to the plate, looking down at the Nazi:
He sees the Iron Cross hanging from the German Sgt's right pocket.
The Jew taps the German's medal with the end of his bat.

DONNY

You get that for killing jews?

SGT RACHTMAN

Bravery.

Donny gives him a "oh yeah, we'll see about that," look.

The Bear Jew raises the bat up high over his shoulder and brings it
down hard against the side of Rachtman's head.

Donny BEATS Werner TO DEATH WITH THE BAT, to the cheers of
the Basterds.

PVT. BUTZ

watches. Hirschberg says to him:

PFC. HIRSCHBERG

About now, I'd be shittin' my pants, if I was
you.

Aldo points a finger at Butzs and crooks it toward him.

A crying, visibly shaken Butz sits down in front of Aldo.

LT. ALDO

You wanna live?

PVT. BUTZ

Yes, sir.

LT. ALDO

Point out on this map the German position.

His arm shoots out like a rocket and points out the positions.

PVT. BUTZ
This area here.

LT. ALDO
How many?

PVT. BUTZ
Maybe twelve.

LT. ALDO
What kind of artillery?

PVT BUTZ
They have a machine gun dug in here pointing north.

BACK TO HITLER

HITLER
How did you survive this ordeal?

WE SEE Pvt. Butz in the Führer's room for the first time. He wears a Nazi cap, which is unusual in the presence of the Führer, but he seems okay with it.

PVT. BUTZ
They let me go.

FROM HERE ON WE GO BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN ALDO AND HITLER.

LT. ALDO
Now, when you report what happened here, you can't tell 'em you told us what you told us. They'll shoot ya. But they're gonna wanna know, why you so special, we let you live? So tell 'em we let ya live so you could spread the word through the ranks what's gonna happen to every Nazi we find.

HITLER
You are not to tell anybody anything! Not one word of detail! Your outfit was ambushed, and you got away. Not one more word.

PVT. BUTZ
Yes, mein Führer.

Pause.

HITLER
Did they mark you like they did the other survivors?

PVT. BUTZ

Yes, mein Führer.

HITLER

Remove your hat and show me.

LT. ALDO

Now say we let ya go, and say you survive the war? When you get back home, what 'cha gonna do?

PVT. BUTZ

I will hug my mother like I've never hugged her before.

LT. ALDO

Well, ain't that a real nice boy. Are you going to take off your uniform?

PVT. BUTZ

Not only shall I remove it, but I intend to burn it!

The young German is telling Aldo what he thinks Aldo wants to hear. But the last answer didn't go down as well as he thought it would, as is evident by the frown on Aldo's face.

LT. ALDO

Yeah, that's what we thought. We don't like that. You see, we like our Nazis in uniforms. That way, you can spot 'em just like that.

(snaps his fingers)

But you take off that uniform, ain't nobody gonna know you was a Nazi. And that don't sit well with us.

Aldo removes a LARGE KNIFE from a sheath on his belt.

LT. ALDO

So I'm gonna give ya a little somethin' you can't take off.

BACK TO HITLER

Pvt. Butz removes his combat helmet. Hair hangs in his face. He moves it aside, and WE SEE a SWASTIKA has been HAND-CARVED INTO HIS FOREHEAD.

BACK TO BASTERDS

BUTZ'S POV

on ground, looking up at them. Aldo has just carved the swastika, and he's holding the bloody knife. All the Basterds crowd around to admire his handiwork.

SGT. DONOWITZ

You know, Lieutenant, you're getting pretty good at that.

LT. ALDO

You know how you get to Carnegie Hall, don't cha? Practice.

FADE TO BLACK

OVER BLACK

CHAPTER TITLE APPEARS:

CHAPTER THREE

"GERMAN NIGHT IN PARIS"

INT-CINEMA AUDITORIUM-NIGHT

We're in the auditorium of a cinema in Paris. However, the CAMERA is pointed in the direction of the audience, not the screen. We start CLOSE on the projector beam emanating from the little glass window in the back of the theater.

The CAMERA continues to DOLLY back, making the shot wider and wider, bringing in more and more the German-occupied citizens of Paris, who stare at the OFFSCREEN silver screen in the dark.

We can hear the OFFSCREEN SOUNDTRACK of a Goebbels-produced German omm-pa-pa musical movie being projected.

The shot continues to pull farther and farther back, and the German dialogue continues to fill the auditorium . . .

UNTIL . . .

The DOLY SHOT LANDS on a CLOSEUP of Shosanna, watching the movie.

A SUBTITLE APPEARS:

"SHOSANNA DREYFUS
TWO WEEKS AFTER THE MASSACRE
OF SHOSANNA'S FAMILY"

We hear the sound of the German musical's climax.

The lights go up in the auditorium.

Shosanna, dressed in a NURSE'S UNIFORM she swiped from somewhere, remains seated, as the rest of the PATRONS gather their coats and file out.

EXT-LITTLE CINEMA (PARIS)-NIGHT

Patrons exit under the cinema marquee, as someone from inside SHUTS OFF the marquee's lights.

The MARQUEE READS in French:

"GERMAN NIGHT BRIDGET VON HAMMERSMARK in MADCAP IN MEXICO."

EXT-PROJECTION BOOTH (LITTLE CINEMA)

A French black man, who we will learn later is named MARCEL, is the cinema's projectionist. We see him for a moment, taking the film reels off the projector and placing them on rewinds.

INT-AUDITORIUM

CU SHOSANNA

Still sitting in her seat. Except for her, the auditorium is empty.

The owner of the cinema, an attractive-looking French woman, who we will later know as MADAME MIMIEUX, appears in one of the cinema's opera-box balconies.

Looking down from her porch at the young girl, sitting in the empty cinema.

The DIALOGUE will be spoken in FRENCH and SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH.

MADAME MIMIEUX

So, young woman, since it's beyond obvious we're closed for the evening, I must assume you want something. What can I do for you?

SHOSANNA

May I sleep here tonight?

MADAME MIMIEUX

So I gather you're not a nurse?

SHOSANNA

No.

MADAME MIMIEUX

But you're a bright little thing. That's a clever disguise. Where is your family?

SHOSANNA

Murdered.

MADAME MIMIEUX
So you're a war orphan?

SHOSANNA
We were from Nancy. The Boches found us—

MADAME MIMIEUX
—Is this a sad story?

SHOSANNA.
Oui.

MADAME MIMIEUX
Sad stories bore me. These days everyone in Paris has one. I haven't bored you with mine. Don't bore me with yours.

SHOSANNA
You can run the machines?

MADAME MIMIEUX
What machines?

Using her hands to pantomime the rotating film reels on a projector, she says:

SHOSANNA
The machines that show the film.

MADAME MIMIEUX
The projectors? Yes, I own a cinema. Of course I can operate them.

SHOSANNA
I know, I saw you.

FLASH ON:

CU SHOSANNA
eyes creeping up the stairway in the projection booth, watching . . .

MADAME MIMIEUX
expertly working the projectors . . .

BACK TO SHOSANNA

SHOSANNA
Teach me. Teach me to run the machines that show the film. It's only you and the negro. I know you could use some help.

MADAME MIMIEUX

I know at least six people who've been put up
against a wall and machine-
gunned for sheltering enemies of the state. I
have no intention of being unlucky number
seven. How long have
you been in Paris?

SHOSANNA

A week and a few days.

MADAME MIMIEUX

How have you survived the curfew
without capture?

SHOSANNA

I sleep on rooftops.

MADAME MIMIEUX

Again, I'm forced to admit, clever
girl. How is it?

SHOSANNA

Cold.

MADAME MIMIEUX

(laughs)

I can imagine.

SHOSANNA

Respectfully, no you can't.

Pause.

MADAME MIMIEUX

Fair enough.

Thinks . . .

MADAME MIMIEUX

So you can't operate a 35mm film projector. You
want me to teach you, in order to work here, in
order to use my cinema as a hole to hide in. Is
that correct?

SHOSANNA

Oui.

MADAME MIMIEUX

What's your name?

SHOSANNA

Shosanna.

MADAME MIMIEUX

I'm Madame Mimieux. You may call me Madame. This is a cinema. Not a home for wayward war orphans. Having said that, what you say is true. If you were truly exceptional, I could find use for you. So, Shosanna, are you truly exceptional?

SHOSANNA

Oui, Madame.

MADAME MIMIEUX

I will be the judge of that.

DISSOLVE TO

TITLE CARD:

Which shows a lovely PENCIL SKETCH of the CITY OF PARIS, complete with Eiffel Tower.

ABOVE IT READS:

"1944
PARIS"

THEN . . .

The CAMERA PULLS BACK, and we see we're not looking at a TITLE CARD at all, but a CALENDER stuck on the wall of the little cinema's projection booth. Before we leave it, WE SEE the month is JUNE . . .

The CAMERA finds the THREE-YEARS-OLDER SHOSANNA working as the PROJECTIONIST. It would appear that Shosanna passed Madame Mimieux's exceptional test.

A lyrical, Morricone-like tune PLAYS on the SOUNDTRACK. This will be "Shosanna's Theme."

A little bell begins RINGING on one of the projectors, alerting Shosanna its time for a REEL CHANGE.

Shosanna stands at the projector, watching the old German film she's projecting, waiting for the FIRST REEL CHANGE MARK . . .

SILVER SCREEN

of the little cinema. Onscreen LENI RIEFENSTAHL lies horizontal as an icicle drips on her head in the old German film "The White Hell of Pitz Palu." The FIRST REEL CHANGE MARK POPS ON in the upper-right-hand corner of the FRAME (that tells the projectionist to get ready).

As the FILM REEL on the FIRST PROJECTOR rolls out, Shosanna stands ready, waiting by the SECOND PROJECTOR . . .

WHEN . . .

SILVER SCREEN

the SECOND REEL CHANGE MARK POPS ON in the same place (that's the one).

SHOSANNA

THROWS the lever on the SECOND PROJECTOR, switching the film from projector 1 to projector 2, executing a perfect REEL CHANGE.

As "Shosanna's Theme" plays on the soundtrack, we watch, via MONTAGE, her go through her daily chores: carry heavy film cans up the stairs, empty the rat traps, etc, etc. . . .

EXT-CINEMA-NIGHT

The MARQUEE READS in French:

"GERMAN NIGHT LENI RIEFENSTAHL in PABST'S WHITE HELL OF PITZ PALU"

Shosanna emerges from the cinema carrying two buckets of LETTERS (for the marquee) and a tall ladder. Her chore here, obviously, is to change the show on the marquee.

The LITERARY NARRATOR comes on the soundtrack in ENGLISH:

NARRATOR (VO)

To operate a cinema in Paris during the occupation, one had two choices. Either you could show new German propaganda films, produced under the watchful eye of Joseph Goebbels. Or . . . you could have a German night in your weekly schedule and show allowed German classic films. Their German night was Thursday.

Shosanna, by herself, perched up high on the ladder, changing the letters on the marquee.

A YOUNG GERMAN SOLDIER (about the same age as Shosanna) walks out of the cinema. He sees the ladder with the young French girl on top and walks over.

They speak FRENCH, SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH:

GERMAN SOLDIER

What starts tomorrow?

Shosanna looks down, seeing the young German soldier smiling up at her from below.

SHOSANNA
A Max Linder festival.

GERMAN SOLDIER
Ummm, I always preferred Linder to Chaplin.
Except Linder never made a
film as good as "The Kid." The chase climax of
"The Kid," superb.

Shosanna continues working, not adding to the conversation.

GERMAN SOLDIER
I suppose now you could use an M,
an A, and an X?

SHOSANNA
No need, I can manage.

GERMAN SOLDIER
Don't be ridiculous. It's my pleasure.

He hands the French damsel the letters spelling MAX.

SHOSANNA
Merci.

GERMAN SOLDIER
I adore your cinema very much.

SHOSANNA
Merci.

She busies herself with the marquee letters . . .

GERMAN SOLDIER
Is it yours?

SHOSANNA
Do I own it?

GERMAN SOLDIER
Oui.

SHOSANNA
Oui.

GERMAN SOLDIER
How does a young girl such as yourself own a
cinema?

Due to his uniform and Shosanna's situation, his efforts
at trying to make small talk strike the young Jewess in
hiding as a Gestapo interrogation.

SHOSANNA

My aunt left it to me.

GERMAN SOLDIER

Lucky girl.

Shosanna makes no reply back.

GERMAN SOLDIER

Merci for hosting a German night.

SHOSANNA

I don't have a choice, but you're welcome.

GERMAN SOLDIER

Do you choose the German films yourself?

SHOSANNA

Oui.

GERMAN SOLDIER

Then my merci stands. I love the Riefenstahl mountain films, especially "Pitz Palu." It's nice to see a French girl who's an admirer of Riefenstahl.

SHOSANNA

"Admire" would not be the adjective I would use to describe my feelings toward Fräulein Riefenstahl.

GERMAN SOLDIER

But you do admire the director Pabst, don't you? That's why you included his name on the marquee.

She climbs down from the ladder and faces the German private.

SHOSANNA

I'm French. We respect directors in our country.

GERMAN SOLDIER

Apparently even Germans.

SHOSANNA

Even Germans. Merci for your assistance, Private. Adieu.

She turns to go back inside.

GERMAN SOLDIER

You're not finished?

SHOSANNA

I'll finish in the morning.

She opens the door to go inside.

GERMAN SOLDIER

May I ask your name?

SHOSANNA

You wish to see my papers?

She hands him her excellently forged papers.

That's obviously not what he meant, but he takes them anyway to read her name.

COL. LANDA

Emmanuelle Mimieux. That's a very pretty name.

SHOSANNA

Merci. Are you finished with my papers?

He hands them back.

GERMAN SOLDIER

Mademoiselle. My name is Frederick Zoller.

She gives no response.

GERMAN SOLDIER

It's been a pleasure chatting with a fellow cinema lover. Sweet dreams, Mademoiselle.

He gives her a little salute and walks into the black of a curfew-imposed night.

She looks after him. She didn't show it, but he kind of got to her. After all, for any true cinema lover, it's hard to hate anybody who, CINEMA MON AMOUR.

EXT-ROOFTOP CINEMA-NIGHT

Shosanna stands on the roof her her cinema, late at night, lighting up a cigarette. As she takes her first big drag, she remembers a voice.

FLASH ON

MADAME MIMIEUX, the younger Shosanna, and the black projectionist, Marcel, in the projection booth. Shosanna lights up a cigarette, and Madame Mimieux SLAPS her face HARD, knocking the cigarette out of her mouth. Marcel quickly STAMPS it out on the floor.

MADAME MIMIEUX

If I ever see you light up a cigarette in my cinema again, I'll turn you in to the Nazis, do you understand?

Shosanna is shocked by this statement.

SHOSANNA

Oui, Madame.

MADAME MIMIEUX

And for bringing an open flame into my cinema, you deserve far worse than a Nazi Jewish boxcar. With your thick head, what do you think the highest priority of a cinema manager is? Keeping this fucking place from burning down to the ground, that's what!

In my collection, I have over three hundred and fifty 35mm, nitrate film prints, which are not only immensely flammable but highly unstable. And should they catch fire, they burn three times faster than paper. If that happens . . . POOF . . . all gone, cinema no more, everybody burned alive. If I ever see you with an open flame in my cinema again, I won't turn you into the Nazis. I'll kill you myself. And the fucking Germans will give me a curfew pass. Do you understand me?

SHOSANNA

Oui, Madame.

MADAME MIMIEUX

Do you believe me?

SHOSANNA

Oui, Madame.

MADAME MIMIEUX

You damn well better.

BACK TO ROOF

Shosanna exhales cigarette smoke.

Marcel comes onto the roof.

MARCEL

Are you well?

SHOSANNA

Even on the roof I can't smoke a cigarette
without hearing Madame's
voice yelling at me. That's why I
do it. To hear Madame's voice again.

MARCEL

We both miss her.

SHOSANNA

I know. I'm fine, darling. I'll be
to bed soon.

Marcel goes back inside. Shosanna smokes.

INT-FRENCH BISTRO-AFTERNOON

Shosanna sits in the back of a French bistro, reading a
book, "The Saint in New York," by Leslie Charteris, drinking
wine when the young German soldier from the other day,
FREDRICK ZOLLER, walks in. He gets a beer, then notices the French
girl sitting in the back. He smiles and heads over
to her. "Oh no, not this guy again," she thinks.

Again they speak in FRENCH SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH:

FREDRICK

May I join you?

SHOSANNA

Look, Fredrick—

FREDRICK

(smiling)

—You remember my name?

SHOSANNA

Yes . . . Look, you seem a pleasant
enough fellow—

FREDRICK

—Merci.

SHOSANNA

You're welcome. Regardless, I want you to stop
pestering me.

FREDRICK

I apologize, Mademoiselle. I wasn't trying to
be a pest. I was simply
trying to be friendly.

SHOSANNA

I don't wish to be your friend.

FREDRICK

Why not?

SHOSANNA

Don't act like an infant. You know why.

FREDRICK

I'm more than just a uniform.

SHOSANNA

Not to me. If you are so desperate for a French girlfriend, I suggest you try Vichy.

Just then TWO OTHER GERMAN SOLDIERS come over, obviously very impressed with Fredrick. They make a fuss over him in UNSUBTITLED GERMAN, which neither Shosanna or the non-German-speaking members of the movie's audience can understand. He signs autographs for them and shakes their hands, and they go on their way.

Shosanna's eyes narrow.

SHOSANNA

Who are you?

FREDRICK

I thought I was just a uniform.

SHOSANNA

You're not just a German soldier. Are you somebody's son?

FREDRICK

Most German soldiers are somebody's son.

SHOSANNA

Yeah, but you're not just somebody. What are you, Hitler's nephew?

He leans in across the table. She leans in too, and he says:

FREDRICK

Yes.

SHOSANNA

Really?

FREDRICK

No, not really. I'm just teasing you.

She leans back, annoyed.

SHOSANNA

Then what is it? What are you, a German movie star?

FREDRICK

Not exactly.

SHOSANNA

(Pfuit) What does that mean, "not exactly"? I asked if you were a movie star. The answer to that question is yes or no.

Fredrick laughs at that line.

FREDRICK

When you said that just now, you reminded me of my sister.

This catches young Shosanna off guard.

FREDRICK

I come from a home of six sisters. We run a family-operated cinema in Munich. Seeing you run around your cinema reminds me of them. Especially my sister Helga. She raised me, when our father wasn't up to the job. I admire her very much. You'd like her. She doesn't wear a German uniform.

SHOSANNA

You were raised by Helga?

FREDRICK

All my sisters. I'm the baby, but Helga was the bossiest.

SHOSANNA

And your mother and father?

FREDRICK

My mother died. And my father was a loser. My father's motto: "If at first you don't succeed, quit." The day he left, good riddance. My sisters are all I need. It's why I like your cinema. It makes me feel both closer to them and a little homesick at the same time.

SHOSANNA

Is your cinema still operating?

FREDRICK

Oui.

SHOSANNA

What's it called?

FREDRICK

The Kino Haus.

SHOSANNA

How has it done during the war?

FREDRICK

Actually, in Germany, cinema attendance is up.

SHOSANNA

No doubt. You don't have to operate under a curfew.

FREDRICK

How often do you fill your house?

SHOSANNA

(Pfuit) Not since before the war.

FREDRICK

So if you had one big engagement, that would help you out?

SHOSANNA

Of course, but that's not likely to happen.

TWO MORE GERMAN SOLDIERS and their TWO FRENCH DATES approach the table. They ask for Fredrick's autograph, and he signs it for them. One of the French girls says, in FRENCH, how exciting it is to meet a real live German war hero. Shosanna hears it. They leave. So that's it, she thinks.

SHOSANNA

So you're a war hero? Why didn't you tell me?

