

**SILENT SALZBURG**

A Feature-Length Screenplay

By Richard Medugno

Based on his original stage play

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**FADE IN:**

**EXT. TOWN CENTER IN KUECHL, AUSTRIA – ESTABLISHING – DAY**

**SUPER: Kuechl, Austria 1940**

A beautiful spring afternoon in Kuechl, a small town in Austria, 40 miles south of Salzburg. STEPHANA KLOTTMEIER, a middle-aged hausfrau and mother of teenagers, wears a spring coat, stylish hat, scarf, and sensible shoes and carries a canvas bag or two filled with groceries through the square. Stephana nods, waves, and smiles to folks as she window-shops.

When she comes upon two young deaf men wearing school uniforms and carrying books in ruck sacks, PETER and ULI, who are using sign language, she taps one on the shoulder and waves when he turns to face her. Peter smiles and waves back. Stephana continues browsing.

ULI

(signing and subtitled)  
Who is that?

PETER

(signing and subtitled)  
Hans's mother.

ULI

(signing and subtitled)  
Oh, right. Right. She's sweet.

Stephana stops in front a bakery window. While she studies some pastry on display, the bells in the church steeple ring a couple of times. Suddenly, in the window reflection, Stephana sees a police truck screech to a halt near Peter and Uli. The noise has startled Stephana and she spins around to see what's happening. The truck blocks her view of the boys. Four men in brown uniforms exit the truck and disappear from her view to the front of the vehicle.

Like Stephana, other townsfolk hear a commotion. They stop what they're doing and come out of their shops. People on the street turn to see what's happening.

We hear unearthly yelling as Stephana circles round the truck to discover the source. She sees that Peter and Uli have been encircled by the S.S. men. The young deaf men are confused and frightened.

The S.S. LEADER, a young man, angrily shoves Peter.

S.S. LEADER  
I said, what's your name?

Frightened, Peter pulls out an I.D. card and shows him.

S.S. LEADER (CONT'D)  
Hmm...What about you?

Uli nervously produces his I.D. as well. The S.S. Leader snatches the I.D.s from both and begins examining them closely.

S.S. LEADER (CONT'D)  
What's wrong with you two? Why don't you speak?

Stephana looks around and makes eye contact with a couple of nuns, who are shaking their heads, disapproving of what they're witnessing. Stephana decides to take action and approaches the S.S. Leader.

S.S. LEADER (CONT'D)  
Speak! Why don't you speak, damn you?!

STEPHANA  
They are deaf-mutes.

S.S. LEADER  
I didn't ask you! I asked them. I know that they can speak.

STEPHANA  
Well, I know that they cannot.

PETER  
(signing to Uli)  
Stay calm. She'll help us.

S.S. MAN #2 slaps at Peter's hands.

S.S. MAN #2  
Keep your hands down!

STEPHANA  
That's how they communicate! Are  
you an id...Are you from Salzburg?

S.S. LEADER  
No. Linz.

STEPHANA  
Do you not know Kuechl is home to  
a school for the deaf?

S.S. LEADER  
In fact, I do. (to S.S. MAN #2)  
Are their names on the list?

The S.S. Leader hands the IDs to the S.S. MAN #2, who  
checks them against a list on a clipboard.

S.S. MAN #2  
Yes, they're here.

S.S. LEADER  
Put these defectives on the truck.

The S.S. men proceed to put Peter and Uli into the back of  
the police truck. The Deaf boys begin to resist being  
manhandled. They scream and squeal as they are unable to  
break free and are pushed inside the police truck.

STEPHANA  
"Defectives?!" What are you  
talking about? What are you  
doing?! I know these boys. They  
come from good Austrian families.  
They've done nothing wrong!  
They're not Jews!

S.S. LEADER  
(too sincerely)  
Don't worry. We'll take good care  
of them.

The S.S. men jump back into their truck and drive off. Peter and Uli can be heard screaming and crying into the distance. Stephana stands stunned for a moment. Then she looks around at the other witnesses to the event. No one wants to make eye contact with her.

An expression of frustration escapes from Stephana, she starts to say something, but then bites her lip. She gathers up her groceries and quickly leaves the area as a few shopkeepers return to their stores, shaking their heads sympathetically.

**EXT. THE SIDEWALK NEAR THE GATE INTO A GIRL'S HIGH SCHOOL – DAY**

A visibly upset Stephana stands, holding her groceries and waiting impatiently for her daughter.

LISA KLOTTMEIER, a fourteen-year-old pretty schoolgirl, in a uniform, coat, and hat, is carrying books and chatting happily with classmates as she comes down the stairs from the building. She doesn't see her mother as she and some girlfriends stop to chat near the gate.

STEPHANA

Lisa!

LISA

Mama! What are you doing here?

STEPHANA

Quickly, my dear, we need to meet Hans.

LISA

Why?

STEPHANA

I'll tell you as we walk.

Lisa waves goodbye to her friends and joins her mother as they walk quickly away.

**EXT. A SIDEWALK IN A KUECHL NEIGHBORHOOD — DAY**

Stephana and Lisa are walking side by side.

STEPHANA

We must leave Austria.

LISA

What?!...Why?...No.

STEPHANA

Yes. We must. It's not safe here.

LISA

What do you mean? We hardly know a war is going on. We're very safe.

STEPHANA

Hans is not safe here! (beat) It's not the war. It's the Reich. The S.S. I just saw them drag two of Hans' friends out of the square.

LISA

Why?

STEPHANA

I don't know.

LISA

Mama, I've heard rumors...

Stephana stops walking and Lisa does too.

STEPHANA

What rumors?

Lisa doesn't want to answer.

STEPHANA (CONT'D)

Lisa, tell me please.

LISA

It's nonsense that some stupid person made up...

STEPHANA

What are the rumors?

LISA

Nazis think the deaf are defects.  
They want to make it so they can't  
have babies.

Stephana has a look of shock on her face and then anger.

LISA

It's not true, is it, Momma?

Stephana begins walking quickly and Lisa follows, trying to  
keep up with mother.

STEPHANA

Come quickly, Lisa. We have to get  
to him before they do.

**EXT. THE KUCHEL SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF - DAY**

Stephana and Lisa approach the deaf school campus is  
surround by a large iron fence and has several dark brick  
buildings surrounding a courtyard. There are a few  
students, milling around out front on the main building's  
steps. Stephana holds back as Lisa approaches one DEAF GIRL  
STUDENT she recognizes. It is a co-ed school.

LISA

(voices and signs)

Hi. Where's my brother?

The deaf student points to a group of people across the  
courtyard.

LISA

(voices and signs)

Danke.

Lisa leads Stephana across the courtyard. As they get  
closer, they see HANS, a seventeen-year-old boy. He's very  
Aryan-looking, blond and blue-eyed, handsome. He's in a  
heated sign language conversation with some classmates.

Like Peter and Uli, he wears a school uniform that has a tie and jacket. Among the admiring students surrounding him is MARLENA, a blonde Aryan beauty and Deaf teenager, wearing a school uniform. She is very attentive to Hans.

Lisa is waving and jumping up and down, trying to get his attention, when finally Hans sees her, he stops conversing with his friends. He moves toward her as the deaf group hangs back, signing amongst themselves.

[NOTE: All conversations between Hans and Lisa are subtitled/open captioned. Hans signs while Lisa signs and usually voices the corresponding words as well. When Stephana speaks, Lisa signs for her—though not always.]

HANS

Why here? What's wrong?

LISA

(voices and signs)

Mama saw something bad happen in the square today.

HANS

I know. S.S. We were just discussing that. The stupid headmaster gave all our student records to the S.S.

LISA

(to Stephana)

He knows about the S.S. He says the headmaster gave them all the student records.

STEPHANA

All right. We must go home now.

HANS & LISA

I had a plan to walk about with my friend.

Hans indicates Marlana, who smiles and waves "Hi." Stephana doesn't acknowledge Marlana. She is too emotional now.

STEPHANA

(signing primitively)

No. No. Please. Come. With us.

HANS

Ok. Fine.

Hans looks towards Marlena who is still looking at them.

HANS

Sorry, I need to go!

MARLENA

Fine. Will I see you later?

HANS

Yes!

Hans waves goodbye to his classmates who wave back. Hans blows a kiss to Marlena. She smiles but is embarrassed when she and Stephana make eye contact. Stephana is confused but Hans' apparent affection for this girl.

Stephana leads the way, as she, son, and daughter quickly walking off the campus.

**EXT. ON THE SIDEWALK IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL - DAY**

Stephana near the street stops abruptly and turns to Hans and Lisa.

STEPHANA

Tell him no signing until we are home and inside.

LISA

Mama says no signing until we are home.

Hans makes a big show of sticking both his hands deep into his pants pockets and makes a goofy face to his mom.

STEPHANA

(signs)

Danke.

Hans continues to make a goofy face and Lisa laughs at him. Stephana can't help but smile at him and hands him a bag to carry. He grabs it and laughs. The three walk out of view.

**EXT. THE SIDEWALK IN FRONT OF THE KLOTTMEIER HOME – DAY**

As Stephana, Hans, and Lisa march up the street, a senior citizen neighbor FRAU STEEN and her little snappy dog stroll down the street.

STEPHANA

Good afternoon, Frau Steen.

FRAU STEEN

Good afternoon, Stephana! Hello, Lisa. (to barking dog) Shut up, Friedrich. Bad dog.

LISA

Where is your other little dog?

FRAU STEEN

Kurt is sick today. No walk for him.

STEPHANA

Ah, God bless, Kurt.

FRAU STEEN

You're all coming home together?

STEPHANA

Yes. Sorry, we're in a bit of a rush. And these brown paper bags are heavy.

FRAU STEEN

You need string!

Stephana and Lisa move past Frau Steen and go up the walkway to the front door their quaint middle-class house. Hans is making goofy, kissy faces at the dog.

FRAU STEEN

(exaggerating her words)  
Hello, Hans. How are you?

Hans smiles and nods. As he moves past Frau Steen, the dog begins barking wildly.

FRAU STEEN

Oh, shut up, Friedrich! He can't even hear you.

**INT. THE KLOTTMEIERS' KITCHEN**

In a clean and tidy kitchen, Stephana enters in a rush. She puts her bag of groceries on the table. Lisa and Hans follow her in. He places his bag on the table, too.

STEPHANA

Put the groceries away please.

Lisa and Hans begin unpacking the groceries. Stephana rushes into the living room.

**INT. THE KLOTTMEIERS' LIVING ROOM**

Stephana quickly takes off her hat, coat, and scarf, tosses them onto a chair. She goes to the telephone on a small table. She dials a number. On the wall behind Stephana are a cuckoo clock, family photos, a crucifix, a portrait of Jesus Christ, and a portrait of Adolph Hitler. It is a very clean, tidy living space.

STEPHANA

(into the phone)  
Herr Klottmeier, please...Yes,  
this is Stephana...Danke...

The cuckoo clock strikes four.

STEPHAN (CONT'D)

Gerhardt, you must come home..

**INT. GERHARDT'S FURNITURE STORE**

GERHARDT KLOTTMEIER stands nears his desk in the office of his furniture store. He is a middle-aged Austrian businessman. He has good posture and is clean shaven.

A few customers can be seen through an internal window browsing in the store. A female secretary types at a large desk stacked with paperwork that is adjacent to Gerhardt's desk where the telephone sits. Gerhardt covers his free ear to hear over the phone better.

GERHARDT  
(impatiently into the phone)  
What is the matter, Stephana?

**INT. THE KLOTTMEIERS' LIVING ROOM**

Stephana is almost frantic now.

STEPHANA  
(into the phone)  
You must come at once.

GERHARDT (O.S.)  
Stephana, is this important?

STEPHANA  
(into the phone)  
Would I call you if it were not an emergency?!

Stephana slams the phone down and drops into the sofa, burying her head into her hands. She sobs.

**INT. THE KLOTTMEIERS' KITCHEN**

Lisa is putting the groceries away while Hans sits at the table eating a roll and cheese out of his bag of groceries. He taps on the table to get Lisa's attention.

HANS  
What's going on? Why is Mom upset?

LISA  
Ask her? She will tell you—But, first, need to help me put away.

HANS  
I'm hungry.

**INT. THE KLOTTMEIERS' LIVING ROOM**

Stephana still has her head down when Lisa calls from the kitchen.

LISA (O.S.)  
Mom, where should I put the flour?

STEPHANA  
In the cupboard above the bright  
copper kettle.

Stephana composes herself, jumps up, and opens the nearby closet and brings out several suitcases. She throws a big one on the floor and two smaller ones on the sofa. Then she goes to the phone again and dials.

STEPHANA  
(into the phone)  
Otto?

OTTO (O.S.)  
Yes, Stephana! How are you?

STEPHANA  
There is a problem here. We're  
coming to see you and we need a  
place to stay—to hide.

OTTO (O.S.)  
Ok. All of you?

STEPHANA  
Yes...I'll explain later. Bye for  
now.

Stephana hangs up the phone. Takes a deep breath to slow herself down and think clearly.

**EXT. ON THE STREETS OF KUECHL — DAY**

Gerhardt now wearing his overcoat and hat, walks briskly on the streets towards his house. He is not in a good mood, being asked to come home from work so early.

**INT. THE KLOTTMEIERS' LIVING ROOM**

Stephana sits at a desk, quickly sorting through papers, making two piles. One for birth certificates and passports. The other is for personal correspondence. She grabs the important documents and stuffs them into one of the suitcases.

Upon returning to the desk, she finds an envelope with "Ministry of Health" as the return address. The envelope has previously been opened. Stephana extracts the letter inside. It is an official document.

**INSERT - THE LETTER**

With "Austrian Ministry of Health" letterhead and dated "May 15, 1940," the letter is addressed to "Mr. Gerhardt Klottmeier, 12 Maxenweg, Kucehl, Austria."

The body of the letter reads, "Please bring your son Hans Klottmeier to the nearest Ministry of Health office at on Monday, June 1 at 10 a.m. for a physical examination..." The letter closes with a "Heil, Hitler!" And the signature of "Dr. Gert Von Lechner."

Stephana angrily rips the letter in half.

STEPHANA

Beasts!

