



March 15, 2012

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INT. JOJO'S HOUSE - MORNING

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

- a brown shirt buttoned.
- badges pinned.
- belt tightened.
- neck kerchief tied.
- shoelaces tied and shoes polished.
- socks pulled up to knees.
- hair combed.
- eye-pencil applied above top lip...??
- Shoes clicked together at the heels, one foot stomps down hard on the floor.

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

JOHANNES BETZLER, (JOJO), a cute 10 year-old Boy. He stares into a full-length mirror. He has drawn a HITLER moustache on his upper lip.

JOJO

Jojo Betzler, ten and a half years old. Today you join the ranks of the Jungvolk. This is a great day, for you, for your family, and for all of Germany.

And as "BREATHLESS" by NICK CAVE kicks in, we PULL OUT to reveal Jojo is dressed impeccably in a HITLER YOUTH uniform. He does a little dance on the spot and then looks over to a wall covered with pictures, posters and drawings of ADOLF HITLER.

Jojo tries to WINK at a prominent poster of the Führer however he can't close one eye independently so it's more of a scrunched up BLINK. He tries again, not happening. He turns back to the mirror and does the NAZI SALUTE.

JOJO (CONT'D)

HEIL HITLER!!!

SUPER: "VIENNA, 1944"

EXT. STREET - DAY

With a confident stride Jojo walks down the street admiring himself in store windows. He greets everyone he meets with the Hitler salute.

JOJO
 Heil Hitler, Herr Josef!
 (beat)
 Heil Hitler, Frau Kirsch!

He is joined by his best friend YORKI, 11 years old, geeky, fat and clumsy. They embrace.

YORKI
 Jojo!

JOJO
 Yorki! Heil Hitler!

YORKI
 Heil Hitler!

They continue walking with excited energy.

JOJO
 Looking good Yorki.

YORKI
 You too, Jojo. Did you bring your books?

JOJO
 Of course. Now Yorki we must make a big effort this weekend. It's rare for we Jungvolk to be allowed at a Hitlerjugend training weekend and I want to make a good impression. They may promote us to Hitler's Special Guard early. Only the best of the best get to do that.

YORKI
 Yes, you and I will be best of the best.

JOJO
 The best Nazi's the whole world has ever seen.

They look a bit awkward and nerdy as they continue down the street. They scream another Heil Hitler at each other, scaring the shit out of an elderly woman walking past.

EXT. WOODS - HITLERJUGEND CAMP - DAY

Jojo and Yorki sit with other clean cut young children aged between 10 and 13.

CHILDREN

(singing)

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

A group of older kids, true HITLER YOUTH, are gathered nearby. A group of girls from the LEAGUE OF GERMAN GIRLS (BDM) march past on their way to a separate training area. Jojo sneaks a quick look at a pretty girl, GUDRUN (12). She returns a smile as CAPTAIN KLENZENDORF, weathered, over looking after kids, steps forward. He is accompanied by his camp, awkwardly enthusiastic assistant, SUB-OFFICER FINKEL (20's). Captain Klenzendorf addresses the young crowd.

KLENZENDORF

Heil Hitler!

FINKEL

Heil Hitler!

KLENZENDORF

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

FINKEL

Captain K! Woohoo!

KLENZENDORF

...and this is Sub-Officer Finkel. You may only call him Sub-Officer Finkel. Over the next two days you will get a taste of the Hitlerjugend experience so you know what you're in store for once you're old enough to join yourself. You boys have all been issued with your Deutsches Jungvolk Daggers. Please take them out.

Jojo and Yorki inspect and admire their nice new DEUTSCHES JUNGVOLK (DJ) KNIVES. Throughout the crowd we hear various yelps as kids accidentally cut themselves with the blades.

KLENZENDORF (CONT'D)

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

FINKEL

No stabbing! Or you'll die. From blood loss.

KLENZENDORF

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

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

KLENZENDORF (CONT'D)

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

Groans of disappointment from the girls.

KLENZENDORF (CONT'D)

Alright, let's get to it. Are you READY?!

CHILDREN

YES! HEIL HITLER!!!

The entire circle salutes, as do Jojo and Yorki. The BDM head off towards a COMMUNITY HALL in a nearby field.

And "I DON'T WANNA GROW UP" by Tom Waits bursts to life, the older boys start screaming at the smaller kids, rounding them up, ordering them into groups and y'know, being teenage Nazi assholes.