FREDRICK

Everybody knows that. I liked that you didn't.

SHOSANNA

What did you do?

He takes a sip of beer.

FREDRICK

I've shot the most enemy soldiers in World War Two . . . so far.

You bet your sweet ass that got her attention.

SHOSANNA

Wow.

FREDRICK

I was alone in a bell tower in a walled-off city in Russia. It was myself and a thousand rounds of ammo in a bird's nest, against three hundred Soviet soldiers.

SHOSANNA

What's a bird's nest?

FREDRICK

A bird's nest is what a sniper would call a bell tower. It's a high structure, offering a three-hundred-and-sixty-degree view. Very advantageous for marksmen.

SHOSANNA

How many Russians did you kill?

FREDRICK

Sixty-eight.

(beat)

The first day. A hundred and fifty the second day. Thirty-two the third day. On the fourth day, they exited the city. Naturally my war story received a lot of attention in Germany. That's why they all recognize me. They call me the German Sergeant York.

SHOSANNA

Maybe they'll make a film about your exploits.

FREDRICK

Well, that's just what Joseph Goebbels thought. So he did. It's called "Nation's Pride," and guess what, they wanted me to play myself, so I did. They have posters for it in kiosks all over Paris. That's another reason for all the attention.

SHOSANNA

"Nation's Pride" is about you? "Nation's Pride" is starring you?

FREDRICK

I know, comical, huh?

SHOSANNA

Not so comical. So what are you doing in Paris, enjoying a rest?

FREDRICK

Hardly. I've been doing publicity, having my pictures taken with different German luminaries, visiting troops, that sort of thing. Goebbels wants the film to premiere in Paris, so I've been helping them in the planning. Joseph is very keen on this film. He's telling anybody who will listen that when "Nation's Pride" is released I'll be the German Van Johnson.

Shosanna isn't falling for the young German by any stretch. However, his exploits, as well as his charming manner, can't help but impress. But his referring to Goebbels as "Joseph," like they're friends, is all she needs to get on the right side of things. This young man is trouble with a capital T, and she needs to stay far fucking away from him.

She abruptly rises and says:

SHOSANNA

Well, good luck with your premiere, Private. I hope all goes well for Joseph and yourself. Au revoir.

And with that, she disappears, leaving the perplexed private alone.

EXT-CINEMA MARQUEE-DAY

It's the next day.

Shosanna and Marcel are changing the letters on the marquee.

Marcel excuses himself to visit the toilet.

Shosanna is alone outside the little cinema, perched up on her ladder.

WHEN . . .

. . . A BLACK NAZI SEDAN pulls up in front of the little cinema.

A GERMAN MAJOR in a black Gestapo uniform steps out of the back of the sedan.

The DRIVER, a German private, steps out as well.

Yelling to the young girl up high on the ladder:

Both GERMAN and FRENCH will be SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH.

GESTAPO MAJOR
Mademoiselle Mimieux?

SHOSANNA
Oui?

Telling his driver in German to ask her in French:

GESTAPO MAJOR
Ask her if this is her cinema.

In French the driver asks Shosanna:

DRIVER
Is this your cinema?

SHOSANNA
Oui.

GESTAPO MAJOR
Tell her to come down.

DRIVER
Come down, please.

She climbs down the ladder.

The driver opens the back door of the sedan, indicating for her to get in.

SHOSANNA
I don't understand. What have I done?

DRIVER
(to major)
She wants to know what she's done?

GESTAPO MAJOR
Who says she's done anything?

DRIVER
Who says you've done anything?

Then in her best imitation of Mademoiselle Mimeux's arrogant manner.

SHOSANNA
Then I demand to know what this is about, and
where do you propose to take me?

The driver begins to translate when the Gestapo major holds up his hand, telling him not to bother. The major looks at the young French girl and tells her in German:

GESTAPO MAJOR

Get your ass in that car.

No translation necessary. She climbs into the back of the car, followed by the Germans. The sedan takes off.

INT—SEDAN (MOVING)—DAY

The Nazi sedan drives through the early-afternoon Paris streets.

WE HOLD SHOSANNA IN TIGHT CU

the whole ride, never showing her Nazi oppressor sitting beside her. We just hold on her face trying not to reveal anything.

The sedan stops.

The car door opens, and the driver offers Shosanna his hand.

EXT/INT—MAXIM'S (FAMOUS PARIS CAFÉ)—DAY

She steps out of the car and is led into a Paris café by the Gestapo officer. It takes the young Jewess a moment or two before she realizes she's not being led to a Gestapo interrogation room, a railroad car, or a concentration camp, but to lunch.

The best table at Maxim's. Three people, and two dogs, sit at it: Germany's minister of propaganda and the number-two man in Hitler's Third Reich, JOSEPH GOEBBELS; his female French translator (and mistress), FRANCESCA MONDINO; and young Private Zoller. TWO BLACK FRENCH POODLES belonging to Mademoiselle Mondino sit together in another chair at the table.

We join the in mid-conversation:

They all speak GERMAN, SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH;

GOEBBELS

—it's only the offspring of slaves that
allows America to be competitive athletically.
American Olympic gold can be measured
in Negro sweat.

Shosanna is led through the French eatery by the Gestapo major. Private Zoller sees her and stands up, excuses himself, and greets her before she reaches the table.

Fredrick says in French, SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH;

FREDRICK

Good you came. I wasn't sure whether or not
you'd accept my invitation.

SHOSANNA

Invitation?

THEN . . .

. . . Goebbels's voice says OFFSCREEN:

GOEBBELS (OS)

Is that the young lady in question, Fredrick?

Private Zoller turns in his direction, takes Shosanna by the arm, and leads her to him.

FREDRICK

Yes, it is, Herr Goebbels. Emmanuelle, there is somebody I want you to meet.

Joseph Goebbels, remaining seated, looks up at the young French girl, scrutinizing her as he spoons crème brûlée into his mouth.

The excited Fredrick introduces Shosanna to the propaganda minister formally.

FREDRICK

Emmanuelle Mimieux, I'd like to introduce you to the minister of propaganda, the leader of the entire German film industry, and now I'm an actor, my boss, Joseph Goebbels.

Goebbels offers up his long, spiderlike fingers for Shosanna to shake. She does.

GOEBBELS

Your reputation precedes you, Fräulein Mimieux.

He looks to Francesca to translate, but she's just taken a big bite of tiramisu.

They all laugh.

Frederick jumps in . . .

FREDRICK

And normally, this is Herr Goebbels's French interpreter, Mademoiselle Francesca Mondino.

FRANCESCA

looks up at Shosanna.

NARRATOR'S VOICE comes on soundtrack:

NARRATOR (VO)
Francesca Mondino is much more than Goebbels's
French interpreter.
She's also Goebbels's favorite French
actress to appear in his films

FLASH ON

FRENCH CLIP
from one of Francesca's B/W Goebbels produced productions.

Francesca, dressed as a French peasant girl, with a YOUNG
GERMAN (MOVIE) SOLDIER.

She speaks in FRENCH, SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH:

FRANCESCA/PEASANT GIRL
I love you, I can't help it. My country or my
heart, which do I betray?

A SUBTITLE APPEARS below naming the film's title:

"SENTIMENTAL COMBAT" (1943)

FLASH ON
Francesca and Goebbels having sex in her boudoir, on her red velvet
bed.

NARRATOR (VO)
And Goebbels's favorite French mistress, to act
in his bed.

WE SEE JUST A SUPER-QUICK SHOT OF Goebbels FUCKING Francesca DOGGY-
STYLE.

FRANCESCA
(animal-like)
Do it! Do it! Fuck me—fill me!

BACK TO FRANCESCA
looking at Shosanna.

FRANCESCA
Bonjour.

SHOSANNA
Bonjour.

FREDRICK

And you've met the major.

The Gestapo officer steps up and says to Fredrick in German:

GESTAPO MAJOR

Actually, I didn't introduce myself.

(to Shosanna)

Major Dieter Hellstrom of the Gestapo, at your service, Mademoiselle.

(he clicks

his heels)

Please allow me. Have a seat.

The Gestapo officer pulls out a chair for the young lady to sit down. Shosanna takes the hot seat. Seated to her right is Pvt. Zoller. To her left are the two curly, pampered poodles. Major Hellstrom pours Shosanna a glass of red wine from a small carafe on the table.

MAJOR HELLSTROM

Try the wine, Mademoiselle. It's quite good.

Goebbels looks across the table at her.

GOEBBELS

Well, I must say, you've made quite an impression on our boy.

Francesca interprets Goebbels's German for Shosanna.

GOEBBELS

I must say, Fräulein, I should be rather annoyed with you.

Francesca interprets . . .

GOEBBELS

I arrive in France, and I wish to have lunch with my star . . .

Francesca interprets . . .

GOEBBELS

Little do I know he's become the toast of Paris, and now he must find time for me.

Francesca interprets . . .

GOEBBELS

People wait in line hours, days,
to see me. For the Führer and
Private Zoller, I wait.

Francesca interprets . . .

GOEBBELS

So finally, I'm granted an audience
with the young private, and he spends the
entire lunch speaking of you
and your cinema.

Francesca interprets . . .

GOEBBELS

So Fräulein Mimieux, let's get down
to business.

Private Zoller interrupts—

FREDRICK

Herr Goebbels, I haven't informed
her yet.

GOEBBELS

Unless the girl's a simpleton, I'm
sure she's figured it out by now.
After all, she does operate a cinema.
Francesca, tell her.

Francesca tells Shosanna in French:

FRANCESCA

What they're trying to tell you, Emmanuelle, is
Private Zoller has
spent the last hour at lunch,
trying to convince Monsieur Goebbels
to abandon previous plans for Private Zoller's
film premiere and change the venue to your
cinema.

Zoller reacts.

FRANCESCA

(FRENCH to Zoller)

What?

FREDRICK

I wanted to inform her.

FRANCESCA

Shit. I apologize, Private. Of course you did.

GOEBBELS
(GERMAN to Francesca)
What's the issue?

FRANCESCA
The young soldier wanted to inform the
mademoiselle himself.

GOEBBELS
Nonsense. Until I ask a few
questions, he has nothing to inform.
Let the record state, I have not
agreed to a venue change.

MAJOR HELLSTROM
Duly noted.

Goebbels speaks German to Shosanna:

GOEBBELS
You have opera boxes?

SHOSANNA
Oui.

GOEBBELS
How many?

SHOSANNA
Three.

GOEBBELS
More would be better. How many
seats in your auditorium?

SHOSANNA
Three hundred and fifty.

GOEBBELS
That's almost four hundred less
than The Ritz.

Fredrick jumps in . . .

FREDRICK
But Herr Goebbels, that's not such
a terrible thing. You said yourself
you didn't want to indulge every
two-faced French bourgeois taking
up space currying favor. With less
seats it makes the event more
exclusive. You're not trying to fill
the house, they're fighting for seats.

FREDRICK

(CON'T)

Besides, to hell with the French.
This is a German night, a German
event, a German celebration. This
night is for you, me, the German military, the
High Command, their
family and friends. The only people
who should be allowed in the room
are people who will be moved by
the exploits onscreen.

Goebbels listens silently, then after a bit of a pause:

GOEBBELS

I see your public speaking has
improved. It appears I've created
a monster. A strangely persuasive monster. When
the war's over,
politics awaits.

Table chuckles.

GOEBBELS

Well, Private, though it is true
I'm inclined to indulge you anything,
I must watch a film in this young
lady's cinema before I can say
yes or no.

(to Shosanna)

So, young lady, you are to close
your cinema tonight and have
a private screening for me.

Francesca interprets . . .

GOEBBELS

What German films do you have?

Francesca asks . . .

SHOSANNA

My cinema, on German night, tends
to show older German classics.

Francesca interprets . . .

GOEBBELS

Why not my films?

Francesca asks . . . ?

SHOSANNA

I draw an older German audience in
my cinema that appreciates the
nostalgia of an earlier time.

Francesca interprets . . .

GOEBBELS

That's nonsense, Fräulein. We Germans
are looking forward, not backward.
That era of German cinema is dead.
The German cinema I create will not
only be the cinema of Europe, but
the world's only alternative to the degenerate
Jewish influence of
Hollywood.

Fredrick jumps in . . .

FREDRICK

Along with being a cinema owner, Emmanuelle is
quite a formidable
film critic.

He chuckles, but alone.

GOEBBELS

So it would appear. Unfortunately
for the Fräulein, I've outlawed
film criticism.

Zoller, thinking fast, says:

FREDRICK

Why don't you screen "Lucky Kids"?
I'm sure Emmanuelle hasn't seen it.
And it's so funny. I've been meaning
to recommend it to her, for her
German night. That's a great idea.
Let's watch "Lucky Kids" tonight.

GOEBBELS

Ahhh, "Lucky Kids," "Lucky Kids,"
"Lucky Kids." When all is said and
done, my most purely enjoyable production. Not
only that, I
wouldn't be surprised if sixty
years from now, it's "Lucky Kids"
that I'm the most remembered for.
I know it doesn't seem like it now,
but mark my words.
Very well, I'll have a print sent
over to the Fräulein's cinema.
We'll screen "Lucky Kids" tonight.

As Francesca interprets this for Shosanna . . .

the empty chair next to the young Jewish girl is suddenly filled with the bottom half of a gray S.S. officer uniform.

GOEBBELS

Ah, Landa, you're here. This is the young lady in question.

The S.S. officer sits down, and it's our old friend from the first scene, COL. HANS LANDA.

FREDRICK

Emmanuelle, this is Col. Hans Landa of the S.S. He'll be running security for the premiere.

CU SHOSANNA

A bomb is dropped and detonated behind her eyes. But if she gives any indication of this, her war story ends here.

The S.S. OFFICER

who murdered her family takes her hand and kisses it, saying in perfect French:

COL. LANDA

Charmed, Mademoiselle.

MAJOR HELLSTROM

Better known as "the Jew Hunter."

The table laughs.

GOEBBELS

Oh, Francesca, what was that funny thing the Führer said about Hans?

FRANCESCA

What thing?

GOEBBELS

You know, you were there. It was a funny thing the Führer said, about Hans . . . something about a pig?

Francesca's memory is jogged.

FRANCESCA

Oh, yes, of course.

She repeats it by whispering it in Goebbels's ear.

GOEBBELS

Oh, yes, of course, that's it. So the Führer said he wouldn't be surprised if Hans weren't rooting out Jews like a truffle pig from the playpen.

FRANCESCA

That's what we need, pigs that can root out Jews.

COL. LANDA

Who needs pigs when you have me?

Big, hearty laugh around the table.

GOEBBELS

Do you have an engagement tonight?

COL. LANDA

Well, as a matter of fact, I do—

GOEBBELS

—Break it. We're all going to the fräulein's cinema tonight to view "Lucky Kids."

COL. LANDA

Splendid.

Then the Reich minister's companion, Mademoiselle Mondino, interrupts:

FRANCESCA

And now I must get Reich Minister Goebbels to his next appointment.

GOEBBELS

Slave driver! French slave driver!

They all chuckle.

Everybody begins to stand up from the table . . .

Francesca gathers the stupid dogs . . .

As Col. Landa stands, he says:

COL. LANDA

Actually, in my role as security chief of this joyous German occasion, I'm afraid I must have a word with Mademoiselle Mimieux.

Mademoiselle Mimieux's eyes go to Private Zoller, who responds.

FREDRICK
What sort of discussion?

COL. LANDA
That sounded suspiciously like
a soldier questioning the order of a colonel?
Or am I just being sensitive?

FREDRICK
Nothing could be further from the
truth, Colonel. Your authority is
beyond question.
But your reputation precedes
you. Should Mademoiselle Mimieux
or myself be concerned?

GOEBBELS
Hans, the boy means no harm, he's
simply smitten. And he's correct.
Your reputation does precede you.

Laughter all around. The Reich minister and his Axis entourage make
their way to front of the café, with the two dumb dogs on
a leash, leading the way.

COL. LANDA
No need for concern, you two.
As security chief, I simply need
to have a chat with the possible
new venue's property owner.

FREDRICK
I was just hoping to escort
Mademoiselle Mimieux back to her
cinema.

GOEBBELS
Nonsense! You can eat ice cream
and walk along the Seine another
time. Right now, allow Col. Landa
to do his job.

Everybody says their farewells.

Col. Landa offers the young Jew in hiding a seat at a small
table in the outside patio area of Maxim's.

The fluency and poetic proficiency of the S.S. Jew hunter's
French reveals to the audience that his feigning clumsiness at
French with Monsieur LaPadite in the film's first scene was
simply an interrogation technique.

They speak FRENCH SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH:

COL. LANDA
Have you tried the strudel here?

SHOSANNA
No.

COL. LANDA
It's not so terrible. So how is it
the young private and yourself came
to be acquainted?

She's about to answer when a WAITER approaches.

COL. LANDA
Yes, two strudels, one for myself
and one for the mademoiselle. A cup
of espresso, with a container of
steamed milk on the side.
For the Mademoiselle, a glass of milk.

Considering that Shosanna grew up on a dairy farm, and the last time she was on a dairy farm her strudel companion murdered her entire family, his ordering her milk is, to say the least . . . disconcerting.

The key to Col. Landa's power and/or charm, depending on the side one's on, lies in his ability to convince you he's privy to your secrets.

The waiter exits.

COL. LANDA
So, Mademoiselle, you were beginning
to explain . . . ?

SHOSANNA
(anxiously)
Up until a couple of days ago,
I had no knowledge of Private Zoller
or his exploits. To me, the private
was simply just a patron of my cinema. We spoke
a few times, but—

COL. LANDA
—Mademoiselle, let me interrupt you. This is a
simple formality, no
reason for you to feel anxious.

The strudel arrives.

The colonel takes one look at it and says to the waiter:

COL. LANDA
I apologize. I forgot to order the
crème fraîche.

WAITER
One moment.

He exits.

COL. LANDA
(referring to
the crème.)
Wait for the crème
(back to
business)
So, Emmanuelle—May I call you Emmanuelle?

SHOSANNA
Oui.

COL. LANDA
So, Emmanuelle, explain to me how
does it happen that a young lady
such as yourself comes to own a
cinema?

The waiter returns, applying crème fraîche to the two strudels.

The S.S. colonel looks across the table at his companion. Picking
up his fork, he says:

COL. LANDA
After you.

Shosanna takes a whipped-creamy bite of strudel. Landa follows her
lead.

COL. LANDA
(mouthful
of strudel)
Success?

Shosanna, mouth full of strudel, indicates she approves.

COL. LANDA
Like I said, not so terrible.
(back to
business)
So you were explaining the origin of your
cinema ownership?

SHOSANNA

The cinema originally belonged to
my aunt and uncle—

Col. Landa removes a little black book from his pocket.

COL. LANDA

—What are their names?

SHOSANNA

Jean-Pierre and Ada Mimieux.

He records the names in his little book.

COL. LANDA

Where are they now?

SHOSANNA

My uncle was killed during the blitzkrieg.

COL. LANDA

Pity . . . Continue.

SHOSANNA

Aunt Ada passed away from fever
last spring.

COL. LANDA

Regrettable.

(respectful
pause)

It's come to my attention you have
a negro in your employ. Is that true?

SHOSANNA

Yes, he's a Frenchman. His name is Marcel. He
worked with my aunt and
uncle since they opened the cinema.
He's the only other one who works
with me.

COL. LANDA

Doing what?

SHOSANNA

Projectionist.

COL. LANDA

Is he any good?

SHOSANNA

The best.

COL. LANDA

Actually, one could see where that
might be a good trade for them.
Can you operate the projectors?

SHOSANNA

Of course I can.