Stephana continues to tear the letter into small pieces as she goes into a bathroom. We hear a toilet flushing as Hans and Lisa come in from the kitchen.

Hans noticing the suitcases, is puzzled.

HANS

What's happening?!

LISA

We're leaving Austria.

HANS

No! Why?!

LISA

Because of what happened today to  
your friends.

HANS

(voicing)

Maaamaaa! Maaamaaaaa!

Hans stomps on the floor, shaking the furniture in the  
room. Stephana enters the room in a rush.

HANS

(voicing)

No go! No go!

Stephana does not understand immediately. Hans begins to  
pantomime, points to himself and then points off, and then  
shaking his head.

HANS

(voicing)

No go. No go!

LISA

He doesn't want to leave.

STEPHANA

Yes, yes, you must. We are all  
going. We must go.

Hans vehemently shaking his head "no."

STEPHANA

(signing primitively)

Yes, yes. We must.

Hans waves hands and looks away.

STEPHANA (CONT'D)

Hans, please, don't...Lisa, come  
help me communicate.

LISA

(groaning)

"Lisa, come tell him this. Lisa,  
come tell him that." It doesn't

LISA (CONT'D)

matter that I'm leaving all my friends behind. I don't have a life of my own. I'm just Lisa the family interpreting machine.

STEPHANA

Lisa, please, this is important.

Lisa sighs and moves to Stephana's side to interpret.

HANS & LISA

(signing & voicing)

No! You understand me when I say no. I won't go!

STEPHANA & LISA

(voicing & signing)

You don't understand. I saw the Nazis arrest two of your friends off the street today.

HANS & LISA

I know. They won't get me. They'll never get me. I am too strong, too fast. I am too smart for Nazis.

STEPHANA & LISA

They will arrest you and take you to a hospital. Do you know about the letter from the Ministry of Health?

HANS & LISA

I know. I saw it. Papa showed it to me last week.

STEPHANA & LISA

Do you know why they want you to go to the doctor's office?

HANS & LISA

Yes. A check-up.

STEPHANA

No! They want to sterilize you.

LISA  
(fingerspelling)  
S-T-E-R-I-L-I-Z-E you.

HANS  
I don't understand.

LISA  
The Nazi doctors want to cut off  
your thing.

HANS  
No! I refuse that.

STEPHANA & LISA  
You can't refuse. That's why we're  
leaving. We're all going to  
Switzerland.

HANS & LISA  
Go to Switzerland? I refuse!

A beat.

STEPHANA & LISA  
Do you want to be a father?

HANS & LISA  
I refuse to let any Nazis touch my  
private area.

STEPHANA & LISA  
Then we must leave Kuechl.

HANS & LISA  
No! My whole life is here. I want  
to stay in my home.

STEPHANA & LISA  
I know. But if you stay they will  
take you away and....and harm you.

Hans drops into the couch, defeated. Stephana sits next to  
him.

HANS & LISA  
I can't leave my girlfriend.

STEPHANA  
(signs primitively)  
You have a girlfriend?

Hans nods.

STEPHANA  
(to Lisa)  
Why didn't you tell me he had a  
girlfriend?

LISA  
Must I tell you everything about  
your own son? You saw her today!

Stephana sighs exasperated and turns back to Hans.

STEPHANA & LISA  
I know it's hard to leave your  
first love...How old is she?

HANS & LISA  
Sixteen. Almost seventeen. Can she  
come with us?

STEPHANA & LISA  
No. No, I am sorry, Hans. We can't  
take her with us.

HANS & LISA  
Why?!

STEPHANA & LISA  
She has her own family, doesn't  
she?

HANS & LISA  
Yes, she has, but she doesn't like  
them. They are mean to her. We are  
so happy together. Why can't they  
leave us alone?

STEPHANA & LISA

I don't know, Hans. These people are ruining everything they put their filthy hands on.

Hans jumps up.

HANS

Hitler is an ass!

Hans stomps into the kitchen.

**INT. KITCHEN**

Hans is gnawing a roll at the table when Stephana and Lisa come in. Lisa continues to voice for her mom.

STEPHANA & LISA

Please obey me. This is very important. When you go out of this house you must not use sign language at all now. You must only use your voice from now on, until you are safe in Zurich. Do you understand?

HANS

I refuse.

STEPHANA & LISA

You must!

HANS & LISA

I can't voice only. No one understands me.

STEPHANA & LISA

Just use simple words. Don't say much. Just stick with "hello, goodbye, yes, no" until you are safe and away from here.

HANS & LISA

I don't understand people talking and people don't understand me.

STEPHANA

Then just be silent.

HANS & LISA

Fine. I'll try.

STEPHANA

Now, you need to go get ready. We are leaving tomorrow.

HANS & LISA

Tomorrow?! Why so soon?

STEPHANA

The letter says you are to report to the Ministry of Health on Monday. If you don't show up, they'll come looking for you immediately.

**INT. THE KLOTTMEIERS' LIVING ROOM**

Gerhardt comes in through the front door. He is in a state of irritation as he hangs up his hat and coat, hearing the commotion in the kitchen. Then he notices the suitcases.

GERHARDT

What the blazes is going on here?!

**INT. INT. KLOTTMEIERS' KITCHEN**

Hans is pacing around the kitchen, fuming and trying to formulate a plan.

HANS & LISA

Hate this! (then calmly) I want to marry Marlena.

STEPHANA & LISA

No. No. You're too young—

Stephana goes to him, grabbing him by the shoulders. He breaks from her and continues to pace.

HANS & LISA

I don't want to leave her! I need to stay here to protect her from the Nazis. We want to be husband and wife and have babies. Family.

STEPHANA

No, no. You cannot. Not yet. No.

HANS

(voicing)

Ya! Ya, Mama! Ya! Ya! Ya! Ya!

STEPHANA

Hans! Please!

Hans picks up a wooden chair and bangs it down on the floor. Stephana steps back and is not sure what to do. Hans doesn't see Gerhardt come in. As Hans continues to bang the chair down in frustration, the chair breaks and splinters apart. Gerhardt rush at him.

GERHARDT

Stop it!

Gerhardt rips the broken chair away from Hans.

GERHARDT

What are you doing?! This was my father's favorite chair. Must you destroy everything you put your hands on?

HANS

(signing to Lisa)

What is he saying?!

Lisa signs what their father has just said. Hans turns to his father.

HANS

(signing and voicing)

Sorry, Papa.

There is an awkward pause as Gerhardt picks up the pieces of the chair and puts them aside in disgust.

HANS & LISA

(signing & voicing)

I can fix it. I know how. I did  
woodworking classes...

GERHARDT

No, no. I will do it. You've done  
enough damage. Stephana, what is  
going here?!

STEPHANA

He's upset because we're leaving.  
When they starting seizing deaf  
boys right off the street, it's  
time for us to go.

GERHARDT

What?! I don't believe that.  
Nonsense. Just rumors.

STEPHANA

Less than two hours ago, I saw  
four S.S. thugs arrest two of  
Hans's classmates.

GERHARDT

What did they do?

STEPHANA

Nothing. They were only having a  
conversation and then these awful  
savages descended upon them. They  
threw them on a truck just like  
they were barrels of rubbish.

GERHARDT

They must have done something  
wrong.

Rolling up his sleeves, Gerhardt sits down at the table and  
breaks open a fresh roll.

STEPHANA

Gerhardt, believe me, they had  
done nothing wrong!

Stephana opens a cabinet to retrieve a plate

GERHARDT

Maybe they were Jews.

Stephana slams the cabinet door closed.

STEPHANA

They weren't Jewish! I know these boys. I know their families. It's this ridiculous Third Reich. They treat people like dogs simply because they have a handicap.

GERHARDT

(talking with a mouthful)

Purifying the race is important.

Stephana places the plate on the table for her husband.

STEPHANA

Oh, stop with that. This is our son we are talking about. And why didn't you tell me about the letter?

Gerhardt looks at Hans and Lisa, who has been interpreting the discussion for her brother.

GERHARDT

Will you two be so kind to let your mother and I speak privately?

STEPHANA

Yes, go pack your suitcases.

Stephana waves them out of the kitchen and they leave.

GERHARDT

Where did you find it?

STEPHANA

Hidden in the desk.

GERHARDT

I didn't hide it.

STEPHANA

Well, you didn't show it to me. My God, Gerhardt, they want our son to be castrated!

Gerhardt stands up, wanting to get on top of this situation.

GERHARDT

No, no, no. It says nothing of the sort, Stephana.

STEPHANA

Of course, these horrible Nazi doctors aren't going to tell us the outright truth in a letter. But you can read between the lines as well as I. Gerhardt, there's no use denying it. Lisa says there are rumors about what the Nazis doing to deaf boys. I just saw two young men grabbed off the street. And now I find this letter for Hans to report to the Ministry of Health. Anyone with a pair of eyes can see what is happening here.

GERHARDT

It's just sterilization.

STEPHANA

They want to take away Hans' children. They want to take away our grandchildren! Our future!

GERHARDT

The Fuehrer's master plan—

STEPHANA

Oh, that Hitler nonsense! Master plan. It's just an excuse to get rid of people. People who are different. People who disagree. People who have handicaps. Get rid of them all. Poof!

GERHARDT

You're being so overly-dramatic about this. (as if to a child:) To purify the race, those who are inferior or defective should not be permitted to reproduce.

STEPHANA

Hans is not defective!

GERHARDT

Stephana, he is deaf.

STEPHANA

When he was born, he could hear. His blood is as pure as Hitler's, probably purer. You know what happened to Hans as well as I do. You know there's no need for him to be sterilized.

**INT. IN A LIVING ROOM IN THE PAST (FLASHBACK)**

A nine-month-old baby boy is one a sofa, crying. There's blood coming out of both ears.

**EXT. THE KLOTTMEIERS' BACKPORCH AND YARD - DAY**

Stephana is angrily taking the dried laundry off the clothes lines. Gerhardt stands on the porch watching her.

GERHARDT

What about those deaf cousins of yours? That's all they'll see, your family's history.

STEPHANA

You're still trying to blame my family?

GERHARDT

I don't blame your family or my family or you or myself or anyone. But the doctors will look at our

GERHARDT (CONT'D)

family histories and, well, when they learn of those deaf cousins in Switzerland, they will suspect it's in his blood. We have a responsibility to prevent any re-occurrence.

STEPHANA

You don't want Hans to be a father.

GERHARDT

Of course, I do! But...

STEPHANA

You don't want a deaf grandchild!

GERHARDT

Do you?! Isn't it hard enough with a deaf son?

Stephana throws the clean clothing draped over her shoulder into a laundry basket at his feet.

STEPHANA

I don't care if he has deaf children or not. I will love them no matter what. And it's not ours or the Nazis' decision to take that away from him.

GERHARDT

I want that for him too, but it's not about what I want. I wanted a normal son. But I don't have one, do I? It's about what the Reich wants. What the Fuehrer wants—

STEPHANA

Hitler's a madman. And we're all mad for letting him take over our country. I hate what he's done to Austria!

Gerhardt realizing that they can be easily overheard by the neighbors or passersby. He looks across the backyard and sees Frau Steen looking out a window at them. He waves and forces a smile on his face. She waves back, uncertainly.

GERHARDT

(hissing)

Stephana, lower your voice!

Stephana angrily grabs the basket of laundry and storms back into the kitchen.

**INT. THE KITCHEN**

Stephana is folding the laundry and stacking it on the kitchen table.

GERHARDT

I want for Hans everything a father could want for a son. But he's deaf! (beat) It makes sense to sterilize the handicapped. It's better for everyone. Better for Hans that he not have a child. Why should we allow the chance for another deaf child to be born?

Stephana rages at him.

STEPHANA

Because Hans is a human being and we are not God. He has a right to have his own family—to be a father, if he wants to be. Why should anyone take away his children from him? Why do we even listen to them?!

Gerhardt sighs.

GERHARDT

We listen and obey because we have no choice, Stephana. Hans doesn't have a choice. If he doesn't report to the Health Ministry on

GERHARDT (CONT'D)

Monday, they will come looking for him on Tuesday. What can he do?

Stephana now calm and rational.

STEPHANA

We can get Hans away from here. If we don't, they'll take Hans and then we'll never see him again. They will make him disappear.

GERHARDT

Oh, no, Stephana. No. Hans is not going to disappear. Deaf people are not going to disappear from the Reich. Why? It's simple: They are useful. They can take up the slack of the young men who are going away, doing the fighting. They can work in the factories. The noise doesn't bother them at all. Correct? No, Stephana, what you're saying is nonsense. Why would the Reich get rid of its own, useful Aryan people? You must stop and think logically now. The Nazis are not going to get rid of things they can use.

STEPHANA

Our son is not a thing.

GERHARDT

Perhaps even these German doctors can fix him. Perhaps they can develop a cure. You know, cut his head open and fix the ear inside.

Gerhardt starts to open the pantry door, but Stephana rushes him and slams the door before he can leave the room.

STEPHANA

I'm not going to let those Nazi butchers near my son! Cut his head open?! Are you mad? Never. We are

STEPHANA (CONT'D)  
going to get him out of here.

**INT. LISA'S BEDROOM**

Lisa is weepy as she packs a suitcase. Hans sits in a chair, thinking and brooding. Then he notices her crying.

HANS  
Why the tears?

LISA  
I'm sad. I'm going to miss my friends.

HANS  
We will come back.

**INT. KITCHEN**

Gerhardt sits at the table with Stephana, as if negotiating with a difficult customer.

GERHARDT  
Where could we send him?

STEPHANA  
We are not sending him. We will take him, all of us together. We are not separating this family. We'll go somewhere safe, until this insanity stops.

GERHARDT  
Where can we all go that is safe?

STEPHANA  
Switzerland. Zurich. We could go on holiday there. We'll visit my cousins. If it works out, maybe we could leave Hans with them. I heard there are excellent trade schools there and-

GERHARDT

And what if Switzerland is annexed?

STEPHANA

It won't happen. The Swiss are not as gullible and weak as Austrians.

GERHARDT

You seem to have all the answers. It will take time to make arrangements.

STEPHANA

I know. I've already called Otto. We can stay above his store until we are ready to move on.

GERHARDT

There's more danger in Salzburg than here! There's more Gestapo and officials in the city.