FINKEL

Move, move, move! On your feet you little Hitlers!

MONTAGE - HITLER YOUTH TRAINING CAMP...

Various scenes of Jojo and Yorki training with the Hitlerjugend.

- KNIFE THROWING. Jojo and Yorki stand around with a group of about 8 boys throwing their DJ knives from 10 FEET into a tree. None of the knives stick, instead they fly off at dangerous angles, one deflecting and lodging itself in another kid's THIGH.

- GUN RANGE. Jojo stands, trying with all his might to aim a KARABINER 98K RIFLE at a target in the distance. He fires and, jumping from the loudness of the shot, drops the rifle.

- Inside the Hall, a group of girls attempt to dress fake wounds on each other while in the background Sub-officer Finkel shows other girls a sanitized and tame version of childbirth with an anatomically INCORRECT diagram of a BABY inside a girl's stomach. It's smiling.

FINKEL

Then a happy baby comes out. Yay!

- WAR GAME. The boys are separated into 2 groups, one side wearing RED SASHES and the other GREEN. They chase each other round a clearing, pushing each other over and taking prisoners etc. Jojo and Yorki are taken prisoner instantly. An older boy watches them and shakes his head disapprovingly.

INT. WOODS - GROUP CIRCLE - DUSK

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

CHILDREN

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

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

FRAULEIN RAHM

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

Horrified gasps from the children. Finkel nods.

FRAULEIN RAHM (CONT'D)

By the time the inferior race catches
up to where we are today, we'll be way
up here.

Rahm sketches a mountain with chalk. She draws a peak too steep to be stable. The top of the peak is all skinny and wobbly.

FRAULEIN RAHM (CONT'D)

It has been scientifically proven that we Aryans are 1000 times more advanced and civilised than any other race.

Gasps and applause from the children. Fraulein Rahm smiles.

FRAULEIN RAHM (CONT'D)

Now, get your things together, it's time to burn some books!

CHILDREN

Yayyyy!!!

They gather together and move towards another area where a LARGE BONFIRE burns. The children hold stacks of books. Jojo opens his bag and pulls out a small pile.

YORKI

Is that it? Only 4 books?

JOJO

It's all I could find on the list.
(reading the authors)
Kafka... Brecht... Hesse... Burn you losers.

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

SLOW MOTION as the children all dance round the bonfire, throwing books into the inferno.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Jojo and Yorki lie awake in sleeping bags under the night sky inspecting their new DJ KNIVES.

JOJO

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

YORKI

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

JOJO

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

YORKI

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

JOJO

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

YORKI

(prodding his chubbiness)
Hey, Jews sound scary, huh?

JOJO

Yeah, I didn't know they stole the white skins of Aryans so they could blend in. Savages!

YORKI

Me neither. Thankfully most got sent back to their caves so it's not likely that we'll see a real one.

JOJO

If I did I'd kill it like that.

He snaps his fingers.

YORKI

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

JOJO

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

YORKI

Oh yeah, I forgot about the Brussel Sprouts bit.

JOJO

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

YORKI

He'd be so impressed.

JOJO

Then we would become best friends.

YORKI

I thought *I* was your best friend.

JOJO

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

YORKI

I'm just a kid.

JOJO

Case closed.

Jojo rolls over and stares at the sky.

JOJO (CONT'D)

(whispering)

Night papa, I hope you come home soon.
Night Inga, I hope you're happy up there.

A rustling noise can be heard, Jojo turns his head to see Yorki doing sit-ups, gasping for air and prodding his tubby belly.

EXT. WOODS - TRAINING GROUND - MORNING

Jojo sits with a bunch of other kids. Two team leaders, CHRISTOPH and HANS, (17) smoke cigarettes and hold court.

HANS

When you stand before a Roast Beef-man and have to end his life, which of you will have the stomach for it?

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

HANS (CONT'D)

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

CHRISTOPH

Johannes? Can you kill?

JOJO

Pff, of course. I love killing.

A few murmurs and nervous "Me too"s from the other children.

CHRISTOPH

Good...

Christoph uncovers a small cage nearby - it is filled with little rabbits. Christoph takes a bunny from the cage and holding it by its ears, hands it to Jojo.

CHRISTOPH (CONT'D)

Kill it.