COL. LANDA

Knowing the Reich Minister as I do,
I'm quite positive he wouldn't want
the success or failure of his illustrious
evening dependent on
the prowess of a negro. So if it
comes to pass that we hold this event
at your venue—talented, no doubt,
as your negro may be—you will
operate the projectors. Is that acceptable?

As if she has any say.

SHOSANNA

Oui.

Col. Landa takes another bite of strudel, and Shosanna follows
suit.

COL. LANDA

So it would appear our young hero is quite
smitten with you?

SHOSANNA

Private Zoller's feelings for me
aren't of a romantic nature.

COL. LANDA

Mademoiselle . . . ?

SHOSANNA

Colonel, his feelings are not
romantic. I remind him of his sister.

COL. LANDA

That doesn't mean his feelings
aren't romantic.

SHOSANNA

I remind him of his sister who
raised him.

COL. LANDA

It's sounding more and more romantic
by the minute.

Landa takes out a handsome-looking cigarette case, with an S.S. LOGO on it. Removing one of the fags, he lights it up with a fancy S.S. gold lighter. He offers one to Shosanna.

COL. LANDA

Cigarette?

SHOSANNA

No, thank you.

COL. LANDA

Do you smoke?

SHOSANNA

Yes.

COL. LANDA

Then I insist, you must take one. They're not French, they're German.
I hope you're not nationalist about your tobacco. To me, French cigarettes are a sin against nicotine.

She takes one but makes no move to light it.

He inhales deeply and says:

COL. LANDA

I did have something else I wanted to ask you, but right now, for the life of me, I can't remember what it is. Oh, well, must not have been important.

Col. Landa stands up, throws some French francs on the table, puts on his gray S.S. cap, touches his finger to his visor, saluting Shosanna, and says:

COL. LANDA

Till tonight.

And with that he's gone.

Shosanna breaths a sigh of relief.

The CAMERA begins to slowly lower from a MEDIUM CU to her feet and ankles and the floor. We see her shoes are in a puddle of urine. During her conversation and strudel with the man who exterminated her entire family, Shosanna pissed herself. She drops the German cigarette into the piss puddle by her feet.

INT—CINEMA AUDITORIUM—NIGHT

The SILVER SCREEN

Onscreen is the German screwball comedy "LUCKY KIDS."

We hear OFFSCREEN laughter at the onscreen Aryan antics.

CU GOEBBELS

watching the screen, basking in his own toxic genius.

CU FRANCESCA

laughing at the comedy, hand covering her mouth.

CU TWO BLACK POODLES

pantingly watching the screen.

CU MAJOR HELLSTROM

smiling, smoking a German cigarette.

CU COL LANDA

smoking a German cigarette, amused.

CU FREDRICK ZOLLER

truly enjoying himself.

CU SHOSANNA

watching the screen.

The LITERARY NARRATOR comes on the soundtrack.

NARRATOR (VO)

While Shosanna sits there pretending
to be amused by the Aryan antics of Goebbel's
Frank Capra copy "Lucky
Kids," a thought suddenly comes to her.

We see her face get slightly distracted behind the eyes.

NARRATOR (VO)

What if tonight, accidentally, the
cinema burned down? The Third Reich would lose
its minister of
propaganda, its national hero, and its top Jew
hunter, all in one fell swoop.

She chuckles at THAT thought, though it looks like she's
chuckling at the German comedy.

NARRATOR (VO)

But then that thought . . .
. . . led Shosanna
To a crazy idea.

The idea flashes on her face.

Then Shosanna bursts out laughing.

Zoller looks over at her. Happy.

She's enjoying the movie.

SILVER SCREEN

"The END" card for "Lucky Kids" is projected.

The Nazi rouges' gallery, and Shosanna, applaud the film.

The lights go up.

Goebbels accepts congratulations, as they stand and begin to file out into the lobby.

NARRATOR (VO)

The screening of "Lucky Kids" was a complete success. And Herr Goebbels conceded to have the venue changed to Shosanna's cinema. Not only that, in a moment of inspiration, Herr Goebbels had an idea.

Goebbels speaks GERMAN, and Francesca translates:

GOEBBELS

I must say, I appreciate the modesty of this auditorium. Your cinema has real respect, almost churchlike. Not to say we couldn't spruce the place up a bit. In Versailles there's a crystal chandelier hanging in the banquet hall that is extraordinary. We're going to get it and hang it from the very middle of the auditorium roof. Also I want to go to the Louvre, pick up a few Greek nudes, and just scatter them about the lobby.

MONTAGE

We see a quick series of shots that show all that happening.

The chandelier being removed from the ceiling of Versailles.

Greek nude statues being hand-trucked out of the Louvre.

A truck driving through the French countryside with the enormous crystal chandelier in the back.

The lobby of Shosanna's cinema, pimped out in Nazi iconography. WORKERS buzz around decorating. The Greek statues are moved into place.

We see workers trying with incredible difficulty to hoist the huge, heavy, and twinkingly fragile chandelier in Shosanna's auditorium, which now resembles something out of one of Tinto Brass's Italian B-movie ripoffs of Visconti's "The Damned."

SHOSANNA

watches all this from an opera box. She shakes her head in disbelief.

BACK TO SHOSANNA AND THE NAZIS

in the lobby, post screening of "Lucky Kids." She's soundlessly escorting them to the door as they make their good-byes.

NARRATOR (VO)

As they left the little French
cinema that night, all the Germans
were very happy . . .

We see Pvt. Zoller hanging back, so he can say good-bye.

NARRATOR (VO)

None more so than Fredrick Zoller.

She closes the door on him, watching the Nazis walk into
Paris night. Their shadows for a moment on the wall, look
like grotesque Nazi caricatures.

The Nazis are gone.

Marcel sits at the top of the staircase of the lobby, looking down
at Shosanna.

They speak in FRENCH SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH:

MARCEL

What the fuck are we supposed to do?

SHOSANNA

It looks like we're supposed to have
a Nazi premiere.

MARCEL

Like I said, what the fuck are we supposed to
do?

SHOSANNA

Well, I need to speak with you
about that.

MARCEL

About what?

SHOSANNA

About these Hun swine, commandeering
our cinema.

MARCEL

What about it?

She slowly walks up the stairs to Marcel. She makes him part
his legs and sits on the lower step, between his legs, her
back up against his chest, his arms around her shoulders, Shosanna
has only known this type of intimacy with Marcel.

SHOSANNA

Well, when I was watching that Boche
(said in
English)
Capra-corn abomination,
(back to
French)

I got an idea.

MARCEL

I'm confused. What are we talking
about?

SHOSANNA

Filling the cinema with Nazis and
their whores, and burning it down
to the ground.

MARCEL

I'm not talking about that. You're talking
about that.

SHOSANNA

No, we're talking about that,
right now. If we can keep this
place from burning down by
ourselves, we can burn it down
by ourselves.

MARCEL

Shosanna—

SHOSANNA

No, Marcel, just for the sake of argument, if we
wanted to burn down the cinema
for any number of reasons, you and I could
physically accomplish that, no?

MARCEL

Oui, Shosanna, we could do that.

SHOSANNA

And with Madame Mimieux's three hundred and fifty
nitrate film print collection,
we wouldn't even need explosives, would we?

MARCEL

You mean we wouldn't need any more explosives?

SHOSANNA

Oui, that's exactly what I mean.

She begins kissing his hands.

SHOSANNA

(CON'T)

I am going to burn down the cinema
on Nazi night.

One of his fingers probes her mouth.

SHOSANNA

(CON'T)

And if I'm going to burn down the cinema, which
I am, we both know
you're not going to let me do it
by myself.

The back of her head presses up hard against him, as his hand both
caresses and grips her lovely neck.

SHOSANNA

(CON'T)

Because you love me. And I love you.
And you're the only person on this earth I can
trust.

She then TWISTS around so she's straddling him. They are now
face to face.

SHOSANNA

(CON'T)

But that's not all we're going to do. Does the
filmmaking equipment in the attic still work? I
know the film
camera does. How about the sound recorder?

MARCEL

Quite well, actually. I recorded a
new guitarist I met in a café last
week. It works superb. Why do we
need filmmaking equipment?

SHOSANNA

Because Marcel, my sweet, we're
going to make a film. Just for the
Nazis.

She gives him a deep French kiss.

FADE TO BLACK

BLACK FRAME

CHAPTER TITLE APPEARS:

CHAPTER FOUR

"OPERATION KINO"

FADE OFF

INT-ENGLISH COUNTRY ESTATE-DAY

A young MILITARY ATTACHÉ opens the sliding double doors that serve as an entrance to the room.

MILITARY ATTACHÉ
Right this way, Lieutenant.

A snappy, handsome British lieutenant in dress brown steps inside the room. This officer, who has been mixing it up with the Gerrys since the late thirties, is LT. ARCHIE HICOX, a young George Sanders type ("The Saint" and "Private Affairs of Bel Ami" years).

Upon entering the room, Lt. Hicox is gobsmacked.

Standing before him is legendary military mastermind GEN. ED FENECH, an older George Sanders type ("Village of the Damned").

But in the back of the room, sitting behind a piano, smoking his ever-present cigar, is the unmistakable bulk of WINSTON CHURCHILL.

The lieutenant was not expecting him.

Hicox salutes the general.

LT. HICOX
Lieutenant Hicox reporting, sir.

GEN. FENECH
(salutes back)
General Ed. Fenech. At ease, Hicox. Drink?

Hicox's eyes go to the formidable bulldog behind the piano, who's scrutinizing him behind his cigar. However, the man behind the cigar makes no gesture, and the general makes no acknowledgment of the three-hundred-pound gorilla in the room. Which Lt. Hicox knows enough to mean, if Churchill isn't introduced, he ain't there.

LT. HICOX
If you offered me a scotch and plain water, I could drink a scotch and plain water.

GEN. FENECH

That a boy, Lieutenant. Make it yourself, like
a good chap,
will you? Bar's in the globe.

Hicox heads over to the bar globe.

LT. HICOX

Something for yourself, sir?

GEN. FENECH

Whiskey straight. No junk in it.

The lieutenant moves over to the Columbus-style globe bar and
busies himself mixing spirits, playing bartender chappy.

Fenech, eyeing the lieutenant's file.

GEN. FENECH

It says here you've run three
undercover commando operations in Germany and
German-occupied
territories? Frankfurt, Holland,
and Norway, to be exact?

Back to them, mixing drinks, he says:

LT. HICOX

Extraordinary people, the Norwegians.

GEN. FENECH

It says here you speak German fluently?

LT. HICOX

Like a Katzenjammer Kid.

GEN. FENECH

And your occupation before the war?

His back still to us, as he bartends . . .

LT. HICOX

I'm a film critic.

GEN. FENECH

List your accomplishments?

LT. HICOX

Well, sir, such as they are, I write reviews
and articles for a publication called "Films
and Filmmakers."
As well as our sister publication.

GEN. FENECH

What's that called?

LT. HICOX

"Flickers Bi-Monthly," and I've had two books published.

GEN. FENECH

Impressive. Don't be modest, Lieutenant. What are their titles?

LT. HICOX

The first book was called "Art of the Eyes, the Heart, and the Mind: A Study of German Cinema in the Twenties."

And the second one was called . . .

He turns around with his whiskey and plain water and the general's whiskey no junk. He finishes what he was saying, as he walks toward the general, handing him his drink.

LT. HICOX

"Twenty-Four Frame Da Vinci."

It's a subtextual film criticism study of the work of German director G. W. Pabst.

He hands the general his whiskey.

LT. HICOX

What should we drink to, sir?

GEN. FENECH

(thinking, for a moment)

Down with Hitler.

LT. HICOX

All the way down, sir.

CLINK.

GEN. FENECH

Are you familiar with German cinema under the Third Reich?

LT. HICOX

Yes. Obviously I haven't seen any of the films made in the last three years, but I am familiar with it.

GEN. FENECH

Explain it to me.

LT. HICOX

Pardon, sir?

GEN. FENECH

This little escapade of ours requires a knowledge of the German film industry under the Third Reich. Explain to me UFA, under Goebbels?

LT. HICOX

Goebbels considers the films he's making to be the beginning of a new era in German cinema—an alternative to what he considers the Jewish German intellectual cinema of the twenties and the Jewish-controlled dogma of Hollywood.

SUDDENLY . . . bellowing from the back of the room:

CHURCHILL

How's he doing?

LT. HICOX

Frightfully sorry, sir, once again?

CHURCHILL

You say he wants to take on the Jews at their own game? Compared to, say, . . . Louis B. Mayer . . . how's he doing?

LT. HICOX

Quite well, actually. Since Goebbels has taken over, film attendance has steadily risen in Germany over the last eight years. But Louis B. Mayer wouldn't be Goebbels' proper opposite number. I believe Goebbels sees himself closer to David O. Selznick.

Gen. Fenech looks to the prime minister.

With a puff of cigar smoke, Churchill says:

CHURCHILL

Brief him.

GEN. FENECH

Lt. Hicox, at this point in time I'd like to brief you on Operation Kino. Three days from now, Joseph Goebbels is throwing a gala premiere of one of his new movies in Paris—

LT. HICOX

—What film, sir?

The general has to resort to peeking at his file.

GEN. FENECH

The motion pictures called "Nation's Pride."

LT. HICOX

Oh, you mean the film about Private Zoller?

GEN. FENECH

We don't have any intelligence on exactly what the film that night will be about.

LT. HICOX

But it's called "Nation's Pride"?

GEN. FENECH

Yes.

LT. HICOX

I can tell you what it's about.
It's about Private Fredrick Zoller.
He's the German Sargeant York.

Fenech can't help suppress a smile. They have the right man.

GEN. FENECH

In attendance at this joyous Germanic occasion will be Goebbels, Goering, Boormann, and most of the German High Command, including all the high-ranking officers of both the S.S. and the Gestapo, as well as luminaries of the Nazi propaganda-film industry.

LT. HICOX

The master race at play, aye?

GEN. FENECH

Basically, we have all our rotten eggs in one basket. The objective of Operation Kino . . . Blow up the basket.

LT. HICOX
(reciting a
poem)

. . . and like the snows of yesteryear, gone from this earth. Jolly good, sir.

GEN. FENECH

An American Secret Service outfit
that lives deep behind enemy lines
will be your assist. The Germans call them "the
Basterds."

LT. HICOX

"The Basterds." Never heard of them.

GEN. FENECH

Whole point of the Secret Service,
old boy, you not hearing of them.
But the Gerrys have heard of them, because
these Yanks have been them
the devil. Their leader is a chap
named Lieutenant Aldo Raine. The
Germans call him "Aldo the Apache."

LT. HICOX

Why do they call him that?

GEN. FENECH

Best guess is because he removes the scalps of
the Nazi dead.

LT. HICOX

Scalps, sir?

GEN. FENECH

The hair.

He runs his finger along his hairline.

GEN. FENECH

Like a red Injun.

LT. HICOX

Rather gruesome-sounding little dickybird,
isn't he?

GEN. FENECH

No doubt the whole lot, a bunch of nutters. But
you've heard the
expression "It takes a thief."

LT. HICOX

Indeed.

Gen. Fenech continues on with his exposition, moving over
to a military map.

GEN. FENECH

You'll be dropped into Franch about twenty-four kilometers outside of Paris. The Basterds will be waiting for you. First thing, you go to a little village called Nadine.

(He points it out
on the map.)

Apparently the Gerrys never go there. In Nadine, there's a tavern called La Louisiane. You'll rendezvous with our double agent, and she'll take it from there. She's the one who's going to get you into the premiere. It will be you, her, and two German-born members of the Basterds. She's also made all the other arrangements you're going to need.

LT. HICOX

How will I know her?

GEN. FENECH

I suspect that won't be too much trouble for you. Your contract is Bridget von Hammersmark.

LT. HICOX

Bridget von Hammersmark? The German movie star is working for England?

GEN. FENECH

For the last two years now. One could even say Operation Kino was her brainchild.

In the back of the room the bulldog barks:

CHURCHILL

Extraordinary woman.

LT. HICOX

Quite.

GEN. FENECH

You'll go to the premiere as her escort, lucky devil. She'll also have the premiere tickets for the other two. Got the gist?

LT. HICOX

I think so, sir. Paris when it sizzles.

The three British bulldogs laugh.

EXT—CINEMA ROOFTOP—DAY

Shosanna and Marcel are on the rooftop of their cinema literally making a movie.

Marcel is behind an old (even then) BOLEX 35MM MOVIE CAMERA, positioned low, looking up.

Shosanna, the camera subject, stands on boxes looking down into it.

A old-timey MICROPHONE is positioned out of frame.

As they always do, and always will, they speak FRENCH SUBTITLED into you know what.

MARCEL

We need a sync mark.

SHOSANNA

What is a sync mark?

MARCEL

An action and noise put together,
So we can sync up the picture
and sound.

SHOSANNA

How do we do that?

MARCEL

Clap your hands.

She does.

MARCEL

In frame, imbecile.

She claps her hands in front of her face.

MARCEL

Ready?

Shosanna takes a deep breath, then:

SHOSANNA

Ready.

MARCEL

Action.

WE CUT, BEFORE SHE SPEAKS, TO . . .

THE SCENE EARLIER BETWEEN MARCEL AND SHOSANNA IN THE LOBBY, ON THE STAIRS, TALKING ABOUT BURNING DOWN THE CINEMA.

Big difference. This time, it's in COLOR.

MARCEL

But how do we get it developed?
Only a suicidal idiot like us would develop
that footage. How do we get
a 35mm print with a soundtrack?

SHOSANNA

Do you know one person who can do
both things?

MARCEL

Of course, Gaspar. Very nice man,
took care of all the experimental filmmakers.
But nobody in their
right mind would strike a print of
what you're talking about. If the
Nazis found out, their life wouldn't
be worth this.

He snaps his fingers.

SHOSANNA

In a wolf fight, you either eat the
wolf or the wolf eats you. If we're going to
obliterate the Nazis,
we have to use their tactics.

MARCEL

What does that mean?

SHOSANNA

We find somebody who can develop
and process a 35mm print. And we
make them do it or we kill them.
Once we tell them what we want to
do if they refuse, we have to kill
them anyway or they'll turn us in.

MARCEL

Would you do that?

SHOSANNA

Like that.

Snaps her fingers.

INT—SMALL FILM-PROCESSING LAB—LATE NIGHT

A old mom-and-pop film processing lab circa the thirties.
Late late at night.

GASPAR, the fatherly figure of all the experimental French filmmakers in the decade before German rule, takes a SAVAGE BEATING at the hands of his friend Marcel.

Shosanna watches, pitiless.

SHOSANNA

Bring that fucker over here!
Put his head down on that table.

Marcel holds Gaspar's arm behind him as he forces his head flat against the tabletop.

Shosanna brings a HATCHET DOWN DEEP into the table, just by his face.

SHOSANNA

You either do what the fuck we tell
you to, or I'll bury this ax in your
collaborating skull.

GASPAR

I'm not a collaborator!

SHOSANNA

Then prove it! Or does your manhood
go no deeper than standing to piss? Marcel, do
his wife and children
know you?

MARCEL

Oui.

SHOSANNA

Then after we kill this dog for
Germans, we'll go and silence them.

She lifts up the hatchet, raises it high . . .

SHOSANNA

Prepare to die, collaborator fucker!

CUT TO

GASPAR

hands the couple a SMALL SILVER CAN OF 35MM FILM, Outside
the shop window, it's morning.

INT-PROJECTION ROOM

WE SEE the five heavy silver film cans of Fredrick Zoller's life story, "Nation's Pride" (clearly marked), on the floor of the projection booth.

The can for REEL 4 is open and empty.

Shosanna's at the editing bench. REEL 4 is up on the rewinds . . .

Shosanna SPLICES her and Marcel's footage into REEL 4 of Fredrick's film, rewinds it, puts it back in the can, and puts a piece of RED TAPE on the REEL 4 CAN.