STEPHANA

We'll just stay a short time there. We won't go out. The loft has everything we need.

GERHARDT

There's not enough room in that loft for all of us.

STEPHANA

There's plenty of room.

GERHARDT

(acidly)

So you want us to become U-boats?

STEPHANA

What do you mean?

GERHARDT

That's what they call the Jews in hiding: U-boats.

Stephana looks at him blankly. He stands.

GERHARDT (CONT'D)

Because they are the same as submarines that dive and stay below the surface. You know some Jews are hiding around here, don't you? But they are being rooted out every day. You see the S.S. come out of a buildings with them. Like they have caught rats. Is that what you want this family to do? To be like Jews? Hide like rats?

STEPHANA

We will do what we must do.

GERHARDT

I can't let you go alone— (sighs)  
All right. I can see there's no changing your mind.

STEPHANA

That's true.

Stephana stands, grabs some linens from the laundry and walks out of the kitchen into the living room. Gerhardt follows her out.

**INT. LIVING ROOM**

Stephana puts the linens in a suitcase.

STEPHANA

Lisa! Please come here with Hans.

GERHARDT

What am I going to tell my workers?

STEPHANA

Tell them that my brother needs help with the Salzburg store.

GERHARDT

What about my own store? Who will run it? I can't just hand over the reins to anyone. Who can I trust?

STEPHANA

You have been working with some of those people for years. You can trust them for a short time.

Lisa and Hans come into the living room.

STEPHANA & LISA

All right, here is our plan: we will leave first thing tomorrow morning on the train. We will go to Salzburg and stay in the loft above Uncle Otto's story. While we are safe there, we'll make travel arrangements for Zurich to visit my deaf cousins.

HANS & LISA

(signing & voicing)

How long will we be in Zurich?

STEPHANA & LISA

We won't come back to Austria until the Nazis are gone.

GERHARDT & LISA

That means forever.

STEPHANA & LISA

Not, if the Nazis lose this war.

GERHARDT & LISA

Don't be ridiculous, Stephana. In a short time, the English will fall and that will be that. Tell him the truth: there's no coming back.

Hans quickly grabs his coat and starts to open the front door. Stephana runs and catches him before he leaves.

STEPHANA

Where are you going?

HANS

I need to say goodbye to Marlana.

STEPHANA

What? I don't understand—Lisa,  
what is he saying?!

LISA

He needs to see Marlana before we  
go.

STEPHANA

No! No! It's too dangerous, Hans.

Gerhardt gently but firmly pries Stephana's hands off Hans.

GERHARDT

Stephana, he's a man. You can't  
baby him forever.

STEPHANA

Gerhardt, it's dangerous for him to  
be walking the streets.

GERHARDT

Let him go, Stephana. (to Hans) Go  
to tell your sweetheart so long,  
farewell, auf Wiedersehen.

HANS & LISA

I will be fine. I promise.

Hans kisses his mother's cheek.

STEPHANA

You must not tell her where you  
are going. Do you understand me?  
(to Lisa) Does he understand me?

LISA

(signing and voicing)  
You can't tell Marlana where we  
are going. Do you understand?

HANS  
(nodding and voicing)  
Yah, yah, Mama. Bye, bye.

Hans rushes out the front door.

**EXT. THE STREETS OF KUECHL – (DUSK) NIGHT**

Hans is jogging through the square where shopkeepers are now locking up the stores that aren't already closed. He is trying not to be seen, so he begins dodging from one dark shadowed area to another. When Hans turns a corner, he sees some S.S. troops milling around a truck, smoking, and chatting, he makes a point of going a different direction.

**EXT. ESTABLISHING SHOT OF DEAF SCHOOL DORMITORIES – NIGHT**

The Kuechl School for the Deaf has two dormitories that are impressive three stories high red brick buildings. They are side by side. There is one for girls and one for boys. Each has a sign to indicate which is which.

Hans comes out from behind a tree and looks up to the second floor at Marlana's window. Seeing the light is on, he smiles. Hans goes up to the portico entrance and tries to pull the front door open but it is locked. He looks through the windows on the door and waves trying to get the attention of someone inside. When he is unsuccessful at getting inside the dorm the old-fashioned way, he comes back out the spot to look for Marlana's window. Suddenly, she comes into view. She is wearing pajamas and a robe. Her hair is up. He begins jumping up and down trying to get her attention. No luck. She has her head down reading a book at her desk.

Hans has an idea. He climbs up a drain pipe, going up one story and then works his way across a ledge until he is right next to Marlana's window.

**INT. MARLENA'S DORM ROOM**

The dorm room is very spartan with a few feminine touches. It has a small bed, a pinewood dresser, desk, and chair.

Marlena sits reading at her desk that faces the window. She is startled to suddenly see Hans' face through the window. She jumps back.

MARLENA

What are you doing?!

Hans can't sign because he's using both hands to hold on to the side of the building. He motions with his head for Marlena to raise her window. Marlena quickly pushes her desk out of the way. She lifts the window and pulls Hans inside her very small room.

MARLENA

Why are you here?

HANS

I needed to see you.

**INT. MARLENA'S DORM ROOM – FIVE MINUTES LATER**

Marlena, in tears, sits on the bed with Hans sitting beside her with an arm around her shoulders.

HANS

I want you to come with me.

MARLENA

Would your family take me to Switzerland? I think not.

HANS

Yes. I will force them.

MARLENA

You're such a silly boy! You think you can force people do anything you want.

Hans puts an arm around her waist.

HANS

I forced you to love me, didn't I?

MARLENA

Yes, you did.

They hug and kiss.

HANS

Why the sad face?

MARLENA

Why do the Nazis hate our deafness so much?

HANS

Nazis hate everyone who is different.

MARLENA

I'm worried about our future.

HANS

Nah! Have optimism. I have confidence.

MARLENA

I wish I were like you. I'm going to miss you so much.

HANS

Don't worry. I have a plan. You will come to my Uncle's store in Salzburg. It's called Schäfer's Furniture. I don't know the address but you can find it. It's near the big garden near the center of the city. Close to the train station.

MARLENA

I don't have enough money for a train ticket to Salzburg!

Hans digs into his pocket and produces some money and slaps it down on her desk.

HANS

That's all that I have. Maybe you can borrow some more.

MARLENA

I can try. When should I go?

HANS

On Tuesday. They will be looking for me then because my appointment is on Monday. You can't tell him where I've gone. You must lie.

MARLENA

I will try.

Marlena facial expression shows she is concerned.

HANS

What's the matter? Are you afraid?

MARLENA

I'm not a good liar. And I am worried that after tonight I will never see you again.

HANS

Of course you will.

MARLENA

Will you love me forever—even if you never see me again?

HANS

Yes. Of course. Come to me.

They begin to kiss passionately, moving on to her bed.

**EXT. KLOTTMEIER'S FRONT YARD AND PORCH — NIGHT**

The S.S. truck pulls up and stops in front of the Klottmeier home. The S.S. Leader jumps out of the passenger seat with a clipboard and pencil. He walks up the pathway to the porch with authority and knocks on the door. The doors opens, revealing Gerhardt in a house coat.

S.S. LEADER  
Herr Klottmeier?

GERHARDT  
Yes. How can I help you?

S.S. LEADER  
I'm here to see your son, Hans.

GERHARDT  
He's not here right now.

S.S. LEADER  
Well, you will do. Please make  
sure he visits the Ministry of  
Health soon.

GERHARDT  
Yes. We received the letter. He'll  
be there on Monday.

S.S. LEADER  
Ah, very good. Guten Abend.

S.S. LEADER checkmarks his clipboard, jogs back to the truck, and jumps in. As they drive away, the front door swings open wider and Stephana in a housecoat appears next to Gerhardt.

STEPHANA  
Now you see the threat is real.

**EXT. KLOTTMEIER'S FRONT YARD AND PORCH — DAY**

It is early in the morning as Hans, Lisa, Gerhardt, and Stephana emerge from the house wearing traveling clothes and each carrying two suitcases. The young people head down the pathway to the street, stopping to look back as Gerhardt locks the front door.

Stephana stops on the pathway and looks back at their house. Her eyes well up with tears. Gerhardt comes down the stairs and speaks to her quietly as he leads her away.

GERHARDT

Come, Stephana. We must hurry.

As they all prepare to head down the street, Frau Steen, who is holding her dog Kurt, are suddenly standing in front of them. There's an awkward moment.

GERHARDT

Guten Morgen, Frau Steen.

FRAU STEEN

Guten Morgen. Are you traveling?

GERHARDT

Yes. Indeed, we are...

A beat.

STEPHANA

We are going to visit my brother.

FRAU STEEN

In Salzburg?

STEPHANA

Ah, no. No. He's in Vienna now and he's not well. We need to hurry to catch the first train.

FRAU STEEN

Will you be gone long?

STEPHANA

We're not sure. I'm sorry but we must be going. We're running late. You understand.

FRAU STEEN

Of course. Gute Reise.

STEPHANA

Danke. Auf wiedersehen.

The Klottmeiers quickly make their way around Frau Steen and her dog. They head down the street and out of sight as Frau Steen watches them, then speaks to Kurt.

FRAU STEEN

Kurt, something strange is  
happening with the Klottmeiers.

**INT. IN A PASSAGER CAR ON THE TRAIN**

Stephana and Hans sit silently facing Gerhardt and Lisa. The young people have the window seats. Riding along, they are all lost in their own thoughts.

**EXT. THE TRAIN STATION IN SALZBURG - DAY**

The Klottmeiers come out of the station building carrying their luggage. It is still quite early in the morning, so there aren't many people around yet. Gerhardt leads them down a main road and then up a side street.

**EXT. IN FRONT OF OTTO'S FURNITURE STORE - DAY**

The Klottmeiers come to a halt in front of a furniture store on a still quiet commercial street. The sign reads: "Schäfer's Furniture." They put their suitcases down as Stephana rings the doorbell. Gerhardt looks up and down the street. Hans starts to sign. Gerhardt pushes Hans's hands down and shakes his head "no." After a few more moments, OTTO, a middle-age, balding, heavy-set, nicely dressed man opens the door.

OTTO

Ah, Stephana! Gerhardt. Guten  
morgen, all! Come in, come in.

The Klottmeiers quickly enter the building with their suitcases. Otto pats each family member on the back as they come inside. He closes and locks the door behind them.

**INT. OTTO'S STORE SHOWROOM**

Otto and the Klottmeiers stand amongst the furniture for sale.

GERHARDT

Impressive showroom, Otto.

OTTO

Danke, Gerhardt. No problems on the trip?

STEPHANA

None at all.

GERHARDT

It's early yet, Stephana.

OTTO

Let's head up and get settled before people start arriving.

Otto takes a couple of their suitcases.

OTTO(CONT'D)

Follow me.

Otto heads to the back of the showroom and up a wooden staircase that is behind some large wooden cabinets.

**INT. THE STORAGE LOFT ABOVE THE STORE**

In a dusty room, there are numerous pieces of broken furniture cluttered around the place. The place is dark.

We hear people climbing up wooden stairs and then the jangling of keys and the turning of a lock. The door swings open and Otto enters, pocketing his keys.

OTTO

All right, here we are...Let me get the lights...It's a little dirty right now. We can fix it up.

The light comes on in the loft. Gerhardt, Stephana, Lisa and Hans come in with their suitcases.

STEPHANA

Oh, I'm so relieved we're here!

Stephana looks around quickly.

STEPHANA (CONT'D)

Ah, just the way I remember it  
when I was a little girl.

GERHARDT

Yes, looks like it hasn't been  
cleaned since then...

OTTO

If I had more time...

STEPHANA

Oh, it's not so bad, Otto. It  
will be just fine for us.

GERHARDT

Yes...for just a short time.

LISA

Is this it, Uncle Otto? Are there  
no other rooms?

OTTO

Yes, there's a bathroom over here  
and back in there can be a  
bedroom. And a place for washing  
and cooking over here. We just  
need to get a hot-plate here.

Hans drops his suitcases with a thud and puts his hands on  
his hips. He shakes his head in disgust.

LISA

(signing and voicing.)  
What's the matter?

HANS

(signing)  
This place is a dump.

GERHARDT

He was expecting to stay at The  
Grand Hotel.

STEPHANA

I'm sorry, Otto.

OTTO

No, no. I understand. I know you are all upset. Don't worry about my feelings. You are my family and always welcome.

STEPHANA

Danke. You are a good brother.

OTTO

I will bring up some food, I know you must be hungry. Be right back.

Otto hurries downstairs. The Klottmeier family walks about the space in silence, each sizing it up and trying to decide how it can be enhanced from its present state.

STEPHANA

So this is our new home...

GERHARDT

Hideout. This is what it's like to be a U-boat.

HANS

(to Lisa)

What did he say?

Stephana begins removing the dust off some of the old furniture. Lisa signs to Hans without voicing, so her conversation is subtitled.

LISA

We're U-boats.

HANS

What?! What's that mean?

LISA

That's what Jewish people who are hiding from the Nazis are called.

HANS

But why U-Boat?

LISA

Because they are trying to hide.  
Stay down, below. Remain out of  
sight like a submarine. Understand?

HANS

Yes. I am a U-boat.

Hans begins to act like a submarine, diving below the surface, raising a periscope, and scanning the horizon.

GERHARDT

What the devil is he doing?!

LISA

I told him what you said about us  
being U-boats. So now he's acting  
like one.

Gerhardt starts waving his hands in Hans' face.

GERHARDT

Hans, stop this...Stop, stop. Stop  
this at once!

STEPHANA

Oh, Gerhardt, he's just having a  
little fun...

Hans fires off a torpedo and pantomimes the missile as it cuts through the water and explodes, near a group of broken chairs.

Hans bangs one of the chairs and that leads to one tumbling down and making a bunch of noise as the wood pieces fall to the floor.

**INT. THE STORE OFFICE ON THE FIRST FLOOR**

Otto is putting bread, jams, teacups, a teapot, and silverware on a tray when he hears the commotion above. He looks up and cringes.

**INT. THE MAIN LOFT ROOM**

Gerhardt grabs Hans and gives him a shake.