JOJO

Hmm?

CHRISTOPH

Wring its neck. Kill the rabbit.

JOJO

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

CHRISTOPH

No later, NOW. Or are you scared?

JOJO

No, I'm not scared. I just... I'm allergic to fur and I don't want itchy hands for the rest of the weekend.

HANS

Itchy hands? Kill the damn rabbit and be a soldier Jojo!

JOJO

I thought soldiers killed people, not bunnies.

HANS

You must show you have an iron stomach to undertake the work of eradicating the parasite.

Hans hands it to shocked Jojo who takes the bunny.

HANS (CONT'D)

Place both hands around it's neck and then one hard, twist, sometimes two, he might scream but drop him and we'll use the boot to finish it off.

Jojo shaking, holds the bunny and looks at it directly in the eye. He gulps. The boys start to chant.

HITLERJUGEND
Kill, Kill, Kill, Kill.

Jojo looks over at Yorki who is frozen. He turns back to face the woods away from the group. He leans down. The boys are like baying excited wolves. They crouch in around Jojo as he leans down. He DROPS the bunny but it doesn't run. Christoph takes the rabbit and snaps its neck. Shocked gasps and a few squeaks of horror from the other kids.

CHRISTOPH
Coward. Just like your father.

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

CHRISTOPH
No one has heard from him in 2 years.
He's a deserting coward just like you.

HANS
Yes, he's a deserter.

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

CHRISTOPH
You're as scared as a rabbit.

He places a boot on Jojo's head and kicks him to the ground.
Hans places a boot on his neck.

HANS
Scared little rabbit. Maybe we should
snap *your* neck.

KID
Rabbit. Coward.

ANOTHER KID
Jojo rabbit.

The rest of the kids taunt Jojo. He stands and runs into the woods, laughter following close behind.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

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

VOICE (O.S.)
Poor Jojo, what is wrong?

Jojo turns around, it is none other than his fantasy friend, ADOLF HITLER. Jojo brightens at the sight of his hero.

JOJO

Hi Adolf.

Adolf takes a seat. This is not the Adolf we know and hate, this guy is goofy, charming, and glides through life with a child-like naivety; a real dork.

ADOLF

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

JOJO

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

ADOLF

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

JOJO

Do you think he can come home soon? Just for a quick visit?

ADOLF

Well, I kinda need him for those special missions and whatnot. And the desserts are also an important factor.

JOJO

Really?

ADOLF

Mm-hm. He's one of my top men. Now, want to tell me about the rabbit incident? What was that all about?

JOJO

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

ADOLF

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

JOJO

But now they call me a scared rabbit.

ADOLF

Well you want to know something?

(off Jojo's nod)

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

Hitler lights a cigarette, offers Jojo a drag.

JOJO

No thanks, I don't sm--

ADOLF

But not those Egyptian horses with bumpy-backs. I don't trust them.

JOJO

You mean camels?

ADOLF

(laughing, condescending)

Errm, I don't think they're called that.

(beat)

Remember this good advice Jojo, be the rabbit. The bunny can outwit all his enemies!

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

ADOLF (CONT'D)

"Camels", ha!

(aside)

What's in those bumps I wonder? Gold? More humps? Baby Camels? I guess we'll never know their secrets!

JOJO

(to himself)

Be the Rabbit...

EXT. WOODS - TRAINING GROUND - DAY

The older boys are getting instructions from Captain Klenzendorf on throwing hand-grenades. They stand around within a sort of trench set-up. The young kids sit back, behind the trench at a safe distance. Finkel stands nervously to the side, sort of hiding behind Klenzendorf.

KLENZENDORF

Now lads, the hand-grenade is one of the most effective weapons in the German army. It can blow off a leg, maybe 2 legs, definitely a head. It is very dangerous. Just quietly, I prefer the rounder, egg-shaped version used by the British and Americans. I dunno, it just seems silly that our ones look like sticks.

FINKEL

Sticks... pff.

He continues talking in the background as Jojo approaches the young kids and sidles up next to Yorkki.

YORKKI

Are you alright Jojo?

JOJO

Absolutely, I was just doing some push-ups for my muscles.

YORKKI

I thought you were crying.

JOJO

Nope. Push-ups.

(flexing his tiny arm)
And don't just assume that because water comes from someone's eyes that they are crying, okay? Are you a tear-drop specialist?