She walks out of the booth, turning off the lights behind her, PLUNGING THE SCREEN INTO DARKNESS.

BLACK FRAME

FROM BLACK DISSOLVE TO

EXT-LA LOUISIANE (TAVERN)-NIGHT

We see a small basement tavern with an old rustic sign out front that reads "La Louisiane."

A SUBTITLE APPEARS:

"The village of
Nadine, France"

TWO SHOT LT. HICOX and LT. ALDO RAINE

Aldo is dressed like a French civilian. Hicox is dressed in a German gray S.S. captain's uniform. They look out of a window, in an apartment, in the village of Nadine, overlooking the tavern.

LT. ALDO

You didn't say the goddamn rendezvous was in a fuckin' basement.

LT. HICOX

I didn't know.

LT. ALDO

You said it was in a tavern?

LT. HICOX

It is a tavern.

LT. ALDO

Yeah, in a basement. You know,
fightin' in a basement offers a lot
of difficulties, number one being
you're fighting in a basement.

Wilhelm Wicki joins the SHOT, dressed in a German S.S. lieutenant's uniform.

WICKI

What if we go in there and she's
not even there?

LT. HICOX

We wait. Don't worry. She's a British spy.
She'll make the rendezvous.

WE SEE that the other Basterds, dressed in French civilian clothes, are in the room as well. They are Donowitz, Hirschberg, and Utivich. And in the back of the room, dressed in the gray uniform of an S.S. lieutenant, Hugo Stiglitz sits off by himself, sharpening his S.S. DAGGER on his leather belt, looped around his boot. Anybody not in the scene from the Basterd's opening chapter is dead.

Lt. Hicox watches Stiglitz off by himself on the other side of the room SHARPENING his dagger menacingly.

Stiglitz is fucking weird . . .

Lt. Hicox approaches Stiglitz . . .

LT. HICOX

Stiglitz, right?

STIGLITZ

That's right, sir.

He continues bringing the blade's edge up, then down on the leather strap.

LT. HICOX

I hear you're pretty good with that?

Meaning the blade.

Stiglitz doesn't answer.

LT. HICOX

You know, we're not looking for
trouble right now. We're simply
making contact with our agent.
Should be uneventful. However, on
the off chance I'm wrong and things prove
eventful, I need to know we can all remain
calm.

The renegade Gerry sergeant stops his blade's progress and looks up at the limey lieutenant.

STIGLITZ

I don't look calm to you?

LT. HICOX

Well, now you put it like that, I guess you do.

He turns his attention back to his blade.

Hicox moves over to Aldo and asks him privately:

LT. HICOX

This Gerry of yours, Stiglitz?
Not exactly the loquacious type,
is he?

Aldo just looks at him.

LT. ALDO

Is that the kinda man you need, the loquacious type?

LT. HICOX

Fair point, Lieutenant.

LT. ALDO

So y'all git in trouble in there,
what are we supposed to do?
Make bets on how it all comes out?

LT. HICOX

If we get into trouble, we can
handle it. But if trouble does
happen, we need you to make damn
sure no Germans or French, for that matter—
escape from that basement.
If Fräulein von Hammersmark's cover is
compromised, the mission is kaput.

Donny chimes in:

SGT. DONOWITZ

Speaking of Fräulein von Hammersmark, whose
idea was it for the death trap rendezvous?

LT. HICOX

She chose the spot.

SGT. DONOWITZ

Well, isn't that just dandy?

LT. HICOX

Look, she's not a military strategist. She's just an actress.

LT. ALDO

Ya don't got to be Stonewall Jackson to know you don't want to fight in a basement.

LT. HICOX

She wasn't picking a place to fight. She was picking a place isolated and without Germans.

PFC. HIRSCHBERG

Lieutenant, I hate to be contrary, but I got me a Nazi pissin' on Louisiana two o'clock.

They move to the window, and sure enough, ONE LONE NAZI PRIVATE relieves himself against the side wall.

Lt. Hicox, this was definitely not the plan.

LT. HICOX

Shit.

Sgt. Donowitz chides him:

SGT. DONOWITZ

So what do you think your Fräulein von Hammer—

LT. HICOX

—Obviously, I don't know, Sergeant.

The British officer watches the German soldier, who's not supposed to be there. When Hugo Stiglitz joins him at the window, Stiglitz looks down at the urinating Nazi, S.S. dagger in hand.

STIGLITZ

If we're going, let's go.

He sheaths the dagger.

EXT—LA LOUISIANE (BASEMENT TAVERN)—NIGHT

The GERMAN PISSING PRIVATE sloppily finishes his task. Cramming his noodle back in his pants, he descends the stairs that lead him back into the basement tavern. We follow him . . .

INT-LA LOUISIANE (BASEMENT TAVERN)—NIGHT

Inside the basement tavern La Louisiane. It has a very low-hanging basement ceiling. A old-looking wood bar off to the right. And the only other space in the little tavern is taken up by two large (at least in here) tables, which take up both halves of the room. And despite rumors to the contrary, one of the two tables is completely filled with drunken, celebrating Nazi enlisted men, of which our urinating friend is one of five.

FIVE NAZIS

ONE GERMAN MASTER SERGEANT, ONE FEMALE GERMAN SERGEANT (a powerfully built, stocky type), and THREE MALE GERMAN SOLDIERS.

The five Nazis are sitting around the table, drinking, and playing a very fun game with none other than the Fräulein of the hour, UFA diva BRIDGET VON HAMMERSMARK, dressed to the nines in a chic, forties-style woman's suit, complete with fedora. The game they're playing consists of each player having a card with the name of a famous person, real or imaginary, stuck to their forehead. The player doesn't know what name is on their forehead. So they ask the others questions to figure out who they are.

The five Germans' five cards read: MASTER SGT #1: (POLA NEGRI); FEMALE SGT #2: (BEETHOVEN); GERMAN PRIVATE #3: (MATA HARI); GERMAN PRIVATE #4: (EDGAR WALLACE); GERMAN PRIVATE #5: (WINNETOU). And Bridget von Hammersmark, who wears her card in the brim of her fedora, has GENGHIS KHAN.

It's German #5's (WINNETOU) turn to ask questions.

The DIALOGUE will be in GERMAN and SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH.

WINNETOU

. . . okay, I'm not German. Am I American?

The whole table bursts out laughing.

FEMALE SGT. BEETHOVEN

Yes, you are!

EDGAR WALLACE

Well, not really.

SGT. POLA NEGRI

What do you mean, not really? Of course he is.

EDGAR WALLACE

Well, if he's so American, how come he's never been translated into English. He's not American. He's supposed to be American, but he's not an American creation. In fact, he's something very different.

WINNETOU

Okay, I'm a fictional, literary character, from the past. I'm American, and that's controversial.

BRIDGET/GENGUS

No, it's not controversial. The nationality of the author has nothing to do with the nationality of the character. The character is the character. Hamlet's not British, he's Danish. So, yes, this character was born in America.

WINNETOU

Well, I'm glad that's settled. If I had a wife, would she be called a squaw?

He's got it.

The table laughs.

THE TABLE

YES!

WINNETOU

Is my blood brother Old Shatterhand?

THE TABLE

Yes!

WINNETOU

Did Karl May write me?

THE TABLE

Yes!

In the BACKGROUND, WE SEE our three counterfeit German officers—Hicox, Wicki, and Stiglitz—enter the basement tavern. They obviously see the five German soldiers, but they're too far away for us (the audience) to read their faces. No doubt they're less than happy. Fräuhlein von Hammersmark sees them as well. Without getting up, she waves to them.

BRIDGET

Hello, my lovelies. I will join you in moments. I'm finishing up a game with my five new friends here.

LT. HICOX

No hurry, Fräulein von Hammersmark. Take your time. Enjoy yourself.

BRIDGET

(to Winnetou)

So who are you?

WINNETOU

I am WINNETOU, CHIEF of the APACHES!

The table CHEERS and APPLAUDS the Apache chief as he takes the card off his forehead.

The other four German soldiers drink down their beer (part of the game).

Bridget von Hammersmark knocks back her champagne.

MATA HARI

Fräulein von Hammersmark, when your friends came in, did you realize you did a double take, like in the movies?

BRIDGET

Really? No, I wasn't aware of that at all.

MATA HARI

They must be second nature to you now. Did they teach you how to do a double take in the movies?

BRIDGET

Well, yes, they did, but it's not really that difficult.

SGT. POLA NEGRI

Do one for us.

The table heartily agrees.

Bridget looks directly at the master sergeant and does a perfect, and perfectly funny, double take.

The table loves it.

MATA HARI

My turn, I want to try.

Mata Hari looks directly at Beethoven and does a double take.

EDGAR WALLACE

I want to try.

He does.

Soon the whole table is doing dueling double takes.

HICOX-WICKI-STIGLITZ

watch the table do dueling double takes. Obviously, they don't understand.

THEN . . .

Bridget von Hammersmark rises and excuses herself from the table. She removes the card stuck in her fedora, looking at the name for the first time. Genghis Khan.

BRIDGET

Genghis Khan! I would never have gotten that.

She walks over and joins the masquerading Germans' table. The gentlemen rise. She greets each warmly with a French cheek kiss, as if she knows them well.

They all take a seat. The two basterds and one Brit drink whiskey. The tavern's PROPRIETOR, an older, big-bellied Frenchman named EARL, comes over to the table and pours more champagne into Bridget's champagne glass. He leaves, returning back behind the bar, with the YOUNG FRENCH BARMAID, the only other person in the establishment.

Obviously, they speak GERMAN, SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH:

LT. HICOX

I thought this place was supposed to have more French than Germans?

BRIDGET

Normally that's true. The sergeant over there's wife just had a baby. His commanding officer gave him and his mates the night off to celebrate.

WICKI

We should leave.

BRIDGET

No, we should stay. For one drink at least.
I've been waiting for you in a bar. It would
look strange if we left before we had a drink.

LT. HICOX

She's right. Just be calm, and enjoy your
booze.

BACK TO THE GERMAN TABLE

The French barmaid has taken Bridget's place in the rousing, rowdy
game. She tells them her person must be French or she
won't know them. Winnetou thinks for a moment, then writes a
name on a card. The barmaid puts it on her forehead. It says:
NAPOLEON.

The Germans all laugh.

BACK TO THE BASTERDS' TABLE

BRIDGET

There's been some new developments.
The cinema venue has changed.

LT. HICOX

Why?

BRIDGET

No one knows. But that in itself shouldn't be a
problem. The cinema
it's been changed to is considerably smaller
than The Ritz. So whatever materials you
brought for The Ritz should be doubly effective
here.
Now this next piece of information
is colossal, try not to overreact.
The Führer will be attending tomorrow.

Hugo Stiglitz does a SPIT-TAKE.

Bridget's eyes bore holes in him.

BACK TO THE REAL GERMANS

They see Hugo do the spit-take and burst out laughing.
Keeping it up, they begin to do dueling spit-takes, like they
did dueling double takes earlier. Needless to say, they all
get wet.

BACK TO THE BASTERDS

BRIDGET
(to Hicox)

You'll be going as Ernst Schuller. You'll say you're an associate producer on Riefenstahl's "Tiefland." It's the one German production not under Goebbels' control, and Leni wouldn't be caught dead at a Goebbels film affair.

BACK TO THE REAL GERMAN TABLE

Master Sgt. Pola Negri drinks his beer as he looks over, dreamily, at Bridget von Hammersmark at the other table.

BACK TO THE BASTERDS

Bridget continues to brief Hicox on his identity. We see in the B.G. the German master sergeant stand up from his table and head toward Fräulein von Hammersmark.

BRIDGET
. . . the film's gone through many delays, and Leni's health is deteriorating, so if you have to speak . . .

Hicox, seeing the German master sergeant approach, signals for her to cool it.

SGT. POLA NEGRI
Fräulein von Hammersmark, I was just thinking, could you sign an autograph to my son on his birthday?

BRIDGET
I'd love to, Wilhelm.
(to the table)
This handsome happy sergeant just became a father today.

The pretend officers offer congratulations to the sergeant.

The German master sergeant CLICKS his heels and bows before his superior officers.

SGT. POLA NEGRI
Thank you. Heil Hitler.

He raises his hand . . . as do the seated phony officers: "Heil Hitler."

As she takes a rather fancy fountain pen from her clutch . . .

BRIDGET
So, Wilhelm, do you know the name of this progeny yet?

SGT. POLA NEGRI
I most certainly do, Fräulein. His
name is Maximilian.

Even the slightly psychotic Stiglitz likes this German sergeant.

STIGLITZ
Wonderful name, Sergeant.

SGT. POLA NEGRI
Thank you, Lieutenant. When he's old enough to
ride a bicycle, I will buy
him a blue one. And I will paint on
the side "The Blue Max."

He thrusts out his beer stein, for the officers to cheer.

They do.

Bridget finishes signing her autograph, with a big flourish.

BRIDGET
There you go. But wait, I'm not finished yet.

She reaches into her clutch and pulls out some lipstick,
applies some ruby-red color to her lips, and then kisses the
napkin, leaving a big red lip print. Then she hands the treasured
item to the young officer.

BRIDGET
Nothing but the best for little Maximilian.

SGT. POLA NEGRI
Thank you, Fräulein, thank you. Max may not
know who you are now. But he will.
I will show him all of your movies.
He will grow up with your films,
and this napkin on his wall.

Then, to the whole tavern . . .

SGT. POLA NEGRI
I propose a toast to the greatest actress in
Germany! There is no Dietrich, there is no
Riefenstahl, only von Hammersmark!

The whole room toasts.

This would be a good time for the German sergeant to go back to his
table and his men. And he almost does . . . but . . . since he is
drunk, and star struck, he out wears his welcome.

SGT. POLA NEGRI
So, Fräulein von Hammersmark, what brings you
to France?

Feeling any good Nazi officer's patience would have been exhausted long ago, Lt. Hiccox butts in.

LT. HICOX
None of your business, Sergeant.
You might not have worn out your welcome with
the fräulein with your drunken, boorish
behavior, but you have worn out your welcome
with me.

The table of game-playing soldiers hears this and gets quiet.

LT. HICOX
Might I remind you Sergeant, you're an enlisted man.
This is an officers' table. I suggest
you stop pestering the fräulein and
rejoin your table.

The German master sergeant looks quizzically at the officer.

SGT. POLA NEGRI
Excuse me, Captain, but your accent is very
unusual.

The whole room pauses . . . for different reasons . . .

SGT. POLA NEGRI
Where are you from?

A silent moment passes between the two tables, then the two German-born imposters spring into action.

WICKI
Sergeant! You must be either drunk or mad to
speak to a superior officer with
such impertinence!

Stiglitz, STANDS and YELLS to the other table:

STIGLITZ

I'm making YOU . . .
(pointing at
Winnetou)

. . . and YOU . . .
(pointing at
Edgar Wallace)

. . . responsible for him.
(pointing at
Sgt. Pola)

I suggest you take hold of your friend, or
he'll spend Max's first birthday
in jail for public drunkenness!

The Germans SPRING UP and take hold of Sgt. Pola . . .

WHEN . . .

A GERMAN VOICE rings out:

GERMAN VOICE (OS)
Then might I inquire?

The five known Germans move aside, revealing the unknown German in the room, unseen till now, our old friend from before: MAJOR DIETER HELLSTROM of the GESTAPO. The major stands from the little table he was sitting at.

MAJOR HELLSTROM
Like the young, newly christened father, I to
have an acute ear for accents.
And like him, I too find yours odd.
From where do you hail, Captain?

Wicki jumps in:

WICKI
Major, this is highly inappr-

MAJOR HELLSTROM
-I wasn't speaking to you,
Lieutenant Saltzberg,
(turning to
Stiglitz)
or you either, Lieutenant Berlin.
(looking at
Hicox)
I was speaking to Captain I-don't-know-what.

The Gestapo major is now standing beside Sgt. Pola, before the imposter's table.

Lt. Hicox calmly explains his origin.

LT. HICOX
I was born in the village that rests
in the shadow of Pitz Palu.

MAJOR HELLSTROM
The mountain?

LT. HICOX
Yes. In that village we all speak like this.
Have you seen the Riefenstahl film?

MAJOR HELLSTROM
Yes.

LT. HICOX

Then you saw me. You remember the skiing torch scene?

MAJOR HELLSTROM

Yes, I do.

LT. HICOX

In that scene were myself, my father, my sister, and my two brothers. My brother is so handsome, the director, Pabst, gave him a closeup.

As Bridget von Hammersmark places a cigarette in an ivory cigarette holder—which Hicox, as if on cue, lights for her she says:

BRIDGET

Major, if my word means anything, I can vouch for everything the young captain has just said. He does hail from the bottom of Pitz Palu, he was in the film, and his brother is far more handsome than he.

The imposters laugh.

Then . . . so does the Gestapo major. He turns to the sergeant.

MAJOR HELLSTROM

You should rejoin your friends.

Which the young sergeant is more than happy to do. That table begins playing their game again.

Major Hellstrom, the highest-ranking officer in the room, bows graciously to the female German celebrity.

MAJOR HELLSTROM

May I join you?

BRIDGET

By all means, Major.

The Gestapo major sits at the table, opposite Lt. Hicox and Wicki. The French barmaid brings over the Major's beer stein.

MAJOR HELLSTROM

So that's the source of your bizarre accent? Extraordinary. So what are you doing here, Captain?

LT. HICOX

Aside from having a drink with the lovely fräulein?

MAJOR HELLSTROM

Well, that pleasure requires no explanation.

Chuckle . . . chuckle

MAJOR HELLSTROM

I mean in country. You're obviously not stationed in France, or I'd know who you are.

LT. HICOX

You know every German in France?

MAJOR HELLSTROM

Worth knowing.

LT. HICOX

Well, therein lies the problem. We never claimed to be worth knowing.

Chuckle . . . chuckle.

MAJOR HELLSTROM

(chuckling as
he asks)

All levity aside, what are you doing in France?

LT. HICOX

Attending Goebbels's film premiere as the fräulein's escort.

MAJOR HELLSTROM

You're the fräulein's escort?

LT. HICOX

Somebody has to carry the lighter.

Chuckle . . . chuckle.

BRIDGET

The captain is my date, but all three are my guests. We're old friends, Major, who go back a long time. Longer than an actress would care to admit.

Chuckle . . . chuckle.

MAJOR HELLSTROM

Well, in that case, let me raise a glass to the three luckiest men in the room.

BRIDGET

I'll drink to that.

They cheers.

BACK TO THE REAL GERMANS' TABLE

They continue to have a lot of fun playing their game.

BACK TO THE OFFICERS' TABLE

MAJOR HELLSTROM

I must say, that game they're playing
looks like a good bit of fun. I didn't
join them, because you're quite right, Captain,
officers and enlisted men shouldn't
fraternize. But seeing as we're all
officers here,

(bowing to
Bridget)

. . . and sophisticated lady friends of
officers, what say we play the game?

Lt. Hicox begins to refuse when Bridget (feeling she knows better)
interrupts him:

BRIDGET

Okay, one game.

MAJOR HELLSTROM

Wunderbar.

The major borrows five cards from the other table and lays
them out in front of Bridget and the officers.

MAJOR HELLSTROM

So the object of the game is to write
the name of a famous person on your card. Real
or fictitious, doesn't matter. For instance,
you could write Confucius or
Fu Manchu.

(He SNAPS his fingers.)

Eric! More pens.

(back to the players)

And they must be famous. No Aunt Ingas. When
you finish writing, put the card face down on
the table and move it to the person to your
left. The person to your right will move their
card in
front of you. You pick up the card without
looking at it, lick the back, and stick it on
your forehead, like so.

He demonstrates.