GERHARDT

Stop it! You must be silent! We all must be, if we are going to be undetected here. We are all at risk now. The Reich considers this a crime—what we are doing—a crime. (to Lisa) Tell him that, please.

Lisa interprets all that her father has just said to Hans.

STEPHANA

Yes. Yes, we will have to be very quiet.

GERHARDT

Not just quiet, silent!

STEPHANA

But it's early yet. We will be silent when Otto opens his store.

GERHARDT

The walls have ears, Stephana. Tell him, Lisa. There will be no talking when the store is open.

HANS

No talking, fine for me. That's your problem.

Lisa and Stephana laugh as Hans smiles smugly.

GERHARDT

What did he say?

LISA

(giggling)

Talking is not his problem, it's yours.

GERHARDT

I mean no noise. Lisa, stop

GERHARDT (CONT'D)  
giggling and tell him what I am  
saying. No noise.(in a staccato)  
Do. You. Understand. Me?

HANS  
(signing in staccato)  
You. Are. Talking. Not. Me.

Lisa giggles again.

GERHARDT  
What did he say?

LISA  
You're the one who's talking, not  
me.

HANS & LISA  
(signing & voicing)  
I don't make noise when I talk.

STEPHANA & LISA  
(speaking & signing)  
But you can't hear yourself making  
noise. You must be careful.

HANS  
Yes. Yes. Understood.

LISA  
What about Papa's snoring?

STEPHANA  
Hmmm, yes, all of Salzburg may  
know we are up here.

HANS  
True. Even I can hear him.

Lisa begins laughing and Hans joins her.

GERHARDT  
What's so funny?

LISA

He said—(giggling)—He said even he  
can hear Papa's snoring!

Stephana and Gerhardt join the laughter, though Gerhardt is  
clearly more restrained in his amusement.

GERHARDT

Oh, come now, I don't snore that  
loud...Do I?

More laughter as Hans imitates his father snoring and  
rattling the furniture. Otto comes in with a tray of tea,  
jam, and bread.

OTTO

I'm happy to hear your laughter.

STEPHANA

Oh, Otto, that's a lovely  
breakfast.

OTTO

Tea, jam, and bread were always  
your favorites. Come. Let's sit.

They all gather around a table. The men pull up chairs,  
after wiping the dust off them. There is a moment of  
silence as food is passed around and consumed.

HANS

This is delicious!

Lisa agrees by nodding as she chews.

OTTO

So what was that loud clatter I  
heard when I was downstairs?

STEPHANA

Hans got a little carried away.

OTTO

Well, you are all going to have to  
avoid that kind of thing when the  
shop is open.

STEPHANA

Don't worry, we'll be as quiet as church mice.

Hans taps Lisa and points to Otto.

HANS & LISA

(signing & voicing)

Uncle, Hans says danke for the delicious food. May I have more?

OTTO

Of course, my boy.

Otto nods, smiles, and passes some food to Hans.

OTTO (CONT'D)

Now, tell me about your plans: how I am to help you?

STEPHANA

We need to contact our deaf cousins in Zurich. We want to visit them and perhaps leave Hans with them. We'll need some documentation, an invitation to visit to show the Swiss border guards, won't we?

HANS

(to Lisa)

What are they talking about?

Lisa interprets the adults' conversation for Hans.

OTTO

Yes. You'll need to write them. A letter will take a week to get to them and perhaps a week to hear back from them.

GERHARDT

Can't we phone them and expedite this process?

STEPHANA

Gerhardt, the whole family is deaf. They have no telephone.

GERHARDT

Well, what about a telegram?

OTTO

Oh, I wouldn't recommend that. The telegram offices are full of eyes looking for suspicious wires. No, better to mail a letter. Most make it through without any problem.

GERHARDT

You seem to know a lot about this sort of thing, Otto?

After an awkward moment, OTTO shrugs sheepishly.

OTTO

One hears things...

LISA

(signing and voicing)

So you're saying we're going to be here at least two weeks?

OTTO

Yes. My advice is to be patient and have every document in place. The borders are strictly controlled. All your paperwork must be in order for the Nazis and the Swiss border guards as well. Now, what about traveling to Zurich? You will go by train?

GERHARDT

Yes.

OTTO

Via Munich would be faster. But I recommend Innsbruck. The longer you are in Austria, the better.

GERHARDT

Germany and Austria are one now.

OTTO

Yes, the Anschluss. Austrians  
welcomed a union with the savages.  
Now, we are finding out what it is  
like to be in bed with these—

GERHARDT

Careful, Otto...

**EXT. IN FRONT OF OTTO'S STORE — DAY**

A few people are gathering out front of the store, waiting  
for it to open.

**INT. THE LOFT MAINROOM**

The family is finishing up on their tea and snacks. Lisa  
and Hans are carrying on an animated sign conversation.

STEPHANA

(to Lisa)

What are you two discussing?

LISA

Oh, nothing...(signing to Hans)  
She wants to know what we are  
discussing.

HANS

Tell her.

LISA

No, I'm tired of having to  
interpret everything for them.

GERHARDT

Forgive my children, Otto. This  
happens all the time. The two of  
them are always carrying on and  
we, the parents, do not know what  
they are saying. It's so impolite.

OTTO

It must be great for secrets.

Otto laughs and points at Hans and Lisa, wagging his index finger: the international sign for "no-no" or "you're naughty." The young people join him in laughter.

GERHARDT

Otto, this is a serious matter. It's not natural for parents to not know what their children are saying. I can't stand the secret conversations they have. It's like living with-with-with subversives.

OTTO

What do you expect? They're teenagers. There's nothing more subversive than a teenager.

STEPHANA

Oh, Gerhardt, it's not that bad.

GERHARDT

You hate it too, Stephana.

OTTO

Then why don't you learn the boy's sign language, Gerhardt?

GERHARDT

What?! Why? Why should I learn his sign language?! It's not a real language. With hands flailing around in the air. That's not real communication.

LISA

Papa, what are you saying?!

GERHARDT

If he spoke German, like the rest of us, maybe we wouldn't be in this situation. His mother spent

GERHARDT (CONT'D)

years, day after day, hours upon hours teaching him to speak. He was getting to the point where he was almost understandable and then he suddenly stops. Refuses to speak anymore.

There is an uncomfortable pause. Stephana steps forward to face her husband.

STEPHANA

Gerhardt, we're here because of the Third Reich. It doesn't matter whether Hans can speak or not, he can't hear. You know he tried his best to learn to speak and—

GERHARDT

I know he did his best. I don't say he wasn't a good student. But he quit. He's a quitter.

STEPHANA

Gerhardt! Lisa, don't tell him.

Stephana gently pushes Lisa's hands down, forcing her daughter to stop signing.

HANS

What did he say?

LISA

Mama, he wants to know.

HANS

What did he say?!

LISA

He says you are a quitter.

STEPHANA

Lisa...

Hans is furious jumps up, knocking the table, spilling drinks and food. He signs, barely able to control himself.

HANS & LISA

(signing & voicing)

I am not a quitter! I don't need to speak. I don't want to speak. I hate speaking. I can read and write. I don't need to speak—  
(vocalizing) Blah, blah, blah! Do you know what it's like to have people laugh at you when you try to speak? Do you?!

Hans pauses when Stephana comes to him to calm him. He moves away from her and towards his father.

HANS & LISA

(signing & voicing)

I am not a quitter! I spent my whole life with Mama, trying to learn to talk. You wouldn't let me play. I had speech lessons for hours and hours and hours. Days, weeks, months, years! The whole time I was growing up. Practicing saying words. Then I would go out and speak to people and they would just stare at me and laugh. That's why I stopped talking, but at least, I tried. You don't even try to learn my language!

A beat.

OTTO

Well, Gerhardt, seems to me, that it would be much easier for you to learn his sign language than for Hans to learn speech. Why do you make Lisa the only conduit between you and your son?

GERHARDT

Otto, I appreciate how you are helping us, but I must ask you to stay out of our family matters—

STEPHANA

Otto is our family. And it's a very good question. We should learn Hans' language. Now, we have a few days here to do nothing but keep quiet. Let's have Hans teach us the sign language here.

GERHARDT

I am too old to be learning new languages.

STEPHANA

You won't even try?

LISA

Papa, please try.

STEPHANA

Gerhardt?

GERHARDT

Stephana, I don't wish to discuss it any longer!

A beat.

OTTO

Well, I would like to learn sign language. Hans could teach me in the evenings, after closing.

STEPHANA

Of course, Otto. You and I will be the students and Hans and Lisa will be our teachers.

GERHARDT

Children teaching their elders. This whole world is turned upside down now, isn't it?

**EXT. THE STREET IN FRONT OF OTTO'S STORE - DAY**

Across the street from Otto's store, a younger man ALEXANDER, who is stylishly dressed, opens the door of his watch and clock shop. When the clocks strike nine o'clock, the small crowd is out front of Otto's store grows impatient.

One severe-looking, middle-aged woman, Otto's BOOKKEEPER, steps up to the bell by the door and pulls on the rope attached to it. She rings it three times.

**INT. THE LOFT MAINROOM**

Otto is stacking the dirty dishes and used utensils on the tray when he hears the doorbell ring downstairs.

OTTO

Ah, I must open the store. Make yourselves at home, but remember to be silent.

Otto looks to Hans and puts his index over his lips: the international sign for quiet. Hans gives Otto a thumbs up.

OTTO

See you this evening. Bye-bye.

Otto leaves with the tray. Gerhardt locks the door. Hans falls into a sofa, making a loud thud. Gerhardt, Stephana, and Lisa all give him a look of disbelief. Hans cringes and jumps up.

HANS

Sorry.

**EXT. IN FRONT OF OTTO'S STORE - DAY**

The small crowd expresses some approval as Otto appears inside through the store windows. He unlocks the front door and opens it wide.

OTTO

Guten morgen! Guten morgen! I'm  
sorry to keep you waiting.  
Willkomme.

Alexander steps into his doorway and waves at Otto as the  
bookkeeper and customers filing inside. Otto smiles.

ALEXANDER

Guten tag, Otto.

OTTO

Guten tag, Alexander.

ALEXANDER

(teasing)

A little late today, liebbling.

Otto nods and laughs. Then he ducks back inside his store.

**INT. THE LOFT MAINROOM**

Gerhardt is at the window looking down on the street below.  
He sees Alexander talking to Otto. Hans, Lisa, and Stephana  
stand facing each other as they hear people come into the  
store below them.

LISA

(whispering and signing)

People coming in. So what are we  
going to do for the next eight  
hours?

STEPHANA

(whispering)

There's plenty to do. Quietly. We  
can clean up a bit. Unpack. I will  
write to my cousins.

Hans taps his mother's shoulder and pantomimes zipping his  
mouth shut. Stephana smiles and copies Hans pantomiming  
zipping her own mouth shut. She nods, smiles, and hugs him.

**EXT. IN FRONT OF OTTO'S STORE — DAY**

**SUPER: Two Days Later**

It is midday and people are milling about the shops. Otto and Alexander chat in the passageway between their stores. They move to the side to allow a young woman leading seven children, who are singing happily, to pass through.

**INT. LOFT BEDROOM**

The bedroom has a "lived in" appearance. Gerhardt sits in a chair next to the bed, reading a book.

**INT. LOFT MAINROOM**

Lisa sits on the sofa, knitting. Stephana and Hans are in chairs in the middle of the room. He is giving his mother a lesson in sign language. When anyone speaks, they are whispering or talking very softly.

HANS

I am your son.

STEPHANA

(signing and voicing)

I am your son.

HANS

No, no. You are my mother.

STEPHANA

(signing and voicing)

I am your mother.

Gerhardt comes in from the bedroom with his book in hand. He studies the scene for a moment, then sits near Lisa.

HANS

Yes. Yes.(pointing at Gerhardt)  
He is my father. Father. Father.  
You sign father.

STEPHANA  
(signing and voicing)  
Father.

HANS  
Yes. He is my father.

STEPHANA  
(signing and voicing)  
He is my-your father.

HANS  
Right. You and he are married.

STEPHANA  
(signing and voicing)  
He and I are married?

HANS  
Yes. Married.

Stephana still doesn't understand. He points to his ring finger.

STEPHANA  
Oh, married! (signing and voicing)  
Yes, he and I are married.

HANS  
(pointing at Lisa)  
She is your daughter.

STEPHANA  
(signing)  
She is my son..

HANS  
No, no. Daughter.

STEPHANA  
(signing and voicing)  
Daughter. She is my daughter.

HANS  
Right. Tell her. You are my daughter.

STEPHANA  
(signing and voicing)  
Oh. I understand.

Hans waves at Lisa to get her attention. When that doesn't work, he pounds his foot on the floor. This gets everyone's attention. He receives "dirty" looks. Gerhardt is angry.

**INT. THE STORE OFFICE**

Otto and an older woman bookkeeper are seated at desks when they hear the pounding. They both look up.

BOOKKEEPER  
What was that?

Otto shrugs.

OTTO  
Probably vermin.

The bookkeeper looks skeptical.

OTTO (CONT'D)  
I'll go up and check.

The bookkeeper opens her desk drawers and hands him a 12" ruler.

BOOKKEEPER  
Here! Use my foot on them!

OTTO  
(laughs)  
I will.

**INT. THE LOFT MAINROOM**

Hans cringes.

HANS  
Sorry, I forgot. Sorry.

They hear footsteps coming up the stairs.

STEPHANA

(whispering)

Hide!

LISA

(signing)

Someone's coming! Hide!

They all move behind large pieces of furniture as the door is unlocked. Otto comes into the room with the ruler. They all speak in hushed tones.

OTTO

It's just me.

Relieved, the family comes out from behind the furniture.

OTTO

Was that a signal for me?

STEPHANA

No. No. It was Hans. He forgot where he was.

GERHARDT

How can he forget they are here?

HANS

(to Lisa)

What is he saying?

LISA

(signing and voicing)

He heard you stomp on the floor.

HANS

(to Otto)

Sorry.

Otto responds by nodding and mouthing "It's okay." Then Otto begins whacking the furniture and pounding on the wooden floorboards.

OTTO

(yelling)

Get out you damn rodents!

Otto winks at them and then disappears down the stairs.  
Hans looks to Lisa for an explanation of the odd behavior.