YORKKI

No.

JOJO

Case closed. Now, Yorkki Dorky, it's time for Jojo to show these big pip-squeaks who is a coward. I mean, NOT a coward - me. You'll see what I mean.

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

YORKI

(loud whisper)

Jojo! Where are you going? Don't you want to watch the hand-grenades?

We are back with the older group.

KLENZENDORF

Now you little kids stay all the way over there and watch the action.

(to the older kids)

Each of you will be given the opportunity to arm and throw a grenade. ONE AT A TIME. I will personally be supervising each--

Suddenly, in a flurry of noise and action, Jojo bursts out of the bushes and onto the scene.

JOJO

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

He runs past the boys, grabs one of the GRENADES from the open box and darts out, over the top of the trench and into the HOT ZONE - a wooded area stretching out before the group.

KLENZENDORF

You! Get back here with that!!!

But Jojo is off, he runs from the group. Adolf Hitler runs beside him, goading him on, screaming things like "Jojo Rabbit!" They reach a little clearing where Jojo pulls the PIN on the grenade and screams an ungodly war-cry.

JOJO

JOJO RABBIIIIIIIIT!!!

He hurls the grenade like a war hero. It flies through the air, bounces off a tree, hits another one, deflects off a nearby branch and ricochets backwards, landing only 6-feet away from Jojo.

ADOLF

Scheisse.

He bolts, getting clear and leaving Jojo standing alone, the grenade at his feet.

JOJO

Ooh, scheisse...

KABOOM!!! Jojo goes flying in an explosion of smoke and debris.

SFX: HEAVY BREATHING...

FADE OUT.

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - DAY

JOJO'S POV - The next couple of minutes are small glimpses as Jojo comes in and out of consciousness.

- Bright lights in an operating room. A doctor hovers over us, we see INSTRUMENTS. A concerned Adolf Hitler peeks in, smiles and gives us the thumbs up. Jojo's BLOODIED THUMB comes into view.

- Over BLACK, we hear voices. Fade up to see a concerned male doctor and Captain Klenzendorf.

KLENZENDORF

It was one of those stick-shaped ones, not the superior oval type. Do you know the ones I mean?

Finkel holds up one a stick grenade.

FINKEL

Like this.

KLENZENDORF

Exactly. Anyway, luckily it was only a training grenade, half packed with explosive. A proper one would have blown off his leg. Maybe both.

FINKEL

Probably both. Or a head.

KLENZENDORF

(aside, to doctor)
Do you think I could get in trouble for this?

- FADE UP as we hear the sound of Jojo's mother, FRAU BETZLER, entering the room. She comes in to focus, a beautiful and kind face.

FRAU BETZLER

Darling Jojo, my cub... I'm taking you home.

- The shot wells with tears, de-focuses, and fades.

- Over black we hear sounds. We come in and out of a hazy picture of Frau Betzler sitting beside Jojo, her hand caressing his face. We are in his bedroom now, the Hitler posters still on the wall. His mother comes in and out of focus. The image shifts and we see various small, STUFFED ANIMALS, on the pillow next to him - a LION, an ELEPHANT, a CAMEL, a RABBIT.

WE FADE TO BLACK AND HEAR WHISPERS, PEOPLE IN THE HOUSE.

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

Jojo wakes in a daze. Feeling something nearby, Jojo sits absolutely silent. A creak is heard directly outside his open door. He whispers.

JOJO

Hello?

The creaking stops. Jojo cowers under the blankets.

JOJO (CONT'D)

(quietly)

Inga, don't scare me. Please.

FADE OUT.

INT. JOJO'S HOUSE - MORNING

A NEW JOJO stands before us in front of the mirror. The right side of his face is SCARRED. His RIGHT ARM hangs limply by his side. He wears a simple shirt, he still has his hair and although he is half the boy he used to be, with his injuries he now looks older, kind of cooler.

FRAU BETZLER (O.S.)

There's my little cub.

In the mirror Jojo sees his mother standing at the door, smiling.

JOJO

Heil Hitler, Mama!!!

FRAU BETZLER

Wow, a little louder next time huh?
Didn't quite hear you. Hello darling.

She approaches and hugs him tightly, smiling.

JOJO

Why so happy? Your son is a monster.