MAJOR HELLSTROM

(con't)

And in ten yes or no questions, you must guess
who you are . . .

As Maj. Hellstrom finishes explaining the finer points of the
game, a CAMERA PANS OFF HIM and BEGINS SLOWLY ZOOMING INTO
STIGLITZ. The major's dialogue begins to FADE AWAY.

Until we're in a SPAGHETTI WESTERN FLASHBACK. Which is RED-FILTERED
FOOTAGE of Hugo being savagely WHIPPED by somebody wearing a
GESTAPO UNIFORM, SUPERIMPOSED over his CLOSEUP.

The flashback disappears. It's driving Stiglitz crazy, being
this close to a Gestapo uniform and not plunging a knife into
it.

The major's voice comes back on the soundtrack.

MAJOR HELLSTROM

. . . So let's give it a try, shall we?
Everybody write your names.

The five players write their names . . .

Then move their cards to the left . . .

Everybody sticks their cards on their forehead . . .

MAJOR	BRIDGET	WILHELM	ARCHIE	HUGO
HELLSTROM	VON HAMMERSMARK	WICKI	HICOX	STIGLITZ
is	is	is	is	is
KING	G.W.	BULLDOG	BRIGITTE	MARCO
KONG	PABST	DRUMMOND	HELM	POLO

MAJ. KING KONG

I'll start, give you the idea.
Am I German?

They laugh.

BRIDGET

No.

MAJ. KING KONG

Am I an American?

They laugh—but then Wicki says:

WICKI

Wait a minute, he goes to—

BRIDGET

Don't be ridiculous. Obviously he wasn't born in America.

MAJ. KING KONG

So . . . I visited America, aye?

The table says, "Yes."

MAJ. KING KONG

Was this visit . . . fortuitous?

WICKI

Not for you.

MAJ. KING KONG

. . . Hummm. My native land, is it what one would call exotic?

The table confers and decides, yes, it is exotic.

MAJ. KING KONG

Hummm. That could be either a reference to the jungle or the Orient. I'm going to let my first instinct take over and ask, am I from the jungle?

The table says, "Yes, you are."

MAJ. KING KONG

Now gentlemen, around this time you could ask whether you're real or fictitious. I, however, think that's too easy, so I won't ask that, yet. Okay, my native land is the jungle. I visited America, but my visit was not fortuitous to me, but the implication is that it was to somebody else. When I went from the jungle to America, . . . did I go by boat?

"Yes."

MAJ. KING KONG

Did I go against my will?

"Yes."

MAJ. KING KONG

On this boat ride . . . Was I in chains?

"Yes."

MAJ. KING KONG

When I arrived in America . . . was I displayed
in chains?

"Yes."

MAJ. KING KONG

Am I the story of the Negro in America?

The table says, "No."

MAJ. KING KONG

Well, then, I must be King Kong.

He throws the card on the table.

They applaud him.

MAJOR HELLSTROM

Now since I answered correctly, you all need to
finish your drinks.

The three counterfeit Nazis knock back their whiskeys.

MAJOR HELLSTROM

Now, who's next?

LT. HICOX

Major, I don't mean to be rude. But the four of
us are very good friends. And the four of us
haven't seen each other in quite a while. So .

. .
Major, I'm afraid, you are intruding.

MAJOR HELLSTROM

I beg to differ, Captain. It's only if the
fräulein considers my presence an
intrusion that I become an intruder.
How about it, Fräulein? Am I intruding?

BRIDGET

Of course not, Major.

MAJOR HELLSTROM

I didn't think so. It's simply the young
captain is immune to my charms.

The table's not sure what to do. Is this a confrontation?
Then the major laughs.

MAJOR HELLSTROM

I'm just joking. Of course, I'm intruding.

MAJOR HELLSTROM

Allow me to refill your glasses, gentlemen, and I will bid you and the fräulein adieu.

(leaning in)

Eric has a bottle of thirty-three-year-old single-malt scotch whiskey from the Scottish highlands. What do you say, gentlemen?

LT. HICOX

You're most gracious, sir.

MAJOR HELLSTROM

Eric, the thirty-three and new glasses! You don't want to contaminate the thirty-three with the swill you were drinking.

ERIC

How many glasses?

LT. HICOX

Five glasses.

MAJOR HELLSTROM

Not me. I like scotch, scotch doesn't like me.

BRIDGET

Nor I. I'll stay with bubbly.

Lt. Hicox holds up three fingers (pinky to middle finger) to Eric, the owner.

LT. HICOX

Three glasses.

Eric brings the three glasses and the old bottle, pouring for the three soldiers.

Major Hellstrom lifts up his beer stein and toasts:

MAJOR HELLSTROM

To a thousand-year Reich!

They all mutter, "a thousand-year reich" and clink glasses.

The Gestapo major puts down his beer stein, and then WE HEAR a CLICK under the table.

MAJOR HELLSTROM

Did you hear that? That's the sound of my WALTER pointed right at your testicles.

LT. HICOX

Why do you have a Luger pointed at my testicles?

MAJOR HELLSTROM

Because you've just given yourself away, captain. You're no more German than scotch.

LT. HICOX

Well, Major—

BRIDGET

—Major—

MAJOR HELLSTROM

—Shut up, slut.

(to Hicox)

You were saying?

LT. HICOX

I was saying that makes two of us. I've had a gun pointed at your balls since you sat down.

SGT. STIGLITZ

That makes three of us.

UNDER THE TABLE

We see all three guns pointed at the appropriate crotches, as well as Bridget's legs, right besides the Nazi major's. Her pretty gams are sure to be chewed up in the possible crossfire.

SGT. STIGLITZ

And at this range, I'm a real Fredrick Zoller.

MAJOR HELLSTROM

Hummm . . . Looks like we have a bit of a sticky situation here.

LT. HICOX

What's going to happen, Major, is you're going to stand up and walk out that door with us.

MAJOR HELLSTROM

No, no, no, no, no, no, I don't think so. I'm afraid you and I both know, no matter what happens to anybody else in this room, the two of us aren't going anywhere.

MAJOR HELLSTROM
(pointing at the table
behind him)

Too bad about Sgt. Wilhelm and his friends.
If any of you expect to live, you'll have to shoot
them too.

(pause)
Looks like little Max is going to grow up an
orphan. How sad.

BRIDGET
Then, Major, I implore you. For the
sake of those German troops, will
you please leave with us?

MAJOR HELLSTROM
Oh, Bridget, your concern for German troops
gets me . . .
(pointing at
his heart)
. . . right here. You mean for the sake of your
whore legs, don't you? You can't afford to get
any bullet holes in them. You're not finished
spreading them for all the Hollywood Jews.

Lt. Hicox picks up his thirty-three-year-old single-malt
scotch and says:

LT. HICOX
(ENGLISH)
Well, if this is it, old boy, I hope
you don't mind if I go out speaking
the king's?

MAJOR HELLSTROM
(ENGLISH)
By all means, Captain.

The English film critic commando picks up the thirty-three
the Nazi major bought him and says:

LT. HICOX
There's a special rung in hell reserved for
people who waste good scotch.
And seeing as I might be rapping on
the door momentarily . . .

He downs the stuff.

LT. HICOX
(to the Nazi
major)
I must say, damn good stuff, sir.

He puts the glass down.

LT. HICOX
Now about this pickle we find
ourselves in. It would appear there's only one
thing left for you to do.

MAJOR HELLSTROM
(ENGLISH)
And what would that be?

LT. HICOX
Stiglitz.

STIGLITZ
Say, "auf Widersehen" to your balls!

STIGLITZ
FIRES into HELLSTROM'S BALLS . . .

As does HICOX, HITTING not only Hellstrom, but BRIDGET as
well.

HELLSTROM
FIRES into HICOX'S BALLS and KNEECAPS.

STIGLITZ
then JUMPS over the table and begins STABBING HELLSTROM with the
DAGGER.

HICOX FALLS to the floor . . . DEAD.

BRIDGET FALLS to the floor . . . SHOT.

WICKI
brings his weapon out from underneath the table and BEGINS
FIRING across at the GERMANS at the table, who, unaware, were still
PLAYING THE GAME.

WINNETOU
is SHOT IN THE BACK, before he even knows what is happening.

EDGAR WALLACE is SHOT by WICKI.

SGT. POLA NEGRI
FALLS to the floor in the confusion.

FEMALE SGT. BEETHOVEN and STIGLITZ bring their guns toward each
other and FIRE. They BOTH TAKE and GIVE each other so many BULLETS
it's almost romantic when they collapse DEAD on the
floor.

WICKI and MATA HARI

both ON THEIR FEET, FIRING WILDLY at each other. MATA HARI is HIT THREE TIMES. WICKI is HIT ONCE.

SGT. POLA NEGRI

comes off the floor with a SUBMACHINE GUN and SPRAYS the whole other side of the room, WIPING OUT WICKI, ERIC, MATA HARI, and THE BARMAID.

The SHOOTING STOPS . . . THE SMOKE caused by the gunfire . . . starts to DISSIPATE . . . The only one in the room left alive is the young German sergeant with the machine gun.

WE HEAR the feet of the soldiers outside reach the basement entrance.

The door opens . . .

The German sergeant sends FIFTY BULLETS in the door's direction . . .

No one goes through it.

What we have here is a rabbit-hole-like situation. No one inside is getting out. No one outside is getting in.

The young German sergeant YELLS in ENGLISH to the outside:

GERMAN SERGEANT

You outside! Who are you? British, American, what?

Aldo's voice YELLS down the hole:

ALDO'S VOICE (OS)

We're Americans! What are you?

GERMAN SERGEANT

I'm a German, you idiot!

ALDO'S VOICE (OS)

You speak English pretty good for a German!

GERMAN SERGEANT

I agree! So let's talk!

ALDO'S VOICE (OS)

Okay, talk!

GERMAN SERGEANT

I'm a father! My baby was born today
in Frankfurt! Five hours ago! His name is Max!
We were in here drinking and celebrating!
They're the ones that
came in shooting and killing!
It's not my fault!

ALDO'S VOICE (OS)
Okay, okay, it wasn't your fault!
What's your name, soldier?

GERMAN SERGEANT
Wilhelm!

ALDO'S VOICE (OS)
That's the same name as one of the
guys you just killed!

WILHELM
They attacked us!

ALDO'S VOICE (OS)
Okay, Wilhelm . . . is anybody alive
on our side?

WILHELM
No!

We hear a VOICE OFFSCREEN yell out:

BRIDGET'S VOICE (OS)
I'm alive!

Wilhelm spins in the direction of the voice.

On the floor, with a bullet in her BLOODY LEG, lies the still-alive
Bridget von Hammersmark.

The German sergeant points the muzzle of the machine gun at
the German celebrity, with hate in his eyes.

ALDO'S VOICE (OS)
Who's that?

WILHELM
(to BRIDGET,
low)
Make a sound, whore, and I spit!

Meaning the muzzle.

ALDO'S VOICE (OS)
Wilhelm, who is that?

WILHELM
Is the girl on your side?

Pause.

ALDO'S VOICE (OS)
Which girl?

WILHELM

Who do you think—von Hammersmark!

ALDO'S VOICE (OS)

Yeah, she's ours!

WILHELM

(to Bridget,

LOW, in GERMAN)

I thought so. So you run with the Americans
now, huh? Now times are
bad?

ALDO'S VOICE (OS)

Is she okay?

WILHELM

(to Bridget,

LOW, in GERMAN)

You despicable traitor.

(to Aldo)

She's been shot, but she's alive.

(to Bridget,

LOW, in GERMAN)

For now.

We hear the Basterds curse their luck offscreen.

ALDO'S VOICE (OS)

Okay, Wilhelm, what'd ya say we
make a deal?

WILHELM

What's your name?

ALDO'S VOICE (OS)

Aldo. Wilhelm, can I call ya Willi?

WILHELM

Yes.

ALDO'S VOICE (OS)

So, Willi, you know we could lob three or four
or five or six grenades down there and your
little war story ends here. But good fer you,
bad fer her.
You die, she dies. So what say we
make a swap?

WILLI

Keep talking!

ALDO'S VOICE (OS)

Okay, Willi, here's my deal! You let me and one of my men come down to take the girl away! And we take the girl and leave! That simple, Willi! You go your way, we go ours! And little Max gets to grow up playing catch with his daddy! So what 'ya say, Willi, we got a deal?

Willi thinks . . .

Bridget watches Willi think . . .

WILLI

Aldo?

ALDO'S VOICE (OS)

I'm here, Willi!

WILLI

I want to trust you . . . But how can I?

ALDO'S VOICE (OS)

What choice ya got?

WILLI

I could kill the girl!

ALDO'S VOICE (OS)

Well, now, Willi, that's true enough. But something you need to know, so you don't get the wrong idea. Ain't none of us give a fuck 'bout that girl. But, admittedly, if you kill her, it would fuck up our plans. But you'll be dead by then anyway, so what'd you care? And let's not forget that little Katzenjammer Max, growin' up without a pop. So in the spirit of gettin' you home to him, we got a deal, Willi?

WILLI

Okay, Aldo. I'm going to trust you! Come down, no guns!

Aldo and Hirschberg come down the stairs, showing open hands.

Willi keeps his machine gun trained on them.

Aldo, with his hands up, says:

ALDO

Hey, Willi, what's with the machine gun? I thought we had a deal.

WILLI

We do have a deal. Now get the girl and go.

ALDO

Not so fast, Willi. We only have a deal, we trust each other. A Mexican standoff ain't trust.

WILLI

You need guns on me for it to be a Mexican standoff.

ALDO

You got guns on us, you decide to shoot, we're dead. Up top, they got grenades, they drop 'em down here, you're dead. That's a Mexican standoff, and that wasn't the deal.

WILLI

Just take that fuckin' traitor and go! See? Now you're down here—
Now you get tricky—!

ALDO

—No tricks!—Ain't nobody gittin' tricky, Willi! I swear to god, I'm too damn dumb to get tricky. But
(meaning
Hirschberg)
him and I lived up to the deal. We came down without guns. Now it's your turn. No trust, no deal.

Willi pointing the gun at them . . . thinking . . .

ALDO

I know you're scared. I'm scared, he's scared, we're all scared. So what's it gonna be, Willi? Either we got a deal or you might as well just shoot us now.

Willi decides . . .

He puts the machine gun down on the bar.

WILLI

Fine. Take that fucking traitor and
get her out of my sight.

ALDO

Danke, Willi, danke. Okay, Hirschberg, you grab
her shoulder—

WHEN . . .

From behind Aldo and Hirschberg, Bridget lifts up Major Hellstrom's
WALTER and EMPTIES the remaining bullets into
Sgt. Willi, who FALLS to the floor, DEAD.

Aldo and Hirschberg spin around, shocked.

From the floor, the bloody, sweaty, and in excruciating pain
(she'll probably lose that leg} German movie star says to the
two American soldiers she's just meeting for the first time:

BRIDGET

He was an enemy soldier who knew who
I was. He couldn't live.

INT-FRENCH HOUSE IN COUNTRY (BEDROOM)—NIGHT

An OLD MAN lies asleep under the covers of his blankets, in his
bed, in his bedroom . . .

WHEN . . .

. . . . OFF SCREEN the sound of a DOOR BEING KICKED OPEN . . .
. . . . The SOUND of what sounds like EIGHT DOGS BARKING . . .
and the sound of FEET RUNNING TOWARD US . . .

his bedroom door is THROWN OPEN, and Sgt. Donowitz RUSHES
IN, grabbing the old man in his bed and putting a
.45 automatic to his head.

SGT. DONOWITZ
(ENGLISH)

Doctor? Doctor?

OLD MAN
(FRENCH)

What? What's happening?

Donny SLAMS the .45 hard against the old man's head, shocking,
scaring, and bringing the old gent to attention.

SGT. DONOWITZ
(ENGLISH)

Doctor? Are you a fucking doctor?

He nods his head, yes.

SGT. DONOWITZ

Andiamo . . .

Donny YANKS/DRAGS the old man out of bed, in his almost comical nightshirt (which makes him cuter, thus the brutality against him hurts more) toward the door . . .

INT-DOCTOR'S EXAMINING ROOM-NIGHT

. . . Into a doctor's examining room built into a French country house, with an examining table and medical instruments.

However, it's obviously the medical examining room of a veterinarian.

Along the walls are different cages with eight BARKING dogs in them.

The soldiers are putting the shot-in-the-leg, bleeding, and in excruciating pain Bridget on the examining table.

Donny, still holding onto the Old Man, points in the girl's direction . . .

SGT. DONOWITZ
(ENGLISH)

She's been shot. Shot. Bang, bang . . .
(pointing at
his leg)
. . . in leg . . . understand?

OLD MAN
(FRENCH)

No, no, no, I don't speak English.

Donny jams the barrel of his .45 into the thigh of the old man.

SGT. DONOWITZ
(ENGLISH)

BANG, BANG—in the leg, understand!

The old man nods his head, yes.

OLD MAN
(FRENCH)

But I'm a veterinarian . . . animals . . .
I take care of animals . . .

Bridget screams from the table . . .

BRIDGET
(ENGLISH)

He's a fucking veterinarian, you imbecile!

SGT. DONOWITZ
He's still a doctor. If he can get
a bullet out of a cow, he can get
a bullet outta you.

LT. ALDO
Right now, we just need morphine.

Donny yells at the old man:

SGT. DONOWITZ
Morphine! We need morphine!

The old man tries to explain in French that he's not a human doctor
. . .

Donny takes the .45 and SHOOTs one of the DOGS in the
cages.

Everybody jumps.

Donny SCREAMS at the old man:

SGT. DONOWITZ
MORPHINE!

BANG

He SHOOTs another dog . . .

SGT. DONOWITZ
MORPHINE!

The old man begs him to stop and goes to get the morphine.

CUT TO

The BODY of Gestapo Major DIETER HELLSTROM dead on the floor.

INT-LA LOUISIANE-NIGHT

We're back in the basement tavern. Col. Hans Landa stands
over the corpse. He moves over to the next corpse, and a smile
breaks out on his face.

He says in GERMAN SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH:

COL. LANDA
Ahhh, Hugo, you've moved up in the world, I
see. Lieutenant. And with
your record of insubordination.
Truly remarkable.

A Nazi soldier named HERRMAN joins the S.S. officer.

COL. LANDA
And that one's . . .
(pointing at
Wicki)
. . . name is Wilhelm Wicki. He's an Austrian-
born Jew who immigrated
to the United States when things
began turning sour for the Israelites. They are
the two German-born members of the Basterds.
They've been known
to don German uniforms to ambush squads.

FLASH ON
three Nazi soldiers walking toward a company of other German soldiers. The three soldiers' back are to us. Dried, bloody bullet holes cover the backs of the three uniforms.

The SERGEANT of the German company yells to the trio:

SGT. GERMAN COMPANY
What brings you all the way out here?

The TRIO NOW DOWN the GERMAN COMPANY with their machine guns.

BACK TO LANDA

COL. LANDA
But that doesn't look like this.
This is odd.

Looking down he sees something . . .

Bending down, he examines Fräulein von Hammersmark's two pretty dress shoes lying on the floor.

One shoe is covered in blood.

The other, while blood-speckled, is fairly clean.

Picking up the clean shoe and holding it in his hand.

COL. LANDA
It would appear somebody's missing. Somebody
fashionable.

AN OFFSCREEN SOLDIER'S VOICE cries out:

SOLDIERS VOICE (OS)
Colonel, this one's still alive!

We follow Hans to the spot on the floor where Sgt. Willi lies. He's shot in the chest, but it looks like Max's daddy is still alive.

INT-EXAMINING ROOM-NIGHT

Bridget on the examining table, post morphine shot.

The other Basterds in the room watch Aldo interrogate the German lady.