LISA  
He's pretending we're rats.

HANS  
First, we are U-boats. Now, rats?!

**INT. THE STORE OFFICE**

Otto re-enters the office and hands the ruler to the bookkeeper, who takes it as if she's grabbing hold of something filthy.

OTTO  
Danke.

Otto goes back to his desk while the bookkeeper continues to hold the ruler away from her and contemplates dropping it into the wastebasket.

OTTO (CONT'D)  
Oh, I would never go upstairs if I were you. The rats I whacked were bigger than your "foot."

The bookkeeper is horrified and drops the ruler.

**EXT. THE STREET IN FRONT OF THE KLOTTMEIER'S HOUSE - DAY**

An S.S. truck comes up the street and stops in front of the house. The S.S. Leader and three men jump out of the vehicle and stride up the pathway to the door.

At the door, the S.S. Leader raps but gets no response. When the S.S. Leader turns back to face his men, he sees Frau Steen holding her Kurt and looking at them. The dog begins to yap.

FRAU STEEN  
Shut up, Kurt! You're getting to be just like Friedrich.

S.S. LEADER

We're looking for Hans Klottmeier.

FRAU STEEN

He's with his family. They went to Vienna days ago. An emergency.

S.S. LEADER

Do they have relatives there?

FRAU STEEN

The wife's brother. Though I thought he was still in Salzburg..

Frau Steen puts her dog down and walks away. The S.S. LEADER makes note of the information on his clipboard.

**INT. THE LOFT MAINROOM**

Hans stands by the window, peaking out between the curtains. It is night outside. Otto is sitting at the table in a heated conversation with Gerhardt and Stephana, while Lisa is in a chair in a corner reading.

GERHARDT

I thought you were a supporter of the Reich, Otto.

OTTO

I can't support cruelty.

GERHARDT

You talk like a traitor. A defeatist. The Fuehrer is making us the envy of Europe—the world. He's given us hope and saved us from instability, depression, and the failures of our previous weak-minded leaders, and from the Jewish strangle hold on our economy.

OTTO

Oh, leave the Jews alone. Those poor people have done nothing to

OTTO (CONT'D)

deserve the terrible abuse—my best customers, all hiding or gone.  
"Strangle hold on the economy."  
Such nonsense. You and the rest are just scapegoating. Looking for someone to blame!

STEPHANA

Please, let's not discuss any longer—

GERHARDT

I always knew you were a Jewish sympathizer.

OTTO

Those poor, innocent people. Forced to leave their homes and businesses. You're just unhappy and looking for someone to blame.

Hans sees the angry exchange and looks to Lisa for an explanation as she has stopped reading her book. Lisa begins to interpret for Hans.

GERHARDT

And I am not unhappy!

STEPHANA

(hissing)  
Gerhardt, too loud.

GERHARDT

If I am unhappy, I have reasoned to be, don't I? Look at me, I am hiding away, away from my job, away from my home. I'm not blaming the Jews for this, but—

OTTO

You should blame the Nazis.

HANS

(voicing)  
Papa!(signing) Why hate Jews?

GERHARDT

Lisa, what is he saying?

LISA

He asks why do you hate the Jews?

GERHARDT

I don't hate them. I hate what they've done. I don't know them, except for the few furniture dealers. They're all the same, always trying to swindle me. I just don't want them in my life, in my country, ruining it with their odd behaviors.

HANS & LISA

(signing & voicing)

What odd behaviors?

GERHARDT

They do things that—They—It's the way they speak and—I don't want to discuss about this any longer...

HANS & LISA

(signing & voicing)

I think you don't like them is because they are different.

GERHARDT

It's not the only reason...

HANS & LISA

(signing & voicing)

I am different, too. I can't hear like everyone else. I don't communicate like everyone else. And that's why you hate me.

STEPHANA

No, no. He doesn't—

HANS & LISA

(signing & voicing)

Yes, yes! I am Jewish to him.

STEPHANA

Gerhardt, tell him you don't hate him. Please.

GERHARDT

I don't hate him. (pause) But I hate that he's deaf.

LISA

But Papa, that's who he is.

GERHARDT

I'm sick of this discussion.

Gerhardt storms into the bedroom.

HANS & LISA

(signing & voicing)

He's ashamed of me.

STEPHANA

Oh, Hans, don't say that. He's not. He's your father.

HANS & LISA

(signing & voicing)

I know that! Does he? I want to get out of here!

Hans rushes to the window and cracks it open. He strains to look out and see as far as he can up and then down the street below. Stephana, Lisa, and Otto stand together, watching him, not knowing what to do or say.

OTTO

What's he looking for?

Stephana shrugs.

OTTO (CONT'D)

I'm sorry about all this...I should have held my tongue.

STEPHANA

It's not your fault, Otto. Gerhardt is very upset about

STEPHANA (CONT'D)  
things now and he's never been a  
patient man. And he's scared, too.

OTTO  
I can see that. All right, I  
should be going.

Otto starts for the door, then stops and turns back.

OTTO (CONT'D)  
Lisa, how do you sign "I'm sorry"?

LISA  
(signing)  
Sorry.

Otto goes to Hans still looking out the window. Otto taps  
him on the shoulder. Hans turns to face Otto.

OTTO  
(signing)  
Sorry.

Hans smiles weakly, nods, and turns back to look out.

STEPHANA  
Good night, Otto.

Otto nods, exits, and locks the door. Lisa joins Hans at  
the window, as Stephana goes to into the bedroom.

LISA  
(signing and voicing)  
You're like a dog waiting for his  
master to come home. What are you  
looking for all the time?

HANS  
My girlfriend.

LISA  
(signing and voicing.)  
Marlena?! Did you tell her we're  
here?

Hans nods. Stephana comes back in the room pulling on a sweater.

LISA  
(signing and voicing)  
Why?! That's wrong.

STEPHANA  
What's going on?

LISA  
He told Marlana we're here.

STEPHANA  
No, Hans! Why?

HANS  
I want to marry her.

STEPHANA  
(signing and whispering)  
You want to marry her?!

HANS  
Ya!

STEPHANA  
(signing and whispering)  
You can't!

HANS  
I can and I will.

STEPHANA  
You can and you will? Oh, my  
God...(to Lisa) Do you see what's  
happening?

LISA  
Yes. He wants to get married.

STEPHANA  
Not that! I'm communicating with  
him—without you. I know  
everything that he is signing to  
me now. After only a few days...

Stephana is getting emotional as Gerhardt comes back in.

GERHARDT

What's the matter now, Stephana?

STEPHANA

Gerhardt! I am communicating with Hans...Without Lisa! It is so nice. Finally, we are chatting like a real family. You must learn this sign language, Gerhardt.

GERHARDT

Oh, don't start with that again!

Gerhardt returns to the bedroom in a huff again and Stephana falls into the sofa in tears of frustration.

STEPHANA

Gerhardt, if you would only try...

HANS

What's wrong? Is she mad at me?

LISA

No. No. She's happy that she is communicating with you—without me. But she is sad that papa won't try.

Hans goes to Stephana. He pats her back. She looks up at him and smiles.

HANS

Please don't tell papa about my sweetheart coming here.

STEPHANA

(voicing)

Don't tell Papa about his sweetheart coming here?

Stephana looks to Lisa for confirmation. Lisa smiles and nods.

STEPHANA

(signing and voicing)

No. No. I will not tell him.

HANS

If Marlena arrives here, can she go to Zurich with us?

STEPHANA

Lisa, I need help. Too fast.

LISA

If Marlena arrives here, she can go to Zurich with us, right?

Stephana sighs and considers the request for a moment.

STEPHANA

(signing and voicing)

All right.

Hans lets out a cry of joy and hugs his mother. Stephana laughs as Hans picks her up and spins her around.

**EXT. POST OFFICE ZURICH – DAY**

STEPHANA'S DEAF COUSIN, a middle-aged woman, fashionably dressed, is seen walking up the street. She stops in front of the Swiss Post Office. She opens her purse and extracts an envelope.

**INSERT SHOT – THE ENVELOPE**

We see the address on the envelope. It is addressed to "Otto Schäfer c/o Schäfer's Furniture Store, Salzburg, Austria"

The Deaf Cousin drops the letter into a bright yellow mailbox outside the post office.

**INT. THE LOFT MAIN ROOM – A FEW DAYS LATER**

Hans and Lisa sit looking out the window. Stephana knits at the table.

LISA

Still waiting for Marlana?

HANS

Yes.

LISA

Why do you like her so much?

HANS

She's sweet, smart, and she's beautiful. And she's deaf.

LISA

I hope someday somebody loves me the way you love her.

HANS

Don't worry. Someone will.

LISA

Do you really think so?

HANS

Sure. Why not? You're not bad.

LISA

I know I'm not bad, but I haven't had a boyfriend yet. And now we're here and who knows where we're going to end up. Maybe some place where there's no boys and I won't even have any girlfriends either. It takes a long time to make good friends. I really want to go back to Kuechl.

HANS

Me too.

LISA

It's so boring just sitting here, looking out at Salzburg all day.

HANS

Yes, it feels like we are in jail.

HANS (CONT'D)

But we have done nothing wrong.  
It's not fair! I want to go  
outside.

LISA

Me too.

Hans shuts the curtains and starts pacing around.

STEPHANA

What's wrong?

LISA

He said he feels like we're all in  
jail and that it's unfair.

HANS

How much longer here?

STEPHANA

(signing and voicing)

I don't know how much longer. Just  
be-Lisa, what's the sign for  
patient?

Lisa shows her the sign and Stephana repeats it.

HANS

Patient, patient, patient.

Hans returns to the window in frustration.

LISA

Good job, Mama. You're really  
improving.

STEPHANA

Do you really think so?

Lisa taps on Hans on the shoulder and he turns back to her.

LISA

(signing and voicing)

Do you see how Mama's sign  
language is improving?

Hans nods and smiles at his mother.

Gerhardt enters from the bathroom, freshly groomed and surprisingly upbeat.

GERHARDT

Guten morgen, everyone. Do you know what day it is?

STEPHANA

It's May Ninth.

GERHARDT

Yes.

STEPHANA

Did you think I'd forgotten? I'm knitting you a sweater here as an anniversary gift. Twenty-one years...today.

GERHARDT

Oh, Stephana, Danke. I feel terrible, I have nothing for you. Hmm...Perhaps we could sneak out and go somewhere to celebrate?

STEPHANA

Gerhardt, we can't risk that. What if we run into someone we know?

GERHARDT

I suppose we shouldn't risk it.

LISA

Happy Anniversary, Papa.

Lisa kisses her father's cheek.

GERHARDT

Danke, my dear.

LISA

Happy Anniversary, Mama.

Lisa kisses her mother's cheek. Hans stomps on the floor to get Lisa's attention.

HANS  
Why are you kissing them?

LISA  
(signing and voicing)  
It's their wedding anniversary.

HANS  
Truly?

STEPHANA  
(signing and voicing)  
Yes. June 9. That's today. 21 years.

HANS  
Wow! We need to celebrate.

Hans stands and goes to his father, extending his hand.

HANS (CONT'D)  
Happy Anniversary.

Gerhardt is shaking his son's hand.

GERHARDT  
Lisa, what did he say?

LISA  
Happy Anniversary....And that we  
should celebrate.

Hans kisses his mother's cheek.

HANS  
Happy Anniversary.

STEPHANA  
Oh, Danke, my dear son...

LISA  
(signing and voicing)  
Maybe we can ask Uncle Otto to buy  
a cake to celebrate this evening.

STEPHANA

Oh, please don't bother Otto with any extra requests.

HANS

I will go to the bakery and buy a cake myself.

Hans starts for the door. Gerhardt intercepts him.

GERHARDT

What are you doing?

LISA

He said he going to the bakery to buy you a cake.

Stephana grabs Hans by the arm and whirls him back.

STEPHANA

No, no, no.

HANS

Please let me go!

LISA

(signing and voicing)  
You're crazy!

HANS

Yes, I am going crazy here. I want to be free. I want to climb out of here and fly away like a bird.

STEPHANA

(signing and subtitled)  
I know. It is hard. We all feel the same, but we must stay until it is safe for us to go.

HANS

But when will that be?

STEPHANA

(signing and subtitled)  
I don't know.

Hans sighs in frustration and begins pacing around.

STEPHANA

I wonder where Otto is. Usually he is here by now.

HANS

(voicing.)

Papa! (signing) How old were you when you got married?

GERHARDT

What is he asking?

LISA

How old were you when you got married?

GERHARDT

I was twenty-seven.

HANS & LISA

(signing & voicing)

Why were you so old?

GERHARDT

I wasn't old. I was busy fighting in France.

HANS & LISA

(signing & voicing)

Why did Germany lose the war?

GERHARDT

We didn't lose the war. Our leaders lost it. They agreed to an armistice and were tricked into a treaty that was bad for all of us. They blamed us for the war and made us pay, but now the Third Reich is showing those French and English a thing or two.

STEPHANA

Gerhardt, I don't think Hans is interested in hearing about the

STEPHANA (CONT'D)  
politics of the war, but about  
you. What did you do in the war?

HANS & LISA  
(signing & voicing)  
Yes, tell me. You have never told  
me anything about yourself when  
you were young. Did you shoot  
people?

GERHARDT  
No, I drove a truck. I hauled  
supplies to the front lines and  
carried back the dead. I never had  
to fight. I was not a good shot—  
but I could drive my vehicle  
anywhere. I had an excellent sense  
of direction and I always knew  
where I need to be. I received  
several commendations. Medals.

HANS & LISA  
(signing and voicing)  
Why didn't you show me your  
medals?

Gerhardt shrugs.

HANS & LISA  
(signing & voicing)  
What did you do after the war?

GERHARDT  
I drove a delivery truck until I  
met your mother.

HANS & LISA  
(signing & voicing)  
I would like to be a truck driver.

GERHARDT  
You have to be able to hear.

HANS  
Why?

STEPHANA

Yes, why, Gerhardt?

GERHARDT

Why?! Because you do. Horns and whistles are important to drivers. Especially freight carriers.

STEPHANA

Gerhardt, Hans certainly could learn to drive a truck. I've seen deaf people driving.