FRAU BETZLER

No. Not a monster, you're still my beautiful Jojo. Besides the doctors are confident you will get most of the movement back in your hand and you will also walk properly again. Neat huh? I'm just happy to have you back home.

JOJO

I'll never be in Hitler's guard, now.

FRAU BETZLER

Don't try so hard to be like the others Jojo. You're fine as you are.

JOJO

I need to be better.

FRAU BETZLER

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

JOJO

Or Inga Lion.

FRAU BETZLER

Or Inga Lion.

JOJO

Mama, you don't have to worry about me. I'm a tough guy and I will look after us. You wait, I'll make you the proudest mother in the whole wide Reich.

She smiles sadly. Jojo tries to tie his bootlaces. He is having trouble with only one good hand. Frau Betzler kneels down and helps him.

FRAU BETZLER

A few more months and you'll get it. Round the tree, through the rabbit hole, then pull.

(then)

Now, you better get on your way, I told the Hitlerjugend office you were coming in today.

JOJO

I thought you didn't want me to be involved with all that.

FRAU BETZLER

I don't want you involved in being dead on some battlefield. You can't be a soldier but you can still help. I think getting out of the house will do wonders for your recuperation. Come on, you can walk me to the food store first. We need supplies.

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

Jojo's mother helps him put on his jacket and he catches another glimpse of himself reflected in some glass.

JOJO

I don't want to go out there.

FRAU BETZLER

Don't be silly, of course you do.

JOJO

But people will look at me.

FRAU BETZLER

Let them! Enjoy the attention, kid.

(feigning sadness, stroking her hair)

People used to look at me.

(suddenly bright)

Oh well! Now, you're going to pluck up your courage, walk out that door and have an adventure. Okay?

JOJO

(nodding, unsure)

Okay.

Frau Betzler parts the blinds on the front door and peeks outside.

FRAU BETZLER

Looks like the coast is clear. Field Marshall Jojo, you're our top man, only you can accomplish this mission... Good luck.

Jojo smiles and prepares himself, playing along.

JOJO

Is it dangerous?

His mother WINKS at him and smiles wide.

FRAU BETZLER

Extremely.

She kisses him on the head and opens the door.

EXT. TOWN - STREET / RATION STORE - DAY

Jojo and his mother walk down the street. As he LIMPS, Jojo tries to avoid peoples' gazes. His mother enters a FOOD RATION STORE leaving Jojo outside. He notices himself in the store window and from his POV we see the new, crooked and damaged version of the sprightly young boy at the beginning of our story.

We PULL FOCUS to within the store. Frau Betzler takes a bag of food and loads them into a shopping stroller. Other people in the store watch her.

I/E. REICHSJUGENDAMT OFFICE - DAY

Jojo and Frau Betzler part ways outside the Reichsjugendamt (Hitler Youth office), a small but official looking structure.

FRAU BETZLER

You have a wonderful day, cub.

(then)

Oh, you have something on your shirt.

She points and Jojo looks down. It's the old trick where she brings her hand up to ding him in the face. He laughs.

JOJO

Don't!

FRAU BETZLER

What? You really do have something!

Look!

She does it again and once more he falls for it.

JOJO

Stop it, Mama! Don't hit me!

FRAU BETZLER

I'm not hitting you, you're hitting yourself!

She grabs his wrists and makes Jojo lightly swat himself in the face, again and again. He giggles, absolutely powerless.

FRAU BETZLER (CONT'D)
 Heyyy kid, don't beat yourself up.
 You're a good guy, no need for all
 this violence!

She's a real clown and utterly charming. She wraps him up and gives him FIVE HUGE SMOUCHES all over his face.

FRAU BETZLER (CONT'D)
 I love you. Heil Shitler.

We reveal Jojo's face is covered in lipstick kiss-marks. She heads off down the street, whistling.

INT. REICHSJUGENDAMT - MOMENTS LATER

Jojo enters a large office. There is the usual Nazi Propaganda on the walls and a large SWASTIKA FLAG hangs behind a SECRETARY who sits at a desk looking incredibly bored. Two TEENAGE YOUTH OFFICERS laze about while a couple of other children come and go through the scene.

JOJO
 (screaming)
 HEIL HITLER!!

The secretary and Officers jump.

SECRETARY
 Jesus kid.

OFFICERS
 Heil Hitler.