LT. ALDO

Now 'fore we yank that slug outta ya, you need to answer a few questions.

BRIDGET

Few questions about what?

LT. ALDO

About I got three men dead back there, and why don't you try tellin' us what the fuck happened?

BRIDGET

The British officer blew his German act, and a Gestapo major saw it.

LT. ALDO

'Fore we get into who shot John, Why did you invite my men to a rendezvous in a basement with a bunch of Nazis?

BRIDGET

I can see, since you didn't see what happened inside, the Nazis being there must look odd.

LT. ALDO

Yeah, we gotta word for that kinda odd in English. It's called suspicious.

BRIDGET

Don't let your imagination get the better of you, Lieutenant. You met the sergeant, Willi. He had a baby tonight. His commanding officer gave him and his friends the night off to celebrate. The Germans being there was just a tragic coincidence.

Aldo thinks for a moment . . .

LT. ALDO

Okay, I'll buy that. He was either there with his men waiting for us, or he was there celebrating his son's birthday. He wasn't doin' both.

LT. ALDO

How did the shootin' start?

BRIDGET

The English man gave himself away.

LT. ALDO

How did he do that?

BRIDGET

He ordered three glasses.

She holds up three fingers, middle to pinky.

BRIDGET

He ordered three glasses.

She holds up three fingers, thumb to middle.

BRIDGET

This is the German three. The other is odd. Germans would and did notice it.

LT. ALDO

Okay, let's pretend there were no Germans, and everything went exactly the way it was supposed to. What would of been the next step?

BRIDGET

Tuxedoes. To get them into the premiere wearing military uniforms, with all the military there, would have been suicide. But going as members of the German film industry, they wear tuxedoes and blend in with everybody else. I arranged a tailor to fit three tuxedoes tonight.

LT. ALDO

How did you intend to get them into the premiere?

BRIDGET

Hand me my purse.

They do. And she opens it and takes out three tickets to the film premiere.

BRIDGET

Lt. Hicox was going as my escort. The other two were going as a German cameraman and his assistant.

LT. ALDO

Can you still get us into that premiere?

BRIDGET

Can you speak German better than your friends?
No. Have I been shot? Yes.
I don't see me tripping the light fantastic up
the red carpet anytime
soon. Least of all by tomorrow
night.

(pause)

However, there's something you don't know.
There's been two recent developments regarding
Operation
Kino. One, the venue has been
changed from The Ritz to a much
smaller venue.

LT. ALDO

Enormous changes at the last minute? That's not
very Germanic. Why the
hell is Goebbels doin' stuff so damn peculiar?

BRIDGET

It probably has something to do with
the second development.

LT. ALDO

Which is?

FLASH ON

IN A PRIVATE DINING ROOM IN GERMANY, the FUHRER, aka Adolf Hitler,
aka Adolf Shicklegroover, aka the Bohemian Corporal, having dinner
with Goebbels, only a few short days ago.

THE FUHRER

(GERMAN)

I've been rethinking my position in regards to
your Paris premiere of "Nation's Pride." As the
weeks have
gone on and the Americans are on
the beach, I do find myself thinking
more and more about this Private
Zoller. This boy has done something tremendous
for us. And I'm beginning
to think my participation in this
event could be meaningful.

BACK TO BRIDGET

BRIDGET

The Führer's attending the premiere.

Donny breaks the team's silence:

SGT. DONOWITZ

What?

LT. ALDO

When the hell did this happen?

BRIDGET

The venue change, two weeks ago.
The Führer's attendance, four days ago.

LT. ALDO

And how come London don't know
nothing about that?

BRIDGET

We need to get something straight,
once and for all. Everything London knows, it
learned from me. If I
don't know, London doesn't know.
So now, this is me, informing you, Hitler's
coming to Paris.

SGT. DONOWITZ

FUCK A DUCK!

Aldo stands up from the chair, pacing as he takes in this new
information.

BRIDGET

What are you thinking?

LT. ALDO

I'm thinking getting a wack at
plantin' ole Uncle Adolph makes
this a horse of a different color.

BRIDGET

What's that supposed to mean?

LT. ALDO

It means you're gettin' us into that premiere.

BRIDGET

I'm going to probably end up losing
this leg, bye bye, acting career,
fun while it lasted. How do you
expect me to walk up a red carpet?

LT. ALDO

The doggie doc's gonna dig that slug outta your
gam. Then he's gonna wrap
it up in a cast, and you gotta good
"how I broke my leg mountain climbing" story.
That's German, ain't it?
Y'all like climbin' mountains,
don't cha?

BRIDGET

I don't. I like smoking, drinking,
and ordering in restaurants, but I
see your point.

LT. ALDO

We fill ya up with morphine, till
it's comin out ya ears. Then just
limp your little ass up that
rouge car-pet.

BRIDGET

Splendid. When the Nazis put me up against a
wall, it won't hurt
so much.

(changing tone)

I know this is a silly question
before I ask it, but can you
Americans speak any other language
than English?

HIRSCHBERG

Other than Yiddish?

BRIDGET

Preferably.

Donny, referring to Aldo and himself:

SGT. DONOWITZ

We both speak a little Italian.

BRIDGET

With an atrocious accent, no doubt.
But that doesn't exactly kill us
in the crib. Germans don't have a
good ear for Italian. So you mumble Italian and
brazen through it, is
that the plan?

LT. ALDO

That's about it.

BRIDGET

That sounds good.

LT. ALDO

It sounds like shit, but what else we gonna do, go home?

BRIDGET

No, it's good. If you don't blow it with that, I can get you in the building.

(changes tone)

So, who does what?

LT. ALDO

Well, I speak the most Italian, so I'll be your escort. Donowitz speaks the second most, so he'll be your Italian cameraman. And Hirschberg third most, so he'll be Donny's assistant.

HIRSCHBERG

I don't speak Italian.

LT. ALDO

Like I said, third best. Just keep your fuckin' mouth shut. In fact, why don't you start practicing right now.

BRIDGET

(meaning Utivich)

What about the little one?

UTIVICH

Do you mean me?

BRIDGET

I didn't mean any offense.

UTIVICH

None taken, you German cunt.

LT. ALDO

Utivich is the chauffeur.

UTIVICH

I can't drive.

Bridget SCREAMS in frustration:

BRIDGET

You Americans are fucking useless!

UTIVICH

Gimmie a break. I'm from Manhattan.

LT. ALDO

No worries, son. We got over fourteen hours before the movie tomorrow. More than enough time for you to learn to drive.

UTIVICH

No, no, no, no, Lieutenant, it's not!

LT. ALDO

Oh, yes, yes, yes, yes, Private, it is. And yes, yes, yes, you will.

(changes tone)

Look, Utivich, you and I both know, if we went to grade school together, you damn sure ain't copyin' off of my test. Well, I lernt to drive in four hours on a Tennessee mountain road. And I'm a shit-for-brains coal miner bootlegger. Hirschberg, you know how to drive, right?

HIRSCHBERG

Yes.

LT. ALDO

Teach 'im.

BRIDGET

But there is a problem. I'm a movie star. This is a movie premiere. I can't show up looking like I was just in a Nazi gunfight. Now I have a dress for the premiere at my hotel. But sometime tomorrow I have to get my hair done.

All the Basterds, except Donny, burst out laughing.

LT. ALDO

Sister, you must got wunderbar luck. Guess who went to beauty school?

The CAMERA WHIP-PANS to SGT. DONOWITZ.

Bridget rolls her eyes.

BLACK FRAME

CHAPTER TITLE APPEARS:

CHAPTER FIVE

"REVENGE OF THE GIANT FACE"

FADE OFF

INT—SHOSANNA AND MARCEL'S LIVING QUARTERS—NIGHT

We're in Shosanna and Marcel's living quarters above the cinema. We've never been in here before.

A SUBTITLE APPEARS ONSCREEN:

"NIGHT OF 'NATION'S PRIDE' PREMIERE"

Shosanna's standing before a full-length mirror in a real attractive forties-style dress for the premiere. She's stunning. This is the first time in her life she's had the opportunity or the occasion to wear something like this. Since she knows this is the last night of her life, no time like the present.

SOUNDS of the hubbub of the premiere, not to mention the German brass band that's blaring Third Reich marches, can be heard coming from below.

Shosanna walks to her apartment window and looks down at the Germanic miasma below.

SHOSANNA'S POV

WE SEE all the pageantry below. Tons of SPECTATORS. Tons of guests dressed in Nazi uniforms, tuxedos, and female finery, walking up the long red carpet (with a big swastika in the middle, naturally) leading into Shosanna's cinema. The German brass band omm-pa-pa-ing away. German radio and film crews covering the event for the fatherland back home. And, of course, MANY GERMAN SOLDIERS providing security for this joyous Germanic occasion.

Shosanna COUGHS up a lugi and HOCKS it.

A GERMAN S.S. GENERAL being interviewed by a RADIO COMMENTATOR—the lugi HITS him right on his bald head.

Shosanna goes back to the full-length mirror, places a very fashionable forties-style hat on her head, then lowers the period-style black fishnet veil over her face. She takes out a small GUN and puts it in the pocket of her dress, and it's on. She exits the apartment door to join the premiere. From this point on, there's no turning back. It's all the way baby, all the fucking way!

INT-CINEMA STAIRWELL-NIGHT

The stairwell in the building that connects the living quarters with the cinema. Shosanna walks down the stairs and goes through a door that puts her next to the projection booth door. She takes out a key and opens it.

INT-PROJECTION BOOTH-NIGHT

Marcel's prepping the film reels for tonight. The five silver metal film cans that carry one 35mm reel of film each are laid out. The cans for reels one and two are empty. Cans for reel three, our specially marked can for reel four, and the can for reel five (which should never see the light of a projector) lie in wait.

Shosanna, looking like a forties movie star, enters the projection booth.

The scene in FRENCH SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH:

MARCEL

Ooh la la, Danielle Darrieux, this is so exciting. Pleased to meet you.

SHOSANNA

Shut up, fool.

Marcel lifts up the veil covering her face and their lips meet.

SHOSANNA

Cheeky black bugger. I have to go down and socialize with these Hun pigs. Let's go over it again?

MARCEL

Reel one is on the first projector. Reel two is on the second. Three and four are ready to go.

SHOSANNA

Okay, the big sniper battle in the film begins around the middle of the third reel. Our film comes on in the fourth reel, so somewhere toward the end of the third reel, go down and lock the doors of the auditorium. Then take your place behind the screen, and wait for my CUE when I give it to you: BURN IT DOWN!

INT-CINEMA LOBBY-NIGHT

The pageantry of the evening is in full swing, as all the German beautiful people enter the cinema. They mingle in the swastika-covered, Greek-nude-statue-peppered lobby. Nazi military commanders, high-ranking party officials, and German celebrities (Emil Jannings, Veit Harlan) hobnob and drink Champagne from passing WAITERS, who carry glasses on silver trays.

We see Shosanna enter from the area at the top of the big staircase in the lobby that overlooks the lobby parlor entrance. She descends the staircase and busies herself with theater stuff.

At the top of the staircase, looking down at the master race in all their finery, is Col. Hans Landa, dressed in his finest S.S. dress uniform.

CAMERA FRAME

directly behind him. On the right side, we see the figure of Col. Landa, from behind, watching the guests entering the cinema. On the left side of the frame is the cinema entrance, from a looking-down perspective of the guests entering the building.

THEN . . .

A THINK BUBBLE, like in a comic book, appears on the left side of the frame, obscuring the cinema entrance. Inside Landa's think bubble a little scene plays out.

THINK BUBBLE

A hospital room filled with DOCTORS, NURSES, and a PATIENT in a hospital bed. Then Col. Landa enters the room and screams at everybody:

COL. LANDA

I want everybody out of this room!

They start to leave.

COL. LANDA

That means now, goddamnit!

They RUSH OUT.

He walks over to the patient in the hospital bed. It's none other than SGT. WILLI, and yes, he's still alive.

Landa pulls up a chair next to the bed and sits down.

COL. LANDA

Can you speak, Sergeant?

SGT. WILLI
(weakly)

Yes, Colonel.

COL. LANDA
Tell me everything that happened in there.

The THINK BUBBLE DISSOLVES away, revealing the entrance again, and as if on perfect cue, in walks Bridget von Hammersmark, dressed lovely, leg in a big white cast. The three Basterds in their tuxedos flank her.

CU COL. LANDA
smiles.

He descends the stairs, toward the four saboteurs . . .

They speak in GERMAN, SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH:

COL. LANDA
Fräulein von Hammersmark, what
has befallen Germany's most elegant swan?

BRIDGET
Col. Landa, it's been years.
Dashing as ever, I see.

COL. LANDA
Flattery will get you everywhere, Fräulein.

They chuckle and air kiss.

COL. LANDA
So what's happened to your lovely
leg? A by-product of kicking ass in
the German cinema, no doubt.

BRIDGET
Save your flattery, you old dog.
I know too many of your former
conquests to fall into that honeypot.

Chuckle . . . chuckle . . .

COL. LANDA
Seriously, what happened?

BRIDGET

Well, I tried my hand, foolishly I
might add, at mountain climbing.
And this was the result.

COL. LANDA

Mountain climbing? That's how you injured your
leg—mountain climbing?

BRIDGET

Believe it or not, yes, it is.

A brief moment passes between the two . . .

THEN . . .

The colonel BURSTS OUT with UPROARIOUS LAUGHTER. So uproarious, in
fact, that it's quite disconcerting to the four saboteurs.

The colonel begins to regain his composure . . .

COL. LANDA

Forgive me, Fräulein. I don't mean to laugh at
your misfortune. It's just
. . . mountain climbing? I'm curious, Fräulein,
what could have ever
compelled you to undertake such a foolhardy
endeavor?

The double meaning is not lost on the German actress.

BRIDGET

Well, I shan't be doing it again, I can tell
you that.

COL. LANDA

That cast looks as fresh as my old
Uncle Gustave. When were you climbing this
mountain, last night?

BRIDGET

Very good eye, Colonel. It happened yesterday
morning.

COL. LANDA

Hummm. And where exactly in Paris
is this mountain?

This stops her for a second.

Then Landa laughs it off, taking them off the hook.

COL. LANDA

I'm just teasing you, Fräulein. You know me, I tease rough. So who are your three handsome escorts?

BRIDGET

I'm afraid neither of the three speak a word of German. They're friends of mine from Italy. This is a wonderful Italian stuntman, Antonio Margheriti.

(meaning Aldo)

A very talented cameraman, Enzo Gorlomi.

(meaning Donny)

And Enzo's camera assistant, Dominick Decocco.

The German Fräulein turns to the three tuxedo-wearing Basterds.

BRIDGET

(ITALIAN)

Gentlemen, this is an old friend, Colonel Hans Landa of the S.S.

The Basterds know only too well who Landa the Jew Hunter is, but they can't show it.

Aldo sticks out his hand . . .

LT. ALDO

Buongiorno.

The German takes his hand . . .

COL. LANDA

Margheriti . . .

(ITALIAN)

Am I saying it correctly? . . . Margheriti?

LT. ALDO

(ITALIAN)

Yes. Correct.

COL. LANDA

(ITALIAN)

Margheriti . . . Say it for me once, please . . . ?

LT. ALDO

Margheriti.

COL. LANDA
(ITALIAN)
I'm sorry, again . . . ?

LT. ALDO
Margheriti.

COL. LANDA
(ITALIAN)
Once more . . . ?

LT. ALDO
Margheriti.

COL. LANDA
Margheriti.

(FRENCH)
It means daisies, I believe.

Turning his gaze to Donny.

COL. LANDA
(ITALIAN)
What's your name again?

SGT. DONOWITZ
Enzo Gorlomi.

COL. LANDA
(ITALIAN)
Again . . . ?

SGT. DONOWITZ
Gorlomi.

COL. LANDA
(ITALIAN)
One more time, but let me really
hear the music in it.

SGT. DONOWITZ
(HAMMY ITALIAN)
Gorlomi.

Now to Hirschberg . . .

COL. LANDA
(ITALIAN)
And you?

Then Hirschberg breaks out the best Italian accent of the
group:

HIRSCHBERG
Dominick Decocco.

COL. LANDA
Dominick Decocco?

HIRSCHBERG
Dominic Decocco.

COL. LANDA
Bravo . . . Bravo.

BRIDGET
(GERMAN)
Well, my two cameraman friends need
to find their seats.

Col. Landa stops a WAITER with a tray of champagne glasses.

COL. LANDA
(GERMAN)
Not so fast. Let's enjoy some champagne.

Everyone gets a glass.

COL. LANDA
(FRENCH)
—Oh, Mademoiselle Mimieux, please
join us. I have some friends I'd
like you to meet.

Shosanna joins the circle and is handed a champagne glass.

This is the first moment the Basterds are aware of Shosanna.

COL. LANDA
(FRENCH)
May I say, Mademoiselle, you look divine.

SHOSANNA
(FRENCH)
Merci.

COL. LANDA
(GERMAN)
This lovely young lady is Mademoiselle
Emmanuelle Mimieux. This is her cinema, and she
is our hostess for the evening.
(FRENCH)
And, Mademoiselle, this battered, broken, and
none-worse-for-the-wear German goddess, is
Bridget von Hammersmark.

BRIDGET
 Bonjour.

SHOSANNA
 Bonjour.

BRIDGET
 (FRENCH)
 I'm afraid my companions don't speak
 any French. They're Italian. This is Antonio,
 Enzo, and Dominick.

All three smile goofy, spaghetti-bender smiles.

COL. LANDA
 (FRENCH)
 Actually, Fräulein von Hammersmark's Italian
 associates need help finding their seats.
 Perhaps Mademoiselle Mimieux would be so kind
 as to escort them?

SHOSANNA
 (FRENCH)
 It would be my pleasure. Let me see
 your tickets?

Donny hands her two tickets. She indicates for them to follow her.

Donny and Hirschberg both exchange one last look with Aldo,
 then follow the young French girl into the auditorium.

INT-AUDITORIUM-NIGHT

The cinema auditorium is filling up quickly with gray and black
 uniforms.

Shosanna finds the two counterfeit Italians their seats.

After she points out their seats, she turns to leave . . .

Hirschberg . . .
 reaches out and grabs her wrist. . . .

He looks her in the face and, filled with tremendous guilt, because
 if he's successful tonight he's going to blow this
 cute French girl to smithereens, he says:

HIRSCHBERG
 Grazie.

The cute French girl looks back at the goofy-looking Italian boy with slicked-back hair that makes him look kind of Jewish with tremendous guilt, knowing if she is successful tonight, she's going to burn him alive, and says:

SHOSANNA

Prego.

BACK TO THE LOBBY

They begin flicking the lights on and off. A GERMAN SOLDIER YELLS IN GERMAN:

GERMAN SOLDIER

Take your seats! The show is about to begin!
Everybody take your seats!

Col. Landa, Lt. Aldo, and Bridget are still together.

COL. LANDA

(GERMAN)

I must call the Führer. He doesn't want to make his entrance until everybody is seated. Come with me, Frau von Hammersmark. The Führer has heard you're here, and he wishes to commend you personally.

BRIDGET

(GERMAN)

Me? Why?

COL. LANDA

(GERMAN)

Don't be modest. Everybody is quite taken with your resolve. An accident like you've just experienced, and yet you still show up to an important party event. The Führer was quite adamant in his gratitude. We'll use Mademoiselle Mimieux's office.

(to Aldo
in Italian)

I'm afraid I must rob you of your companion, but only for a moment.

BRIDGET

(ITALIAN)

Yes, apparently the Führer wishes to commend me.

COL. LANDA
(ITALIAN)

Wait here a moment. I promise I won't detain her long.

What are either of them supposed to do, argue?