GERHARDT

Well, but— (warming to the idea)  
Yes, perhaps he could be a truck driver like I was.

HANS & LISA

(signing & voicing)

I already know how to drive. My friend Rolf taught me on his father's truck.

STEPHANA

My goodness! (signing) When happen?

HANS & LISA

(signing & voicing)

Last summer. Drove in a graveyard.

**EXT. GRAVEYARD IN THE COUNTRY — DAY (FLASHBACK)**

Hans and ROLF, a young deaf male friend, are in an old delivery truck driving around the cemetery. Hans is behind the wheel and having trouble shifting gears and timing the clutch. They are moving in fits and stops, herky-jerky and having close calls with tombstones and shade trees. They come to a screeching halt when the truck nearly hits a tree. Relieved, Hans and Rolf look at each other and burst out laughing.

**INT. THE LOFT MAIN ROOM**

Hans using a dish for a steering wheel, "drives" around the room in fits and stop like he was driving the truck again. Lisa and Stephana are laughing at this display.

GERHARDT

Good thing you didn't run anyone over.

HANS & LISA

(signing and voicing)

I did. Don't worry, they were already dead.

Hans smiles and Lisa laughs at his joke. Stephana realizing he is joking, joins him with chuckles. Gerhardt shakes his head and smiles, too.

LISA

(signing and voicing)

That's a bad joke!

Gerhardt takes the dish from Hans and drives smoothly, shifting gears and gliding around the room.

GERHARDT

This is how you drive a truck. When I met your mother, she was very impressed with my driving skills.

STEPHANA

(sarcastically)

Yes, I was so impressed, Gerhardt.

LISA

(signing and voicing)

Mama, tell us again how you met.

STEPHANA

I was working in this store, downstairs—This store used to be my father's store before Uncle Otto took it over. And your father used to make some deliveries for

STEPHANA (CONT'D)

us. I got to know him over time  
and we fell in love little by  
little. Very slowly. Isn't that  
true, Gerhardt?

GERHARDT

Yes, well, except that I fell in  
love with you immediately.

**EXT. THE BACKDOOR ENTRANCE TO THE STORE – DAY (FLASHBACK)**

Gerhardt as a young man jumps out of a truck and sees a  
young and beautiful Stephana inside the furniture store. We  
see the same visuals he is recalling.

GERHARDT(V.O.)

The first time I saw your mother.  
I will never forget that. She was  
in this store. I parked in the  
back and the door was open. I saw  
her standing behind the counter.  
She was wearing a simple, white  
dress with a blue satin sash. And  
the sun was shining through the  
front windows of the store. It was  
very surreal. It felt like I was  
climbing into heaven as I walked  
up the stairs. I couldn't take my  
eyes off her. I thought she was an  
angel.

**INT. THE LOFT MAIN ROOM**

Gerhardt stands with a serene smile on his face, lost in  
the memory, hugging the plate. Then he looks at Stephana  
who looks back and smiles. He hands her the plate.

HANS

Wooo....

LISA

Mama, what did you think when you  
first saw Papa?

STEPHANA

I thought he was just another  
deliveryman.

Stephana puts the plate down and shrugs. They all laugh.

GERHARDT

She soon learned I was different.

HANS

How were you different?

LISA

Hans wants to know how you were  
different, Papa.

GERHARDT

I was a serious suitor. As soon as  
I saw her, I wanted her to be my  
wife. No funny business for me.

STEPHANA

Oh, yes, your father made his  
intentions very clear, very soon  
after we met. He frightened me.

LISA

Papa, why did you stop driving a  
truck?

GERHARDT

Well, after we were married, your  
grandfather wanted me involved in  
the business. He brought me in and  
taught me all about his store.

LISA

Where did you live when you first  
got married?

STEPHANA

In an apartment, around the  
corner. (signing and voicing)  
That's where you were born.

HANS

Was I a good baby?

STEPHANA

(signing and voicing)

Oh, yes, you were the best baby.

**INT. A BEDROOM IN THEIR OLD APARTMENT - (FLASHBACK)**

While a younger Gerhardt sleeps on the bed, a younger Stephana in her night gown and bathrobe, stands by Hans' bassinet. She smiles and admires her baby as he quietly plays with his fingers. Young Stephana leans in and kiss the baby on the forehead.

STEPHANA (V.O.)

I was so proud to be your mother.  
You were the best child. Never,  
ever cried.

**INT. THE LOFT MAIN ROOM**

While Stephana enjoys her memories and her children enjoy seeing her happy, Gerhardt stands and moves away from them.

GERHARDT

Except when he was with me. He  
would cry so much with me.

STEPHANA

Oh, Gerhardt, that was only for a  
short period of time—just a few  
months when he had awful earaches.

HANS

Is that when I became deaf?

STEPHANA

(signing and voicing)

Yes, it was around then that you  
became deaf.

GERHARDT

No, he was born deaf, Stephana. We knew early on that there was something different about him—

STEPHANA

Gerhardt, we don't know that. You know what the doctor said. You want to blame genetics, my family, but you were probably the cause—

GERHARDT

Stephana, that's nonsense.

STEPHANA

It's not. You are more than likely the reason Hans is deaf now.

GERHARDT

Don't you say that! I am not.

STEPHANA

I believe you are.

HANS

(to Lisa, confused)

What is going on here? (to his mother) What are you saying?

STEPHANA

Your father is responsible for your deafness. God help him.

GERHARDT

No! Not true.

HANS & LISA

(signing & voicing)

Papa, did you do something that made me deaf?

**INT. KLOTTMEIER APT. LIVING ROOM -(FLASHBACK)**

Younger Gerhardt is agitated as he paces around his home with a crying baby Hans in his arms.

**INT. LOFT MAIN ROOM**

Gerhardt is lost in the memory for a moment.

HANS & LISA  
(signing & voicing)  
What did you do to me?

GERHARDT  
It was an accident. I don't want  
to discuss it.

LISA  
(signing and voicing)  
Papa, what happened?

GERHARDT  
I didn't mean to do it.

HANS & LISA  
(signing & voicing)  
What happened?

STEPHANA  
Gerhardt, just tell them.

GERHARDT & LISA  
(speaking and signing)  
They don't need to hear this. It  
doesn't change a thing.

HANS & LISA  
(signing & voicing)  
I want to know.

**INT. KLOTTMEIER APT. LIVING ROOM - (FLASHBACK)**

Younger Gerhardt paces around his home with a screaming infant, more impatiently than before. He is quite agitated, and he is pacing the floor while the baby cries loudly.

GERHARDT (V.O.)  
I was walking with you on my  
shoulder, back and forth, back and  
forth. And you were screaming and

GERHARDT (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
crying in my ear, the whole time.  
It was late. I was tired. Your  
mother was exhausted from carrying  
you around all day. But at least  
with her you would stop crying.  
With me, you wouldn't stop and  
finally I threw you down.

Gerhardt throws the infant onto the sofa. The crying ceases.

**INT. LOFT MAIN ROOM**

Lisa, Stephana, and Hans look at Gerhardt horrified.

LISA  
Papa! You didn't!

GERHARDT  
Yes, I did. It wasn't as bad as it  
sounds. I just lost my patience.

HANS & LISA  
(signing & voicing)  
What happened next?

GERHARDT  
You stopped crying. It scared the  
life out of you.

STEPHANA  
Tell him what else happened?

GERHARDT  
Then a little blood came out of  
both your ears. Your ear drums had  
burst.

Gerhardt takes a moment and gathers himself.

GERHARDT  
Ear infections and burst ear drums  
don't cause deafness. But why does  
it matter? We can't go back...

HANS & LISA

(signing & voicing)

I don't believe your story.

STEPHANA

It's true, Hans.

HANS & LISA

(signing & voicing)

No. That's not why I'm deaf. If he did that to me, I think he would have treated me differently. All my life he would have been nicer to me and begged for forgiveness, if that were true. But he never felt sorry.

GERHARDT

I did throw you down on the sofa, but it was a soft landing. Still, it did jolt you. I didn't want to hurt you. But I regret it. Yes, I threw you down, but that didn't make you deaf. You were born deaf.

HANS & LISA

(signing & voicing)

I believe you. I know I was born deaf. And I know why you threw me down. It happened when you found out I was deaf. That's the truth! You didn't want a deaf son! That's why you threw me down. You didn't want me to live!

GERHARDT

No, no. Now, that is not true.

Hans turns away from his father.

GERHARDT (CONT'D)

If I wanted to kill you, I would have thrown you out the window!

(to Stephana)

Now, do you see where this has gone? Stephana, do you see?

Stephana goes to Hans and makes him face her.

STEPHANA

(signing and voicing)

Your father did not want to kill  
you. He loves you very much.

HANS

Lie. He doesn't show me love.  
Never.

GERHARDT

(to Lisa)

What is he saying?

LISA

He says you never show him love.

GERHARDT

What?! Didn't I move to that  
godforsaken town Kuechl for him?  
Didn't I give up my whole life, my  
business here, so that he could go  
to the best school for the deaf?

LISA

I thought we moved to Kuechl so  
that you could start a new store,  
your own business?

STEPHANA

No, we moved there for the deaf  
school. I convinced your father.

GERHARDT

Isn't that a sign of love?

HANS & LISA

(signing & voicing)

Maybe. But if you really want to  
show me that you love me, learn my  
language. That would be a true  
sign of love.

Suddenly, there is a pounding on the door. They jump and  
find places to hide.

LISA  
(signing)  
Someone's pounding on the door.

HANS  
I feel.

The pounding continues. Gerhardt and Stephana look at each other. They are frozen in fear, not sure what to do. More pounding on the door.

OTTO (O.S.)  
It's just me. Otto. Open the door,  
please, my hands are full.

STEPHANA  
Oh, dear. Thank God.

LISA  
(signing and voicing)  
It's Uncle Otto. He has something  
in his hands, so he can't open the  
door by himself.

Stephana unlocks and opens the door, admitting Otto who carries a tray of pastries.

STEPHANA  
Oh, Otto, you gave us such a  
scare.

OTTO  
I'm sorry. But my hands were full  
with crisp apple strudel. Happy  
Anniversary, Stephana and  
Gerhardt!

Otto sets the tray down and kisses his sister's cheek.

STEPHANA  
Oh, you remembered.

OTTO  
Of course. I wouldn't forget my  
sister's wedding anniversary.  
Congratulations, Gerhardt.

GERHARDT

(with little enthusiasm)

Danke, Otto.

OTTO

Sorry, I'm late, but I needed to go to the bakery before I came up. I know you are getting tired of being cooped up here and well, some strudel always cheers me up.

STEPHANA

And fills you up. It's always been one of your favorite things.

Stephana pats Otto's round stomach and he laughs.

HANS

Me too.

Hans pats his own stomach and Otto laughs.

OTTO

Okay, I must go and open the store now. Eat your strudel quietly. I'll be back up this evening with a special anniversary meal.

Lisa hugs her uncle.

LISA

Danke, Uncle Otto. You are too good to us.

OTTO

Nonsense. You're my family. And I love having people to look after. But I hope the invitation comes from Zurich soon. Maybe today. See you this evening. Bye-bye.

Otto exits and closes the door. The family sits down around the table and eats the sweets.

LISA

(voicing & signing)

Hmm, this is so good...The bakery  
in Kuechl doesn't make strudel  
like this...Still, I miss Kuechl.  
I miss my friends and I miss  
school. I miss everything.

HANS

Sorry you are here because of me.

Lisa smiles sadly and shrugs.

STEPHANA

Why is he sorry?

LISA

He says he's sorry we're here  
because of him.

GERHARDT

Tell him it's not his fault. Tell  
him he's not to blame.

Lisa interprets this message for Hans. Hans looks up to  
meet his father's eyes. Gerhardt nods.

#### **MONTAGE**

#### **EXT. THE FRONT OF THE GIRL'S DORM BUILDING IN KUECHL - DAY**

It's early morning, Marlana comes through the front door.  
She is in traveling clothes and carrying a small suitcase.  
She looks back once to make sure no one saw her leave, then  
hurries away.

#### **EXT. THE KUECHL TRAIN STATION - DAY**

There are a few people milling around a ticket booth.  
Marlana arrives and queues up. Then she notices the S.S.  
Leader and a few of his men standing next to the ticket  
booth. She takes a moment to decide what to do as people  
begin to line up behind her. She decides she can't risk it  
and leaves the queue. She hurries away from the station,  
looking back to make sure she isn't being followed.

**EXT. AT THE GATE ENTRANCE TO AN ABBEY — DAY**

Marlena stands with her suitcase at the closed gate, waving at the nuns inside. When a SENIOR NUN sees Marlena, she comes to the gate. Marlena puts her suitcase down and pulls an envelope from her purse. She signs, "I'm deaf." And then hands the envelope through the gate to the nun.

**INSERT SHOT — THE LETTER**

We see the return address on the letter reads, "Ministry of Health." Curious, the nun opens the envelope and reads the letter, while Marlena nervously looks behind her to make sure she isn't being watched. The nun quickly folds the letter and opens the gate for Marlena to come inside.

**END OF MONTAGE**

**INT. LOFT MAINROOM — LATER THAT EVENING**

Seated at the window. Hans is not looking out. His head is in his hands. Gerhardt paces around like a caged animal. Lisa writes in a journal on one end of the sofa. Stephana reads a book at the other end. Gerhardt looks at his watch.

GERHARDT

Late again....

Stephana doesn't look up from her book.

STEPHANA

He said he was bringing something special for dinner, in honor of our anniversary. It's just taking a little more time.

GERHARDT

Maybe something's happened to him. What a fine mess we'd be in if something has happened to him.

STEPHANA

Gerhardt, I'm sure he is perfectly fine. Now stop pacing or you'll wear out the floor.

Gerhardt begins to do some jumping jacks.

GERHARDT

I need some exercise. I need to keep moving. I need to keep up my stamina. Just sitting around here all day with nothing to do, I'll go soft—

Quietly but audibly, Hans begins to cry into his hands as he curls up by the window. Gerhardt stops exercising and stares at him. Then he exchanges looks with Stephana and Lisa. Both women rise and move to Hans. Stephana signals Lisa to hold back.