SECRETARY
 (eyeing Jojo)
 What happened to you?

JOJO
 Wounded in battle. I was blown up.

SECRETARY
 What was it, a lipstick bomb?

Jojo realizes what she means and he quickly wipes his face.

OFFICER 1
 (smirking)
 A war hero! Well, how can we help you?

JOJO
 Well. I am here to offer my serv--

VOICE (O.S.)
I know that voice...

A figure emerges from an office - Captain Klenzendorf. Seeing Jojo's injuries he winces a little but covers well. He is followed by Sub-Officer Finkel who is buttoning up his jacket.

KLENZENDORF
Heyyyy Johannes! Looking good.

JOJO
Hello Herr Klenzendorf.

KLENZENDORF
You remember Unteroffiziere Finkel.

Finkel nods to Jojo and continues to look weird and out of place.

FINKEL
Heil Hitler, little boy.

KLENZENDORF
(to the others)
Guys this is Johannes Betzler, the kid I told you about. Remember, he stole a hand grenade and blew himself up and as a result I was demoted for negligence and now have to work in this office.

JOJO
I am sorry you were demoted.

KLENZENDORF
Oh it's fine. I wasn't really enthusiastic about that training camp stuff. Little Nazis running around, maniacal singing and histrionics. Migraine hell.
(then)
Your mother came in the other day and explained your situation.

JOJO
What did she say?

KLENZENDORF
Only that it's just the two of you at home now, and that you wanted to help out here. Your father is a soldier, no?

JOJO

Yes, he is fighting with the 10th Army
in Italy. And he makes desserts.

KLENZENDORF

And you had a sister.

JOJO

Inga. She died of influenza.

KLENZENDORF

I'm sorry to hear that. Well, it would
seem you are the man of the house so
we'll have to keep you busy.

A beat - not sure what to do next, everyone stares at Jojo.

KLENZENDORF (CONT'D)

Ideas guys?

OFFICER 1

Umm, well, I guess you could hand out
some of this information.

He indicates a large pile of pamphlets in the corner.

OFFICER 2

And deliver these conscriptions.

JOJO

Conscripts. I don't suppose I could
have one of those could I? I'm
actually in peak physical condition.

KLENZENDORF

Maybe later, Jojo, you're still on the
mend. For now you can start small.
Conscripts and propaganda.

JOJO

Your wish is my command. I will
execute my orders with precision and
strength. Wait, what's the difference
between information and propaganda?

Beat.

FINKEL

Just deliver the stuff , kid.

JOJO

Ja wohl!

He turns on his heels and is OUT.

JOJO (CONT'D)
Herr Grusch, I have here a
conscription notice for your son.
Wait, is his name Klaus?

Herr Grusch sighs.

 HERR GRUSCH
Yes, it is, but he already joined.

 JOJO
Where is he?

The old man points upwards.

 JOJO (CONT'D)
Oh, I'm sorry. The Führer would be
proud.

 HERR GRUSCH
That's comforting.
 (Taking the letter)
Klaus is also my name.

 JOJO
But you're...

 HERR GRUSCH
They're recruiting us veterans of the
Great War now. There are no more young
people left. This whole thing is
becoming very flimsy. I don't know how
to operate a flame-thrower or anti-
tank gun. So stupid.

He throws his conscription down.

 JOJO
 (turning)
You are more able than I Herr Grusch.
Everyone must do their part and that
includes you. I hope I do not need to
tell the authorities of your
indolence.
 (beat)
Heil Hitler!

A long beat. Herr Grusch smiles warmly and nods.

 HERR GRUSCH
Bye Johannes.

Jojo turns on his heels and leaves.

INT. JOJO'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM

Jojo arrives home.

JOJO
Mama! I'm home.

He drops his satchel and heads for the kitchen.

JOJO (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Maaaama, Field Marshall Jojo is home.

He returns.

JOJO (CONT'D)
Mama Lion?

We hear a noise from upstairs. A small THUD. Jojo looks up.

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

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

BANG!

The door slams shut. Jojo stands. He turns to see the window is open, the drapes blowing. He breathes a small sigh of relief, sits on the bed. He examines an array of Inga's things on the dresser in front of him, RIBBONS, DRAWINGS, PINS and MINIATURES. He then inspects himself in the DRESSER MIRROR. He doesn't like his face. THEN, in the background of the reflection, he notices the opposite wall.