Col. Landa goes over to one of the Nazi GUARDS/USHERS and whispers in his ear, gesturing toward Aldo. Like he's saying, leave the boy alone, till we come back . . . Or is he?

Col. Landa limps Bridget away toward Shosanna's office.

As Aldo stands in the lobby, more and more people enter the auditorium, till it's only Aldo and the six Nazi guards/ushers in the now-vacant lobby.

INT-SHOSANNA'S OFFICE-NIGHT

Shosanna's cinema manager's office. It's small, cluttered, and dominated by a desk.

They both enter.

Col. Landa closes the door behind him and LOCKS IT.

Bridget notices but says nothing.

Now the two Germans are alone.

COL. LANDA
Have a seat, Fräulein.

Pointing at one lone chair in front of the desk.

She lowers herself in the chair.

Instead of moving around to the other side of the desk, opposite her, the S.S. Colonel pulls another little chair over and places it in front of the fräulein.

He sits, their knees almost touching.

The colonel points to the foot not in the cast.

COL. LANDA
(GERMAN)
Let me see your foot.

BRIDGET
(GERMAN)
I beg your pardon?

Patting his lap.

COL. LANDA
Put your foot in my lap.

BRIDGET
Colonel, you embarrass me.

COL. LANDA
I assure you, Fräulein, my intention
is not to flirt.

Patting his lap more with more aggression.

The nervous fräulein lifts up her strappy dress shoe enclosed foot
and places it in the colonel's lap.

The Colonel very delicately unfastens the thin straps that
hold the fräulein's shoe on her foot . . .

. . . . He removes the shoe . . .

. . . . Leaving only the fräulein's bare foot . . .

THEN . . .

He removes from his heavy S.S. coat pocket the pretty dress shoe
the fräulein left behind at La Louisiane . . .

He slips it on her foot . . .

. . . . It fits like a glove.

Bridget knows she's BUSTED.

Col. Landa smiles and says in ENGLISH:

COL. LANDA
What's that American expression . . .
"If the shoe fits . . . you must wear it."

He removes her foot from his lap.

BRIDGET
(GERMAN)
What now, Colonel?

COL. LANDA
(GERMAN)
Do you admit your treachery?

She stares defiant daggers into him.

BRIDGET

(GERMAN)

The only think I will admit to is resisting you
 . . .

(ENGLISH)

Sons-a-bitches . . .
 (GERMAN)

. . . to my last breath.

COL. LANDA

"Resist to your last breath"?

SUDDENLY . . .

Hans LUNGES forward, putting his strong mitts around Bridget von Hammersmark's lily-white, delicate neck, and with all the violence of a lion in mid-pounce, SQUEEZES with all his MIGHT.

Bridget's face turns tomato RED, as the VEINS in her face BULGE and her esophagus is CRUSHED in his GRIP.

With a violent YANK, he JERKS her TO THE FLOOR. She TUMBLES out of the chair, Landa never releasing his GRIP around her throat. Now fully on top of her, he BEARS DOWN, SQUEEZING THE VERY LIFE OUT OF HER. Everything he has, he brings to bear on the elegant lady's neck.

Then, to finally finish her off, he begins BANGING THE BACK OF HER HEAD, HARD AGAINST THE FLOOR . . .

BANG!

BANG!

BANG!

She's dead.

He releases the grip around her throat. His hands are TREMBLING . . .

He rises.

Strangling the very life out of somebody with your bare hands is the most violent act a human being can commit.

Also, only humans strangle, opposable thumbs being a quite important part of the endeavor. As Hans Landa stands, the sheer violence he had to call on to accomplish this task still surges through him. He tries to gain control of the trembling that is rippling through his body. He takes out a silver S.S. FLASK (filled with peach schnapps) and knocks back a couple of swigs. He holds his hand out in front of him. The TREMBLING is beginning to subside. He picks up the telephone.

Into the phone, in German, he says:

COL. LANDA
Inform the Führer the audience has
taken their seats, and we're ready
to begin.

Step one in Hans's master plan, done.

He then dials another number . . .

INT-LOBBY-NIGHT

Aldo in the lobby . . .

WHEN . . .

. . . . He's JUMPED by the SIX NAZI USHERS . . .

He's THROWN ROUGHLY to the ground face first. Like the modern-day Secret Service, within seconds his wrists are handcuffed behind his back and he's searched. They find the BOMB attached to his ankle. It's removed, and a BLACK CLOTH BAG is pulled over his head. Then he's hoisted up and RUSHED out of the building.

This happens in mere seconds, and quietly too. No one in the auditorium is none the wiser . . .

INT-AUDITORIUM-NIGHT

. . . including Donowitz and Hirschberg, sitting among the master race, waiting for showtime.

EXT-CINEMA-NIGHT

The six Nazi soldiers hustle the hooded Aldo down the red carpet, then into the alley beside the cinema.

Aldo's put up against a wall.

Inside the black hood, he's SCREAMING every insulting thing about Germany, Germans, German food, German shepherd . . . anything.

COL. LANDA'S VOICE (OS)
Shut up!

The faceless black hood does.

Col. Landa, now standing directly in front of his hooded prisoner, says in ENGLISH:

COL. LANDA
As Stanley said to Livingstone: Lieutenant Aldo Raine, I presume?

LT. ALDO

Hans Landa?

COL. LANDA

You've had a nice long run, Aldo.
Alas, you're now in the hands of the S.S. My
hands to be exact. And they've been waiting a
long time to touch you.

He reaches out with his finger and lightly touches Aldo's
face right in the middle of the hood.

Aldo's head VIOLENTLY FLINCHES.

COL. LANDA

Caught ya flinching.

In German, he orders the men to put Aldo in the back of a truck.

Aldo, bound and bagged, is put in the truck. Also in the
truck is Utivich, wearing a makeshift chauffeur's uniform,
bound and bagged like the lieutenant.

The truck drives off.

Col. Landa turns around and SEES FROM A DISTANCE Hitler's motorcade
pull up to the cinema. Then the Führer, Goebbels, Francesca, and
the rest of the entourage make their way down
the red carpet into the cinema.

Landa smiles.

EXT TRUCK (MOVING)—NIGHT

We see the truck leaving the city of Paris, under the veil of
night.

We also seem to be leaving the drama of Operation Kino.

INT—TRUCK (MOVING)—NIGHT

The two hooded prisoners bounce along in the back of the
truck.

Utivich is crying inside his hood.

LT. ALDO

Utivich?

UTIVICH

Is that you, Lieutenant?

LT. ALDO

Yep.

UTIVICH

Do you know what happened to Donny? Hirschberg?
The woman?

UTIVICH

Do you know what happened to Donny? Hirschberg?
The woman?

LT. ALDO

No, I do not.

UTIVICH

Lieutenant, sorry I'm crying.

LT. ALDO

Nothin' to be sorry about, son.
This bag get to anyone.

UTIVICH

Not exactly John Wayne, am I?

LT. ALDO

John Wayne's a pampered movie star.
He bursts into tears if his cook
busts his yoke at breakfast. Just
try puttin' a bag over his head and
hear what kinda sounds he makes.

Utivich giggles through the tears.

LT. ALDO

I just want you to know, son, I was
real proud of you tonight. Learnin'
how to drive overnight. Driving in
that limo line. You was in the hot
seat, son, and you stood up real good.

Utivich cries LOUDER.

Aldo takes his foot, finds Utivich's foot, and places his foot
on top.

The TOUCH has a slightly calming effect on Utivich.

In the darkness, Utivich has reclaimed his dignity.

EXT-COUNTRY TAVERN-NIGHT

The truck pulls up to a small tavern outside of Paris (not La
Louisaiane).

The two hooded prisoners are walked inside the establishment.

INT-COUNTRY TAVERN-NIGHT

The hooded men are led into the closed for business, but open
for something else rustic tavern.

The Nazi guards unlock the handcuffs, then sit them down in chairs.

Then, simultaneously, the hoods are YANKED OFF.

The two prisoners are seated at a table, in what they can now see is a rustic tavern. On the table is one telephone, one bottle of Chianti, and three glasses. And on the opposite end of the table sits Col. Hans Landa.

A NAZI SOLDIER sits posted at an impressive-looking two-way radio set up in the tavern.

Col. Landa starts in right away at the two baffled, discombobulated American soldiers.

They will only speak ENGLISH in the scene.

COL. LANDA

Italian? Really?

(BEAT)

What could you have possibly been thinking?

LT. ALDO

Well, I speak a little Italian—

COL. LANDA

I speak a little Tagalog, but I wouldn't begin to presume I could pass for Filipino. Don't get me wrong, I understand you were in a pickle, what with you losing your Germans. And I have nothing but admiration for improvisation. Still . . . Chico Marx is more convincing. If the three of you had shown up at the premiere dressed in woman's attire, it would have been more convincing.

Landa's eyes go to the two Nazi guards behind the prisoners.

COL. LANDA

(GERMAN)

You may leave us. But stay alert outside.

They exit, leaving the colonel, the lieutenant, the private, and a German radio man in the corner.

COL. LANDA

So you're Aldo the Apache?

LT. ALDO

So you're the Jew Hunter?

COL. LANDA

Jew Hunter (pfuit). I'm a detective.
A damn good detective. Finding
people is my specialty. So naturally
I worked for the Nazis finding people.
And yes, some of them were Jews.
But Jew Hunter? Just the name that stuck.

UTIVICH

Well, you do hafta admit, it is
catchy.

COL. LANDA

Do you control the nicknames your enemies
bestow on you? Aldo the
Apache and the Little Man?

UTIVICH

What do you mean, the Little Man?

COL. LANDA

The German's nickname for you.

UTIVICH

The German's nickname for me is the Little Man?

COL. LANDA

Or the "Little One", either one means you.
And as if to make my point, I'm a
little surprised how tall you
are in real life. I mean, you're a
little fellow. But not circus-midget
little, as your reputation would
suggest.

LT. ALDO

Where are my men? Where is Bridget
von Hammersmark?

COL. LANDA

Bridget von Hammersmark. Oh, I'm sure she's in
whatever, big bubbling
cesspool in hell the devil reserves
for traitors of her ilk.

COL. LANDA

(CON'T)

Well, let's just say she got what she deserved. And when you purchase friends like Bridget von Hammersmark, you get what you pay for. Now as far as your paisanos Sergeant Donowitz and Private Hirschberg—

LT. ALDO

How do you know our names?

COL. LANDA

Lt. Aldo, if you don't think I wouldn't interrogate every single one of your swastika-marked survivors . . . ? We simply aren't operating on the level of mutual respect I assumed. Now, back to the whereabouts of your two Italian saboteurs. At this moment, both Hirschberg and Donowitz should be sitting in the very seats we left them in. Seats 0023 and 0024, if my memory serves. Explosives, still around their ankles, still ready to explode. And your mission, some would call it a terrorist plot, as of this moment is still a go.

The two basterds don't believe this. It can't be true.

LT. ALDO

That's a pretty exciting story. What's next, Eliza on the ice?

COL. LANDA

However, all I have to do is pick up that phone right there, inform the cinema, and your plans kaput.

LT. ALDO

IF they're still there, and IF they're still alive, and that's one big IF, there ain't no way you gonna take them boys without settin' off them bombs.

COL. LANDA

I have no doubt, and yes, some Germans will die, and yes, it will ruin the evening, and yes, Goebbels will be very very very mad at you for what you've done to his big night. But you won't get Hitler, you won't get Goebbels, you won't get Goering, and you won't get Boormann. And you need all four to end the war.

(pause)

But if I don't pick up that phone right there, you may very well get all four. And if you get all four, you end the war . . . tonight.

The Nazi colonel lifts up the bottle of Chianti and fills three glasses. As he pours, he says:

COL. LANDA

So, gentlemen, let's discuss the prospect of ending the war . . . tonight.

All three have their Chianti filled glasses.

COL. LANDA

So the way I see it, since Hitler's death, or possible rescue, rests solely on my reaction . . . If I do nothing . . . It's as if I'm causing his death, even more than yourselves. Would you agree?

LT. ALDO

I guess so.

COL. LANDA

How about you, Utivich?

UTIVICH

I guess so too.

COL. LANDA

Good, we more or less all agree. Gentlemen, I have no intention of killing Hitler, and killing Goebbels, and killing Goering, and killing Boormann, not to mention winning the war single-handedly for the Allies, only later to find myself standing before a Jewish tribunal.

Now they get it.

COL. LANDA
If you want to win the war, tonight,
we have to make a deal.

LT. ALDO
What kinda deal?

COL. LANDA
The kind you wouldn't have the
authority to make. However, I'm sure this
mission of yours has a
commanding officer? A general, I'm betting. For
. . . .
(thinking)
. . . . O.S.S. would be my guess.

Aldo's eyebrows reveal that was a good guess.

COL. LANDA
Oooh, that's a bingo. Is that the
way you say it, that's a bingo?

LT. ALDO
You just say, bingo.

COL. LANDA
Bingo! How fun. But I digress, where
were we? Oh, yes, make a deal. Over there is a
very capable two-way
radio. And sitting behind it is a
more than capable radio operator
named Herrman. Get me somebody on
the other end of that radio with the power of
the pen to authorize my—
let's call it, the terms of my conditional
surrender, if that tastes better going down.

BACK TO THE PREMIER

Shosanna is in the booth. She brings down the lights.

In the packed, excited auditorium, the house lights go down.

CU CURTAIN SWITCH. She flips it.

In the auditorium, the RED VELVET CURTAINS part.

Shosanna throws the lever on the first projector.

The PROJECTOR BULB goes HOT WHITE, PROJECTING A BEAM . . .

FILM REELS rotate . . .

35mm FILM moves through the projector's film gate . . .

The opening seal of a film by the THIRD REICH flickers on the SCREEN . . .

Goebbels and Francesca watch . . .

Hitler watches . . .

Fredrick watches . . .

Donowitz and Hirschberg watch . . .

Shosanna, in the booth, watches through the little window . . .

The CAMERA PANS OFF of Shosanna to the clearly marked film can, REEL 4. The SURPRISE REEL.

BACK TO LANDA AND THE BASTERDS

Landa, with radio headphones over his ears and a microphone in his hand, talks to the UNSEEN/UNHEARD American brass on the other end.

COL. LANDA

. . . So, when the military history of this night is written, it will be recorded that I was part of Operation Kino from the very beginning, as a double agent. Anything I've done in my guise as an S.S. colonel was sanctioned by the O.S.S., as a necessary evil to establish my cover with the Germans. And it was my placement of Lieutenant Raine's dynamite in Hitler and Goebbels's opera box that assured their demise. By the way, that last part is actually true.

FLASH ON

Landa placing bomb in Hitler and Goebbels's opera box.

BACK TO LANDA

COL. LANDA

I want my full military pension and benefits under my proper rank. I want to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor for my invaluable assistance in the toppling of the Third Reich.

He looks over and sees Aldo and Utivich watching the one-sided conversation.

COL. LANDA

In fact, I want all the members of "Operation Kino" to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor. Full citizenship for myself—but that goes without saying. And I would like the United States of America to purchase property for me on Nantucket island, as a reward for all the countless lives I've saved by bringing the tyranny of the National Socialist Party to a swifter than imagined end. Do you have all that, sir?

(pause)

I look forward to seeing you face to face as well, sir.

(pause)

He's right here.

The colonel hands the headphones and microphone to Aldo.

LT. ALDO

Yes, sir?

We HEAR the VOICE on the other end of the radio give Aldo his orders:

RADIO VOICE (OS)

Colonel Landa will put you and Private Utivich in a truck as prisoners. Then he and his radio operator will get in the truck, drive to our lines. Upon crossing our lines, Colonel Landa and his man will surrender to you. You will then take over driving of the truck and bring them straight to me for debriefing. Is that clear, Lieutenant?

LT. ALDO

Yes, sir.

The conversation is over. He puts the radio down.

The three men look at one another.

Landa picks up his wine.

COL. LANDA

So I suppose the only thing left to
do is lift a glass and toast to
Donowitz and Hirschberg's success.
You too, Herrman, come over here.

The four men, Col. Hans Landa, Lt. Aldo Raine, Pfc. Smithson
Utivich, and Herrman, lift up four glasses of wine.

COL. LANDA

Gentlemen, to history, and its witnesses.

CHEERS.

BACK TO THE PREMIERE

WE CUT TO THE B/W FILM ON SCREEN.

Fredrick Zoller, playing himself, is in an ornamental tower in
a Russian village, picking off RUSSIAN SOLDIERS below.

A RUSSIAN GENERAL KCHOVLANSKEY

peering at the German private through binoculars. He lowers
the long-range glasses and confers with one of his OFFICERS.

GEN. KCHOVLANSKEY

(RUSSIAN)

What's the death toll?

OFFICER

(RUSSIAN)

47, so far.

WE HEAR A SHOT.

OFFICER

(RUSSIAN)

48. General, I implore you, we must destroy
that tower!

GEN. KCHOVLANSKEY

(RUSSIAN)

That tower is one of the oldest and
most beautiful structures in Russia.
I won't be responsible for turning a thousand
years of history into dust!

A BRAVE RUSSIAN SOLDIER tries to run between two buildings.

Zoller gets him.

Then proceeds to pick him apart, one bullet at a time.

SHOSANNA IN THE PROJECTION BOOTH

She removes "REEL 4" (the Special Shosanna Reel) and prepares it on the second projector. Reel 3, on the first projector, playing now, is halfway through. In a few short minutes, it's going to be show time.

Marcel says to Shosanna in FRENCH, SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH:

MARCEL

It's time. I should go lock the auditorium and take my place behind the screen.

This is the last time they will ever see each other—too much to say. He holds her in his arms and lays a one kiss before I die wet one on her.

DONOWITZ AND HIRSCHBERG

sit in their seats watching the movie, surrounded by DRESS-UNIFORM NAZIS. They've developed a dopey way of communicating with each other in this hostile environment.

Basically, speaking English as if it were gibberish Italian they say English words, only adding an "I" or "A" or "O" to the end of it. And saying it in an exaggerated Italian accent, complete with pantomimes.

Donowitz leans into Hirschberg and says in a whisper:

They speak in ITALIAN-ISH SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH:

SGT. DONOWITZ
(ITALIAN-ISH)

I-a go-a toilet-a, set-ta Boom-a.
(I go to the toilet and set the bomb.)
When-a I-a go-a, you-a set-ta Boom-a.
(When I go, you set your bomb.)

Hirschberg indicates/pantomimes that he can't set his bomb surrounded by all these Nazis.

Donowitz pantomimes crossing his legs and setting the bomb on his ankle in his seat. Then getting up and dropping it in the back of the auditorium in the dark.

Hirschberg doesn't get it.

HIRSCHBERG

What-a?

(What?)

Donny pantomimes again, more exaggerated, and with less patience.

HIRSCHBERG

Affirm-ato, affirm-ato
(Affirmative, affirmative.)

SGT. DONOWITZ

They-o look-o screen-a, not-o you-a.
(They're looking at the screen, not you.)

HIRSCHBERG

Fantastic-o.
(Fantastic.)

SGT. DONOWITZ

After-teri, set-ta, five-o moment-o
(pointing to
watch)

You-a, pphisst.
(After you set the bomb, wait five minutes, and
get out of here.)

HIRSCHBERG

What-o?
(What?)

SGT. DONOWITZ

Confussi-i, confuss-i, confuss-i.
(Confused, confused, confused.)
What-a, and-o what-o, same-o?
(I thought "What-a" meant "What."
Does "What-o" mean "What," as well?)

HIRSCHBERG

Oh-o, sorr-o, I-o meant-a "What-a."
(Oh, sorry, I meant what.)

SGT. DONOWITZ

After-teri, you-a set-ta bom-a,
five-o moment-o, you-a, fuck-o pphisst.
(After you set the bomb, wait five minutes and
get the fuck out of here.)