Hans with his head down, sees none of this and looks up when Stephana puts her arm around his shoulders. He tries to pull away and hide from them. Stephana holds him steady and pulls him down away from the window.

STEPHANA

(signing and voicing)  
What's wrong? Tell me.

HANS

She's not coming. She's lost or stuck. She said she would come. Maybe they took her away...

GERHARDT

What's the problem?

LISA

Marlena. He's worried something has happened to her.

STEPHANA

He told her where we are. He told her to meet us here.

GERHARDT

What? Why, for God's sake?!

STEPHANA

He wants us to take her with us. He loves her. He wants to marry her.

GERHARDT

Oh, no. This is not good.

Gerhardt is furious. He storms in the bedroom to cool off, but then races back out to confront them.

GERHARDT

We could be arrested any minute!  
That girl has probably told the  
S.S. all about the plan.

LISA

No, Papa, she's deaf. She couldn't  
tell. She wouldn't tell.

Suddenly, there is a pounding at the door.

GERHARDT

(hissing)  
They've found us.

STEPHANA

Oh, stop! It's just Otto again.

She opens the door and Otto comes in with several brown paper packages tied up with string containing food.

OTTO

Hello, everyone.

STEPHANA

Otto, let me help...

GERHARDT

(sharply)  
Hello, Otto.

Otto sets down the food. The family gathers at the table.

OTTO

Ah, still in a good mood,  
Gerhardt. This isn't going to  
help. I have bad news. The  
Blitzkrieg is advancing. The  
Wehrmacht has now captured Holland  
and Belgium.

GERHARDT

Otto, that is wonderful news.

OTTO

Not for your family. The Swiss are very nervous now. There are rumors that they've closed their borders.

STEPHANA

Otto, can it be true?

OTTO

Yes, I think it's very likely. The question now is, is it a permanent closing?

STEPHANA

It can't be....

OTTO

You can stay here as long as you need to—

HANS

(to Lisa)

What's going on?

GERHARDT

We can't stay here any longer. We need a new plan.

LISA

(signing only)

Maybe Switzerland has closed their borders.

HANS

What does that mean?

LISA

(signing and voicing)

So we can't go to Zurich now?

OTTO

Yes, that's correct.

GERHARDT

We need to go back to Kuechl.

STEPHANA

Wait! Let's consider all our options first.

GERHARDT

There are no options left. We are either stuck here, for God knows how long, or we just go home.

STEPHANA

And what about Hans? He can't go back to Kuechl now.

GERHARDT

Well, perhaps Hans can stay here with Otto, until it's safe to move on. That would be okay with you, wouldn't it, Otto?

OTTO

Of course, but—

STEPHANA

Gerhardt, he won't stay here without us to keep him here. He's seventeen-years-old. He thinks he's invincible. He thinks he can fight the Nazis by himself. We need to get him into Zurich somehow. Sneak him across—

OTTO

That would be very risky.

GERHARDT

Too risky. Do you want us to all get shot?

STEPHANA

All right then, we just stay here until the borders are open.

GERHARDT

I can't do that any longer. I am going mad here! And he is going mad. He was just crying like a—

STEPHANA

Because he misses his sweetheart. It's a challenge, no question, but we will do what we have to do.

LISA

I don't want to stay here any longer, Mama.

HANS

Let's go home. I hate here.

STEPHANA

(signing and voicing)

I understand you don't want to be here, but we need to be patient.

HANS

I can't. Let's go back to Kuechl. That's what you want, Papa? Right?

GERHARDT

What is he saying, Lisa?

LISA

He says he can't stay here. He wants to go back to Kuechl. That's what you want, right?

STEPHANA

(signing and voicing)

No. As soon as we arrive, they will come for you and drag you off like the other deaf boys. We are all going to stay here.

HANS

Until when?

STEPHANA

Until the Swiss border is open.

HANS

No. No! I can't wait.

Frightened, Stephana grabs hold of her son.

STEPHANA

(signing and voicing)

You can't go. You must stay here  
until it is safe to leave.

HANS

No, no! I will go crazy here! I  
need to get out of here. I want to  
live like a man. Sick of hiding  
like a rat. I need to be free!

STEPHANA

(to Lisa)

I don't understand. He's too  
emotional.

LISA

He's going crazy. He's sick of  
hiding like a rat. He needs to be  
free—

STEPHANA

(voicing and signing)

No, you must stay here.

They look at each other for a long moment before Hans  
noticeably sags, apparently defeated.

HANS

Fine. Fine. I will stay.

STEPHANA

Good.

Stephana hugs him. After a moment, Hans breaks free and  
goes to the window and sits looking out. Otto joins him at  
the window, putting an arm around his shoulder. Otto looks  
out the window too. He looks down to the street and sees  
Alexander outside of his store, locking up.

Without warning, Alexander looks up and sees Otto and Hans in the window together. Alexander smiles lasciviously and wags his finger at them, "No, no." Otto quickly pulls the curtain closed.

**INT. THE LOFT BEDROOM**

Stephana and Gerhardt have shut the door and are alone now.

GERHARDT

So you expect us to continue to stay here and wait until the S.S. hunt us down? Unacceptable! I'm going back to Kuechl.

Gerhardt grabs a suitcase and flings it open on the bed.

STEPHANA

Gerhardt, if you go, you go without me. And you will never see me again...

Gerhardt pauses for a moment, then continues to pack the suitcase with his personal belongings.

STEPHANA (CONT'D)

Have you forgotten what day this is? Do you want it to be the anniversary of the end of us, too?

Gerhardt stops and sighs. He turns to face her.

GERHARDT

All right, Stephana. We can wait here a few more days to see what develops. But we must do something soon or we'll be caught.

STEPHANA

I know. I'm praying...Gerhardt...

Stephana goes to Gerhardt and hugs him.

STEPHANA (CONT'D)

It's okay to be afraid.

GERHARDT

I'm not afraid for myself...

**EXT. SALZBURG CITY SKYLINE – NIGHT**

It is early morning, quiet and nothing is moving yet. There's a full moon above that illuminates the city mostly still dark.

**INT. THE LOFT'S MAIN ROOM**

The room is dark. Gerhardt is awake, sitting quietly at the window, looking out at the city. Hans enters quietly from the back room, carrying a suitcase. He stops suddenly when he sees his father looking at him. For a long moment, they just look at each other. Gerhardt turns on a lamp.

GERHARDT

(whispering)

What are you doing? (beat) Where are you going?

HANS

I am leaving. I am going back to Kuechl to get Marlena.

Gerhardt shakes his head, not understanding Hans's signing.

GERHARDT

Are you going home?

Hans is desperately trying to read his father's lips.

HANS

(signing slowly)

Home. Yes, yes. I will go home to find my girlfriend and then come back here.

GERHARDT

You're going home. I understand. All right. I will go with you. We'll go to the Ministry of Health.

Gerhardt puts on his trench coat and looks for his shoes while he speaks.

GERHARDT

I have been up thinking about this. I will explain that there was a family emergency and you—we had to go out of town together. And you needn't worry about that sterilization. I'll tell them that I caused your deafness. When I threw you down and your ears bled. That is the cause of your deafness, nothing hereditary...

Hans stops Gerhardt. He takes Gerhardt's coat off.

HANS

No, No. You stay.

GERHARDT

You don't want me to come with you? I can't let you go alone.

HANS

(signing slowly)  
Only myself. I am a man now.

GERHARDT

You want to go alone?

HANS

I don't need mama and papa. All I need from you now is some money.

Gerhardt shakes his head. He doesn't understand.

HANS (CONT'D)

I need money. Money. Money.

GERHARDT

I don't understand. What do you—

Hans takes out some bills from his pocket and shows him.

GERHARDT (CONT'D)

Oh, money! Of course...

He finds his wallet on a desk and gives Hans several bills.

GERHARDT (CONT'D)

Here....Oh, you need train fare.  
Here. Take this.

He removes a medal from his wallet and gives it to Hans.

GERHARDT (CONT'D)

My distinguish service medal.

HANS

What for?

GERHARDT

You may need it. If anyone stops  
you, show them this medal. Tell  
them you were injured and lost  
your hearing fighting in the war.  
Perhaps, they'll think you are an  
army veteran and leave you be.

Hans doesn't understand. Gerhardt closes Hans hand around  
the medal. Hans puts the medal in his breast pocket and  
starts to cry.

GERHARDT

What's wrong?! Why are you crying?

He pantomimes tears coming down his cheeks.

GERHARDT (CONT'D)

Why the tears?

Hans shakes his head in frustration and starts for the  
door. Gerhardt moves quickly to get to the door first.  
Again, they look at each other.

GERHARDT

Tell me why you are crying. Are  
you scared?

HANS

I don't understand what you're asking.

GERHARDT

Scared. Scared. Afraid?

Gerhardt pantomimes being frightened. Hans shakes his head.

HANS

No. No. I am not afraid. I can't tell you. You don't understand me.

GERHARDT

It's okay to be afraid. Now, get going. We will see you later. We'll go back to Kuechl too. Your mother won't be happy that you left, but it will all work out for the best. I will tell her about our plan. Don't worry it will all work out. Do-re-mi.

Gerhardt pats Hans on the back.

HANS

(voicing)

Danke, papa.

GERHARDT

Shhh! Too loud. All right. All right. Be careful. Go straight up and turn right for the train station. You can't miss it.

Gerhardt unlocks and opens the door quietly. Hans follows his father through it and down the stairs.

**EXT. THE FRONT OF OTTO'S STORE – NIGHT**

The store door swings open and Hans starts through it. Gerhardt follows Hans on to the street. Hans nods and turns to go. Gerhardt stops him by grabbing his shoulder. Hans faces him. Gerhardt extends his hand. Hans shakes his it.

GERHARDT  
(softly)  
Good luck, my boy.

Hans smiles sadly and then runs down the street. He stops and looks back. Gerhardt waves. Hans waves back then disappears into the darkness.

**EXT. DARK STREETS OF SALZBURG - NIGHT**

Hans hurriedly makes his way through the streets to the train station. We hear what Hans hears, silence.

**INT. THE MAIN ROOM OF THE LOFT**

The room is lit by the morning sun. Gerhardt is asleep on the sofa, snoring loudly. When Otto comes in, Gerhardt wakes startled.

OTTO  
Gerhardt...?

GERHARDT  
Ah!..Oh....Otto.

OTTO  
Guten morgen.

GERHARDT  
'Morgen.

OTTO  
What are you doing out here?

GERHARDT  
I woke in the middle of the night.  
Bad dream.

OTTO  
Are the others still sleeping?

GERHARDT  
Yes, the women are.

OTTO

What about Hans?

GERHARDT

He is gone.

OTTO

What do you mean?!

GERHARDT

He left. In the night.

OTTO

Where did he go?

GERHARDT

He's gone back to Kuechl.

OTTO

Let's we go after him. He can't have gotten far. Why did you let him go?

GERHARDT

He'll be fine. He's a man now. He needed to go. We'll all go back to Kuechl and meet him at home.

OTTO

We should wake Stephana.

Gerhardt stands up and stretches.

GERHARDT

Yes. Hopefully he caught the first train back. We can catch the second.

OTTO

Yes, you should have stopped him.

GERHARDT

He's mind was made up. He's got a lot of spirit...I am going to try to learn sign language. I need better communication with my son.

Gerhardt creeps into the bedroom. Otto stands not sure what to make of this development.

GERHARDT (O.S.)  
(tenderly)  
Guten morgen, Stephana...The sun is  
shining.

**EXT. IN FRONT OF THE KLOTTMEIER HOME - DAY**

**SUPER: Three Months Later**

Otto, wearing traveling clothes, comes up the street and turns up the path to the house. He carries a suitcase. He raps on the door. There's no answer. He peeks in through a window.

STEPHANA (O.S.)  
Otto!

Otto turns around startled. Stephana suddenly appears coming up the street carrying a bag of groceries. Otto smiles sadly at her.

**INT. THE KLOTTMEIER LIVING ROOM**

The home is very much the same as when we last saw it. The only noticeable difference is that Hans's portrait hangs where Hitler's used to. Stephana helps Otto take off his coat, hang up his hat, and stow his suitcase.

STEPHANA  
Otto, why didn't you tell me you  
were coming?!

OTTO  
There wasn't much time.

STEPHANA  
No time to call? You're not in  
trouble, are you?

OTTO  
Well, yes...A little actually.

STEPHANA

Oh, no, Otto!

OTTO

Yes. One of my friends...was caught.

STEPHANA

Doing what?

**INT. OTTO'S STORE OFFICE**

Otto is doing some paperwork at his desk when the Bookkeeper comes in with some mail. She drops it on his desk.

**INSERT — THE ENVELOPE**

The top envelope is addressed to "Otto Schäfer c/o Schäfer's Furniture Store, Salzburg, Austria." The postal stamp reads "Zurich, Switzerland." Otto picks it up immediately and starts to open it.

OTTO

Ah, I've been waiting for this!

BOOKKEEPER

Something is happening at the clock shop.

OTTO

What do you mean?

**EXT. OUT IN FRONT OF OTTO'S STORE — DAY**

Otto emerges from his store to see two S.S. MEN leading a handcuffed Alexander out of his store. Alexander's and Otto's eyes meet. Alexander winks.

OTTO

Where are you taking him?!

The S.S. men don't respond. Alexander shrugs as he walks down the street. He stops and looks back at Otto and makes an air kiss. The S.S. push Alexander to keep him moving.

**INT. THE KLOTTMEIER LIVING ROOM**

Otto sighs and sits down on the sofa.

OTTO

He was doing things that he shouldn't be doing. That I shouldn't talk about.

STEPHANA

So what does it have to do with you, Otto?

OTTO

Guilt by association. I'm not taking any chances. I'm leaving Austria now.

STEPHANA

Where are you going?

OTTO

Zurich, of course.

STEPHANA

What about the store?

OTTO

I sold it.

STEPHANA

Otto! Our family business!

OTTO

It was time. Time to move on.

STEPHANA

The Swiss border is open again?

OTTO

Yes. And I've the letter of invitation. It came after you left. I have it with me, but I'd like to use it. May I?

STEPHANA

Yes, of course.

OTTO

So nothing new about Hans?

STEPHANA

No.

OTTO

How long has it been? Exactly?

STEPHANA

Three months tomorrow. We've contacted everyone in authority in Salzburg. We don't hear back for weeks and when we do, always it's nothing. I feel someone knows something, but no one wants to tell us anything.

OTTO

How is Gerhardt?

STEPHANA

He is worried but optimistic. He thinks Hans has made it into Switzerland somehow and we'll get a letter from him any day. And Lisa is teaching him sign language. He wants to surprise Hans when we see him again.

**EXT. IN FRONT OF LISA'S SCHOOL - DAY**

Marlena stands outside the gate, waiting anxiously. She is wearing her traveling clothes and carrying her small suitcase. Lisa comes out of the school alone. Marlena brightens when she sees Lisa. At the top of the steps, she sees Marlena and is surprised.

LISA

Marlena!

**INT. THE KLOTTMEIER LIVING ROOM**

Stephana and Otto are sitting across from each other, when Lisa bursts through the front door. She is followed inside timidly by Marlena.

LISA

Mama! Uncle Otto?! You're here!

OTTO

Hello, Lisa!

Otto gives her a hug and a kiss on the cheek.

OTTO

How are you?

LISA

Fine. Very good.

STEPHANA

Lisa, who is your friend?

LISA

Mama, don't you remember Marlena?

STEPHANA

Oh! My goodness! Yes!

Marlena curtsies. Stephana extends her hand and Marlena shakes it embarrassed. Stephana steps back and awkwardly but emphatically signs to Marlena.

STEPHANA

(signing and voicing)

Nice to see you again.

LISA

(signing and voicing)

This is my uncle Otto.

Otto bows slightly to Marlena and she curtsies.

OTTO

Nice to meet you, Fraulein.

MARLENA

(embarrassed)

Nice to meet you.

LISA

(signing and voicing)

Mama, Marlana was in a convent for the whole summer. She told me she went there after we went to Salzburg. She had received a letter too—you know, telling her to go to the Ministry of Health. So today she came to my school. She learned that we were back. She's looking for Hans. She wants to know about Hans.

STEPHANA

Have you told her?

LISA

Yes. She cried. She needs to see him.

STEPHANA

Oh, dear...Hopefully, we'll get word from him soon.

Stephana takes hold of Marlana's hand and pats it.

LISA

She wanted to come here. She wanted to tell you something.

STEPHANA

Oh...(Signing and voicing) What did you want to tell me?

MARLENA

May I sit down?

STEPHANA

Yes, yes, of course. Let's all sit down. Please.

LISA  
(signing and voicing)  
Go ahead. I will voice for you.

Marlena takes a deep breath and then dives into her story.

MARLENA & LISA  
(signing & voicing)  
Okay. I am in trouble.

STEPHANA  
What kind of trouble?

MARLENA & LISA  
(signing & voicing)  
I went to the convent so the Nazis  
wouldn't sterilize me. But after  
three months, the sisters made me  
leave. The sisters said I cannot  
stay with them any longer.

STEPHANA  
Why?

MARLENA & LISA  
(signing & voicing)  
They want me to go back to my  
family. But I am afraid. I am  
afraid to go to my family  
because I am not married and...  
I am going to have a baby.

Marlena bursts into tears, puts her face into her hands.  
Stephana quickly moves to her and embraces her.

STEPHANA  
Oh, my dear, dear, child...

We see the thought bursts into Stephana's head.

STEPHANA (CONT'D)  
Oh, my Lord!

Stephana gently lifts Marlena's face back up so she can  
look into the girl's eyes. Stephana signs and speaks slowly  
and deliberately.

STEPHANA  
(signing and speaking)  
Your baby my son father?

Marlena looks down, looks back up at Stephana and nods.

STEPHANA  
Oh, my sweet girl!

Stephana overjoyed, embraces Marlena again.

STEPHANA (CONT'D)  
You're going to have Hans's baby.

LISA  
She's having Hans's baby!

Lisa comes to Marlena and embraces her. Stephana embraces both girls, crying tears of joy.

STEPHANA  
What wonderful news....

OTTO  
(not so sure)  
Yes...

**INT. THE OFFICE IN GERHARDT'S FURNITURE STORE**

Gerhardt is working at a desk, tabulating ledger entries when a police officer appears in front of him.

POLICE OFFICER  
Herr Gerhardt Klottmeier?

GERHARDT  
Yes.

The police officer gives Gerhardt a letter and leaves.

Gerhardt's hands tremble as he opens the letter. He reads the letter. He is stunned by what he learns. He falls back into the chair. Slowly, Gerhardt folds the letter back in the envelope and composes himself. He stands and walks out of his office.

**EXT. ON THE STREETS OF KUECHL - DAY**

Gerhardt walks without expression or awareness of his surrounds on the streets of Kuechl, holding the letter.

**INT. THE KLOTTMEIER LIVING ROOM**

Marlena, Stephana, and Lisa are all sitting on the sofa, looking happy. Otto is standing, and over his shoulder through the window, we can see Gerhardt approaching the house, looking grave.

MARLENA

You are not angry with me?

STEPHANA

Angry? Oh, no, this is wonderful news. The best news in three months.

Gerhardt comes into the house, grave and silent, with the letter in his hand. Stephana jumps up, surprised.

STEPHANA

Gerhardt?! You're home early...

GERHARDT

Otto? Why are you here? Do you know?

OTTO

Do I know what?

STEPHANA

Gerhardt, what is it?

GERHARDT

Who is she?

Lisa rises and goes to her father.

LISA

Marlena. Hans's girlfriend-

STEPHANA

(sharply)

What is it, Gerhardt? Tell me at once!

GERHARDT

I just got this...

Gerhardt holds up the letter.

LISA

What does it say, Papa?

GERHARDT

Some Gestapo confronted him in Salzburg...

EXT. A SALZBURG STREET – NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

This entire scene is presented in silence.

Hans is walking down a dark street, carrying his small suitcase. He is preparing to turn a corner when he sees the shadows of several soldiers about to turn onto the street. Hans quickly dives into a shop doorway.

The soldiers turn the corner and are startled. They pull Hans out of the doorway and ask him questions that he doesn't respond to. Hans shows them his father's medal. They are impressed but when they try to take the medal from Hans, he refuses to give it up. There is a struggle. Hans throws his suitcase at them and begins to run away. One of the soldiers pulls out his revolver and shoots Hans in the back several times. Hans falls to the ground.

**INT. THE LIVING ROOM**

All eyes are on Gerhardt, except for Marlina's. She is looking at each individual's face trying to fathom what is happening as there's been no interpretation.

GERHARDT

They shot him. Dead.

OTTO

Oh, no.

Lisa and Stephana fall into each other arms crying.

LISA

Oh, Hans! No! Mama, no!

STEPHANA

Oh, no. Oh, God! My sweet boy. No!

OTTO

Gerhardt, I'm so sorry...

Otto wraps an arm around Gerhardt's shoulder. Gerhardt only nods his head, repeatedly. Otto then goes to comfort his sister as she wails.

GERHARDT

He had no identification. No papers on him. They only found a medal...my medal.

Gerhardt takes the medal out of the envelope and lets the letter fall to the ground, trying to control his emotions.

Marlena stares in horror at the two weeping women. Finally, she rises and approaches Gerhardt who is now frozen in place. She picks up the letter at his feet and begins to read it.

Marlena gasps and falls to the ground screaming. The other-worldly-sounding wails of this young deaf woman distracts others from their own sorrow. She leaves Lisa and Otto. She comes down to Marlena and hugs her. Marlena's anguish jolts Gerhardt out of his stupor. He goes to Stephana and Marlena and falls to his knees. He tries to comfort them both.

The futility of it forces Gerhardt to back out and rises.

GERHARDT

Damn me! I should have stopped him.

Gerhardt breaks and wails now too like a wounded animal. Lisa comes to her father to comfort him.

LISA

Why did they have to kill him?

Gerhardt gathers his composure.

GERHARDT

I don't know.

Stephana begins to rock Marlena in her arms.

STEPHANA

Oh, my poor child...my poor dear child...Where is his body?

GERHARDT

Buried in a pauper's cemetery in Salzburg.

STEPHANA

We must bring him home.

GERHARDT

Yes.

Marlena's wailing increases.

STEPHANA

I know...I know....Oh, this poor, poor child...

GERHARDT

Why she is here?

STEPHANA

She's pregnant with Hans's child.

GERHARDT

What?! Can it be possible?!

Gerhardt comes quickly down to Stephana and Marlena. Gently but firmly, he pulls Marlena from Stephana to himself.

GERHARDT

(signing and voicing)  
You pregnant?

Marlena wipes her tears and nods.

GERHARDT (CONT'D)  
(signing and voicing)  
My son father?

As Marlena nods again, Gerhardt falls back, stunned again.

GERHARDT  
(to Stephana)  
Do you know what this means?

STEPHANA  
Yes.

OTTO  
You're going to be grandparents.

MARLENA  
(signing to Lisa)  
Is he angry?

LISA  
Papa, are you angry?

GERHARDT  
(struggling to sign and voice)  
No, no. I am not angry. I am just  
thinking...

LISA  
Thinking what? Just say it, Papa,  
I will sign it for you.

GERHARDT  
We must get her out of this  
country so that our grandchild can  
be born. We have to save them. We  
have to get her out of Austria.

STEPHANA  
Yes, she won't be safe here.

OTTO  
Where's her family?

LISA  
(signing and voicing)  
Where does your family live?

Marlena fingerspells "L-I-N-Z."

STEPHANA  
L. I. N. Z. Linz.

MARLENA & LISA  
(signing & voicing)  
I can't go to my family. They will not accept me being pregnant. They will turn me over to the Nazis. They will take the baby out.  
(getting emotional again) I was hoping to go wherever Hans was. I was hoping he would take care of me. Now, I have no one. Who will take care of me? I have no one now. I have no one.

Marlena lets out a wail of despair and buries her face into Stephana.

GERHARDT  
Oh, frauelein, frauelein...

Gerhardt goes to her, taking hold of her shoulders, and gently turns her to face him.

GERHARDT  
(signs and voices)  
We will take care of you—Lisa, how do you sign I promise?

LISA  
(signs and voices)  
I promise.

GERHARDT  
(signs and voices)  
I promise.

Marlena hugs him with all her might.

MARLENA

(voicing)

Danke, danke, danke.

STEPHANA

Gerhardt, what are you planning?

GERHARDT

We'll take her to your deaf cousins, of course. As soon as possible. Lisa tell her.

LISA

(signing and voicing)

My mother has deaf family in Switzerland. My father wants to take you there.

Otto produces the letter from the cousins.

OTTO

I have the invitation. We'll all go together!

STEPHANA

Yes!

MARLENA

Would I stay with the deaf family?

LISA, STEPHANA & GERHARDT

(sign and voice)

Yes.

GERHARDT

Now, I see that Marlina and Otto are packed. We need to do the same. Go, the both of you, hurry and get your things together. Quickly, my dears, quickly....

Gerhardt hustles Stephana and Lisa off to their rooms. For a moment, there is an awkward silence. Marlina, Otto, and Gerhardt look at each other. Marlina walks over to the portraits and takes Hans's picture off the wall and embraces it. She looks up to meet Gerhardt's eyes.

MARLENA

I loved so much.

Gerhardt smiles sadly and nods. He takes a handkerchief from his pocket and tenderly wipes the tears from her face.

MARLENA

Will you be angry if my baby is deaf?

GERHARDT

(signing and voicing)  
I don't understand.

OTTO

Lisa! Can you help?!

Stephana and Lisa appear in the doorway as Otto indicates for them to look to Gerhardt and Marlena.

MARLENA & LISA

(signing & voicing)  
Will you be angry if my baby is born deaf?

GERHARDT

(signing and voicing)  
No. No. No. I will not.

MARLENA & LISA

(signing & voicing)  
Truly?

GERHARDT

(signing and voicing)  
Yes, I promise.

Marlena smiles sadly as Stephana comes to Gerhardt's side, supporting him. Then she pulls Marlena into their embrace.

**EXT. BORDER CROSSING BETWEEN AUSTRIA & SWITZERLAND - DAY**

A passenger train winding its way through the Alps slows to a halt near the border. Passengers detrain and form a line in front of a small depot.

Gerhardt, Otto, Stephana, Lisa, and Marlena dressed in travel clothes, carrying suitcases are among the passengers. They group together and smile at each other.

**INT. BORDER CROSSING OFFICE**

A few Swiss guards stand behind a SWISS OFFICIAL who is checking documents and questioning travelers.

SWISS OFFICIAL

Next?

Gerhardt steps forward and hands the official their passports.

SWISS OFFICIAL (CONT'D)

What is the purpose of entry?

GERHARDT

To visit our relatives in Zurich and climb every mountain in Switzerland.

SWISS OFFICIAL

Are you joking?

GERHARDT

Yes. I'm sorry. We are a family. This my beautiful wife, my trusty brother-in-law, and my very shy daughters.

SWISS OFFICIAL

Do you all have documents?

GERHARDT

Yes, of course. Here's a letter of invitation from our relatives.

The Swiss Official scans the letter.

SWISS OFFICIAL

This does not say how long you intend to stay.

GERHARDT

Not long.

STEPHANA

Our son is still in Salzburg.

Gerhardt forces a smile as the Swiss Official studies him. The Swiss Official stamps the letter and passports. The Swiss Official stops from stamping one passport.

SWISS OFFICIAL

Marlena? Why does she have a different last name?

GERHARDT

Daughter-in-law. They recently married and haven't had time to update her paperwork.

The Swiss Official looks at Marlena. She smiles at him. He smiles back.

SWISS OFFICIAL

Problem with Marlena solved.

Swiss Official stamps her passport and hands all the paperwork back to Gerhardt.

SWISS OFFICIAL

Willkommen to Switzerland.

GERHARDT

Danke.

The Klottmeier family moves forward past the guards.

**EXT. BORDER CROSSING BETWEEN AUSTRIA & SWITZERLAND - DAY**

The Klottmeier family emerges from the building and climbs back into the train that is on the Swiss side of the border crossing. Gerhardt helps Marlena into the train and he looks back at Austria one last time before climbing inside.

FADE OUT.