HIRSCHBERG

Affirm-ato, affirm-ato.
(Affirmative, affirmative.)

SGT. DONOWITZ

Good-a, luck-a.
(Good luck.)

Donowitz stands up from his seat and walks out of the dark auditorium into the lobby. The Nazi guards/ushers are gone, and the lobby is completely empty. Seeing the STAIRS leading down to the WATER CLOSET/BATHROOM, he descends them to plant the Boom-a—I mean, the bomb.

DESCENDING THE STAIRS

leading to the water closet. Like a lot of old cinemas, not only was the water closet located under the auditorium, you had to pass through a rather large SMOKING LOUNGE to get to it. In the smoking lounge are TEN NAZI ENLISTED MEN, the guards/ushers for the event, smoking and indulging in soldiers' gossip. They're all in dress uniforms, and all are armed.

Donowitz, in his tuxedo, acts cool and walks right through them.

They look up but don't disturb their time-off vibe.

Donny enters the big water closet. Except for ONE LONE NAZI ENLISTED MAN at the urinal, it would appear as if Donny has the whole washroom to himself.

He enters the privacy of a toilet stall and locks the door.

MARCEL IN LOBBY

He descends the stairs leading down from the projection booth into the empty lobby. He goes to one of the auditorium doors and peers inside.

WE SEE THE SCREEN AND THE AUDIENCE FROM MARCEL'S POV in the back of the room. The audience seems riveted to Fredrick's exploits onscreen.

Marcel closes the door and, with a KEY, DEADBOLTS it SHUT.

INSIDE THE AUDITORIUM

WE PAN OFF THE SCREEN to Marcel, who locks the two doors on either side of the screen . . . Due to curtains placed there, no one notices Marcel's actions.

Marcel then goes BEHIND THE SCREEN. WE SEE THE IMAGE (backward) of Fredrick's sniper battle HUGE, COVERING THE ENTIRE SIDE OF THE ROOM . . . A PILE of over 300 nitrate FILM PRINTS lies like a junk pile, right behind the screen.

Sitting down in a wooden chair facing the screen and pile-o-film, he lights up a cigarette, an absolute no-no in a cinema of this era, but tonight, what does it matter?

He smokes and waits for his cue to . . . BURN IT DOWN!

FREDRICK IN OPERA BOX

alongside Hitler, Goebbels, Francesca, and Boormann. Onscreen the battle rages. He leans over and whispers something in Goebbel's ear we can't hear. Goebbels makes a very sympathetic face (at least sympathetic for Goebbels) and says in German:

GOEBBELS

Perfectly understandable, dear boy.
You go now, and we'll see you after
the show.

He exits the opera box and walks to the projection booth door. He raps on the door in a trying to be amusing way.

The door opens, just a little bit. Shosanna, not friendly, stares at him.

He, as usual, is all smiles and charm.

They speak in FRENCH, SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH:

FREDRICK

Are you the manager of this cinema?
I want my money back. That actor in
the movie stinks.

He laughs.

She doesn't even smile. She says, all serious business:

SHOSANNA

What are you doing here?

FREDRICK

I came to visit you.

SHOSANNA

Can't you see how busy I am?

FREDRICK

Then allow me to lend an assist.

SHOSANNA

Fredrick, it's not funny. You can't
be here. This is your premiere. You
need to be out there with them.

As Fredrick prepares to tell his little tale with all the charm at his command, Shosanna listens, knowing the third reel is just about over and her big reel change is coming up.

FREDRICK

Normally, you would be right.
And for all the other films I do,
I intend to endure evenings like
tonight in the proper spirit.
However, the fact remains, this film
is based on my military exploits.
And in this case, my exploits
consisted of me killing many men. Consequently,
the part of the film
that's playing now, . . . I don't like watching
this part.

SHOSANNA

Fredrick, I am sorry, but—

FREDRICK

—So, I thought I'd come up here
and do what I do best, annoy you.
And from the look on your face, it
would appear I haven't lost my touch.

DONNY IN TOILET

Sgt. Donowitz, with BOMB in his lap, sets the timer for six minutes
from now. He then places the bomb in the back of the toilet tank.

CAMERA ON FLOOR OF WATER CLOSET

We see the tile of the floor stretch out before us. We see
Donny's feet in the closed toilet stall. We HEAR the OFFSCREEN Nazi
enlisted man finish his piss. Then HIS SHOES WALK
THROUGH FRAME . . . WE FOLLOW THEM TO . . . the SINK . . . WE STAY
ON the shoes . . . as WE HEAR the Soldier WASH HIS HANDS . . . THEN
. . . THE CAMERA RISES UP HIS PANT LEG . . . till . . . WE'RE EYE
LEVEL with the German soldier, with an ARMY CAP on his head, who's
done washing his hands . . . THEN . . . the soldier removes
his cap, brushes some bangs out of his face, and WE SEE
THE SWASTIKA HAND-CARVED INTO HIS FOREHEAD, THE UNDENIABLE MARK OF
THE BASTERDS. He SPLASHES some WATER ON HIS FACE, puts his
cap back on his head, and joins his comrades in the smoking lounge.
As he exits THE FRAME, he says to somebody OFFSCREEN;

SWASTIKA FOREHEAD

(GERMAN)

Hey, Fritz, you owe me three cigarettes. Now
pay up.

SHOSANNA AND FREDRICK

Fredrick still outside the doorway, and Shosanna still baring
the way.

SHOSANNA

I have to get prepared for the reel change.

FREDRICK

Let me do it?

SHOSANNA

No.

FREDRICK

Oh, please, it's been two years since I've done a reel change.

SHOSANNA

I said, no.

FREDRICK

(cute whine)

Come on, it's my premiere.

SHOSANNA

Are you so used to the Nazis kissing your ass, you've forgotten what the word "no" means? No, Fredrick, you can't come in here. Now go away!

No subtitles for Fredrick needed this time. He gets it.

He does a one-armed PILE-DRIVE PUSH on the door, knocking both it OPEN and Shosanna back into the room.

Fredrick, a different cat than we've seen up till now, enters the booth, closing the door behind him and LOCKING it.

The quite startled Shosanna says to Fredrick:

SHOSANNA

Fredrick, you hurt me.

FREDRICK

Well, it's nice to know you can feel something. Even if it's just physical pain.

Fredrick steps forward . . .

Shosanna steps backward . . .

FREDRICK

I'm not a man you say "Go away" to. There's over three hundred dead bodies in Russia that, if they could, would testify to that. After what I've done for you, you disrespect me at your peril.

BACK TO WASHROOM

The Swastika forehead soldier gets a light for his cigarette.
He takes a big drag.

SOLDIER'S POV

He faces the washroom, and down that long row, he sees Donny emerge from the toilet stall. His tuxedo jacket is off and draped over his right hand. Sporting the white dress shirt and black tuxedo vest, he's quite far away, so now he just looks like some guy in a tux who just finished taking a shit. Donny walks toward us . . .

CU SWASTIKA FOREHEAD

seeing him get closer . . .

SOLDIER POV

Donny gets closer . . .

CU SWASTIKA FOREHEAD

seeing him closer still . . .

SOLDIER POV

Donny gets closer . . .

CU SWASTIKA FOREHEAD

begins to notice . . .

SOLDIER POV

Donny getting closer, begins to notice the German soldier notice him . . .

CU SWASTIKA FOREHEAD

Now Donny is close enough for the soldier to recognize. His face SCREAMS:

SWASTIKA FOREHEAD

The Bear Jew!!!

The soldier's GUN is out of its holster and rising toward Donny's chest . . .

WHEN . . .

Donny raises his right arm, with the tuxedo jacket on it, and FIRES a GUN concealed under it.

HITTING Swastika Forehead in the chest . . . who finishes raising his GUN, FIRING, HITTING Donny in the chest . . .

The two soldiers FIRE INTO each other . . . till their weapons are empty, and the two men lie dead on the floor.

The ten other NAZIS in the room stand shocked at what just happened in front of them.

SHOSANNA AND FREDRICK IN THE PROJECTION ROOM

Fredrick hears the gunshots below them and turns toward the door.

FREDRICK

What the hell was that?

While Fredrick's back is turned, Shosanna takes a GUN out of her pocket and SHOOTS Fredrick THREE TIMES in the back . . .

. . . He CRASHES HARD into the door, then FALLS FACE FIRST to the floor . . .

Shosanna, gun in hand, looks out the projection booth window into the audience . . .

The ONSCREEN BATTLE rages so LOUDLY with GUNFIRE that her weapon didn't stand a chance of being heard.

Her eyes go from the audience . . .

. . . up to the big screen . . .

. . . which holds FREDRICK ZOLLER in a tight, handsome CLOSEUP.

The face on the silver screen breaks the young girl's heart . . .

. . . She looks to his body, lying face down on the floor, blood flowing from the holes she put in his back . . .

. . . His body moves a little, and he lets out a painful MOAN . . .

. . . DYING though he is, at this moment Fredrick is still ALIVE . . .

Shosanna moves to him . . .

. . . She touches him, and he lets out another MOAN . . .

. . . She turns his body over on its back . . .

. . . He's holding a LUGER in his hand . . .

. . . He FIRES TWICE . . .

BANG BANG

Two bullets HIT HER POINT BLANK IN THE CHEST . . .

THROWING HER against the wall, then FALLING FORWARD on her knees to the floor . . .

. . . Fredrick, Luger still in hand, takes aim from the floor . . .

. . . FIRES . . .

HITTING the bloody girl on the floor, in the thigh . . .

. . . SPINNING her BODY around in agony . . .

Like he did to the Russian onscreen, he picks her apart, one bullet at a time . . .

. . . FIRES . . .

A BULLET BLOWS OFF THE HEEL OF HER FOOT . . .

The Luger drops to floor. Fredrick DIES.

Our young French Jewish heroine lies on the projection booth floor in a pool of her own blood, her body RIDDLED with bullets, her nerve endings wracked with pain, CRIPPLED and DYING . . .

WHEN . . .

. . . The little bell on the 1st projector starts to ring, informing the projectionist it's time for the REEL CHANGE.

Dying or not, if Shosanna intends to get her revenge, she's going to have to lift her ass off the floor and execute this fucking reel change.

CINEMA AUDITORIUM

The battle onscreen continues. The audience is riveted.

The FUHRER

watches, completely caught up in the dramatic spectacle. He says to Goebbels in German:

HITLER

Extraordinary, Joseph, simply extraordinary.
This is your finest
film yet.

Goebbels is beyond proud. He smiles to Francesca, who proudly pats his hand.

PROJECTION BOOTH

Shosanna, bloody, crippled, and fucked, with great and painful effort, PULLS HERSELF OFF THE FLOOR . . .

AUDITORIUM

Hirschberg, sitting in his seat, SETS the BOMB on his ankle, then stands up and begins scooting past everybody in his row's knees.

PROJECTION BOOTH

Like the German heroine in one of Riefenstahl's mountain films,
Shosanna CLIMBS UP the 35mm film projector, like it was
Pitz Palu . . .

FILM ONSCREEN

Private Zoller FIRING away from his perch. In the top far-
right corner of the FRAME, WE SEE the 1st REEL CHANGE MARK . . .

PROJECTION BOOTH

Shosanna hanging onto the projector, waiting for the 2nd reel
change mark. It's an agonizing effort . . .

BEHIND THE SCREEN

Marcel, smoking, waiting for his cue . . .

HIRSCHBERG

gets out of his row and begins walking up the aisle in the middle
of the cinema toward the exit.

ONSCREEN

SERGIO LEONE CU FREDRICK. He SCREAMS to the Russians below:

MOVIE ZOLLER

Who wants to send a message to
Germany?

In the top right of THE FRAME, the 2nd REEL CHANGE MARK POPS ON . .
.

PROJECTION BOOTH

Shosanna TOSSES herself to the floor, as she THROWS THE CHANGE-OVER
SWITCH on the 2nd projector . . .

EX CU PROJECTOR BULB

BLASTING WHITE in our face.

SLOW MOTION

SHOSANNA FALLING . . .

EX CU 35MM FILM

MOVING . . .

SHOSANNA

HITS the DUSTY ground HARD, NOT in slow motion . . .

PROJECTOR BEAM

SHOOTS OUT OF THE LITTLE PROJECTION BOOTH WINDOW
hits screen.

CU SHOSANNA

on the floor, eyes closed, last breath blown into the dusty
projection booth floor. Like her family before here, dead from Nazi
bullets.

AUDITORIUM
ON THE SILVER SCREEN FREDRICK'S EX CU

CUT TO

ON SILVER SCREEN MATCHING SHOSANNA EX CU
CAMERA in the exact same placement, same background (B/W sky),
SLIGHT LOW ANGLE LOOKING UP, so onscreen Shosanna is looking
down on the Nazis, the way Fredrick was looking down on the
Russians. The way this HUGE IMAGE OF SHOSANNA'S GIANT FACE stares
down the auditorium of Nazis brings to mind Orwells "1984"
Big Brother.

HITLER and GOEBBELS
React.

HIRSCHBERG
standing in the middle of the aisle, turns toward the screen. When
he sees Shosanna's GIANT FACE, he's gobsmacked.

BEHIND SCREEN
Marcel sitting in the chair, with his cigarette, before the
EVEN MORE GIANT FACE OF SHOSANNA

SHOSANNA'S GIANT FACE ONSCREEN
She stares down the packed house of Nazis and says
in FRENCH:

SHOSANNA'S GIANT FACE
I have a message for Germany. I'm interrupting
your Nazi propaganda horseshit to inform you
dispicable German swine that you're all going
to die.

HITLER and GOEBBELS
react.

HIRSCHBERG
reacts.

MARCEL
smiles.

SHOSANNA'S GIANT FACE
And I want you to look deep in the face of the
Jew who's going to do it.

AUDITORIUM AUDIENCE
While the shocked German audience is transfixed to the screen,
behind the heads of most of them . . .

The BOMB Landa set in Hitler and Goebbels's opera box . . .

EXPLODES.

BLOWING TO SMITHEREENS HITLER, FRANCESCA, and BOORMANN, and propelling GOEBBELS, still in his theater seat, across the auditorium, into the opposite wall and taking out a portion of the ceiling as well.

The crowd reacts . . .

The explosion causes the huge chandelier from Versailles to topple from its jury-rigged placement and CRASH onto the audience below . . .

ONSCREEN THE GIANT FACE OF SHOSANNA finishes her WAR CRY.

SHOSANNA'S GIANT FACE

My name is Shosanna Dreyfus, and this is the face of Jewish vengeance! Marcel, BURN IT DOWN!

BEHIND THE SCREEN

Marcel takes his cigarette and FLICKS IT into the pile of nitrate film.

ONSCREEN SHOSANNA'S GIANT FACE LAUGHS MANIACALLY at the scrambling little Nazis, running in a panic, as FLAMES LIKE OUT OF A GIANT BLAST FURNACE BURST THROUGH SHOSANNA'S FACE and CLIMB UP THE WALLS of the cinema.

The AUDIENCE

STAMPEDES toward the exits . . .

HIRSCHBERG

with bomb set on ankle, is caught in a massive "Day of the Locust" SWARM OF BODIES . . .

People frantically pound on locked doors, trapping them to their grizzly fate.

The FLAMES and FIRE spread through the auditorium . . .

Hirschberg, caught in the people crunch, knows this is it.

HIS ANKLE BOMB GOES OFF

right underneath everybody in the room.

The effect this has on the people in the room is very similar to that of the effect an M-80 blowing up in an ant hill would have on the ants. The auditorium is a literal red rain of legs, arms, heads, torsos, and asses.

THEN . . . ,

DONOWITZ'S TOILET BOMB

BLOWS UP UNDERNEATH the auditorium.

COLLAPSING THE CINEMA AND BLOWING OUT THE FRONT OF THE THEATER.

As MADAME MIMEUX'S CINEMA BURNS . . .

These SUBTITLES APPEAR ONSCREEN as if on a military teletype:

"OPERATION KINO A COMPLETE SUCCESS."

FADE OUT

FADE UP

"HITLER DEAD. GOEBBELS DEAD. BOORMANN DEAD.
GOERING DEAD. ZOLLER DEAD. MOST OF HIGH COMMAND
DEAD."

FADE OUT

FADE IN

"FOUR DAYS LATER, GERMANY SURRENDERS."

FADE OUT

FADE IN

"ONCE UPON A TIME IN NAZI . . .
OCCUPIED FRANCE."

CUT TO

EXT-WOODS-MORNING

It's a misty early morning in a woodsy area. The German truck, with Aldo and Utivich in the back, and Landa and Herrman in the front, comes to a stop.

LANDA and HERRMAN IN THE TRUCK CAB
Herrman, behind the wheel, tells Landa in German:

HERRMAN
These are the American lines, sir.

In the back of the truck sit the two last remaining members of the Basterds, Lt. Aldo Raine and Pfc. Smithson Utivich, both with their hands cuffed behind their backs.

Landa and Herrman appear at the truck rear. Landa says in ENGLISH:

COL. LANDA
Okay, gentlemen, you can climb down.

Aldo and Utivich climb down from the truck.

Col. Landa indicates for Herrman to remove the handcuffs from the two prisoners.

He does.

COL. LANDA
Herrman, hand them your weapon.

He does.

Col. Landa hands over his LUGER and his very-cool-looking S.S. DAGGER.

COL. LANDA
I am officially surrendering myself
over to you, Lieutenant Raine. We are your
prisoners.

LT. ALDO
Thank you very much, Colonel. Utivich, cuff the
colonel's hands behind his back.

COL. LANDA
Is that really necessary?

As Utivich cuffs the Colonel's hands behind his back, Aldo
says:

LT. ALDO
I'm a slave to appearances.

Then Aldo takes the Luger and SHOOTS HERRMAN DEAD.

The bound Col. Landa is appalled.

COL. LANDA
Are you mad? What have you done? I made a deal
with your general for that man's life!

LT. ALDO
Yeah, they made that deal, but they don't give
a fuck about him, they
need you.

COL. LANDA
You'll be shot for this.

LT. ALDO

Naw, I don't think so, more like I'll be chewed out. I've been chewed out before. You know, Utivich and myself heard that deal you made with the brass. End the war tonight? I'd make that deal. How 'bout you, Utivich, you make that deal?

UTIVICH

I'd make that deal.

LT. ALDO

I don't blame ya. Damn good deal. And that pretty little nest ya feathered for yourself. Well, if you're willing to barbecue the whole high command, I suppose that's worth certain considerations. Now I don't care about you gettin' pensions, merit badges, ticker-tape parades, who gives a damn, let's all go home. But I do have one question. When you go to your little place on Nantucket island, I imagine you gonna take off that handsome-looking S.S. uniform of yours, ain't ya?

For the first time in the movie, Col. Landa doesn't respond.

LT. ALDO

That's what I thought. Now that . . .
. . . I can't abide. How bout you, Utivich, can you abide it?

UTIVICH

Not one damn bit, sir.

LT. ALDO

I mean if I had my way, you'd wear that goddamn uniform for the rest of our pecker-suckin' life. But I'm aware that ain't practical. I mean at some point ya gotta hafta take it off.

He opens Landa's S.S. DAGGER and holds the blade in front of Hans's face.

LT. ALDO

So I'm gonna give you a little somethin you can't take off.

CU COL. LANDA

The dagger has just completed carving a swastika deep into his forehead.

COL. LANDA'S POV

On the ground, looking up at Aldo, bloody knife in hand, who straddles him. And Utivich, who's next to him. The two Basterds admire Aldo's handiwork.

Aldo turns to Utivich and says:

LT. ALDO

You know somethin', Utivich? I think this just might be my masterpiece.

They ghoulishly giggle.

CUT TO

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