Jojo is at the wall now, it is bare. On the ground sits a picture in a frame. He picks it up and is about to re-hang it when HE SEES IT. The wall is scratched, there is a thin cut in the wallpaper that measures from his shoulder to the ground.

He traces the line of the cut and sees that it moves at right angles. It is a DOOR. The hook it would hang on is also used as a handle to pull the door open.

Jojo takes his trusty DJ KNIFE and pries the door out a little, at the same time holding the hook and pulling the door OPEN. The light from the opposite window doesn't illuminate everything but it does cast a wide beam into the darkness. As Jojo's eyes momentarily adjust he begins making out objects. At first it's only BOOKS.

JOJO

Mama, the bad books. It's not allowed.

Then he sees a candle, bedding, a plate, a fork, and then a PALE, LONG HAIREd CREATURE hunched in the corner, its face partially hidden beneath dishevelled long black hair, its dark eyes staring back at him.

Jojo jumps at the sight and backs away, tripping on the rug and stumbling to the opposite wall which he bumps into DROPPING HIS KNIFE on the ground.

He stays still, frozen in fear, watching. He can only see the darkness of the secret rooms interior now, that thing is around the corner, hidden from view. Footsteps. Slowly, with listless energy and no real purpose, a pale skinny little girl emerges from the darkness. This is ELSA KORR (15)

She stops at the doorway, and casually leans her thin arm, against the frame. She wears a simple knee-length dress, brown and dirty, and has bare feet.

ELSA

You come to kill me, little boy?

JOJO

I...

He can't say anything. A pause, and then she giggles. It is cute and disarming at the same time. There's something attractive and alluring about her.

Jojo can't speak. LEAVING HIS KNIFE he scuffles out the door, getting out as fast as he can, down the hall, down the stairs. He stops in the bottom hall and turns, listening.

ELSA (O.S.)

Joooooooo-jooooooooo...

STOMP. STOMP. STOMP. Footsteps on the stairs get louder. Eventually Elsa rounds the corner and sits on the top stair, they have distance between them.

JOJO

Who are you? What do you want? Are you a ghost?

ELSA

(smiling, spooking him)
Yesssssssssss... a ghost.

She splays her arms out like a ghost.

JOJO
Get out! Get out of my house!

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

 JOJO
Why do you live upstairs in the wall?!

 ELSA
Where else should a ghost live?

 JOJO
Not here!

He runs towards the front door but is too slow. Elsa jumps from her position and bounding like a cat she reaches him as he gets to the front door. She grabs him by the scruff of the neck and slams him into the wall, breathing heavily from the effort.

 ELSA
Don't make me run kid, I'm far too
hungry and y'know how much we have a
taste for your blood.

Jojo is petrified, breathing heavily too. She gets in close, reveals his DJ Knife. She holds it to his face.

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

 JOJO
No.

 ELSA
Yes... Say it.

 JOJO
 (he gulps, futile)
Jew.

 ELSA
 (her smile drops)
Wunderbar.

 JOJO
You can't be here.

ELSA

Well your mother invited me so I'm her guest.

JOJO

No. It's not allowed.

ELSA

What will you do sweet Hitlerchen?

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

ELSA (CONT'D)

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

(raising the knife to his neck)

I'll do the world a great big favour and CUT YOUR NAZI HEAD OFF. Got it?

She releases him and backs away still holding the knife.

ELSA (CONT'D)

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

She wanders back up the stairs leaving Jojo absolutely stunned.

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

Jojo sits on his bed, petrified.

ADOLF (O.S.)

Sheesh, that was intense.

Hitler is sitting next to him.

JOJO

Adolf, what am I gonna do??

ADOLF

Honestly, NO idea. You're definitely in a pickle. How the hell did she get control like that?

JOJO

She used her Jew powers I guess. Mind control.

ADOLF
Is that a real thing?

Jojo nods.

ADOLF (CONT'D)
I really should know about that.

Jojo nods again.

ADOLF (CONT'D)
Did you see how fast she moved? And
now she's got that fancy knife.

JOJO
I know, I know! My knife! Okay, we
have to think.

Adolf lights a smoke, offers one to Jojo. He waves it away.
Hitler looks worried as he takes a drag.

ADOLF
I've got it. Burn down the house.

JOJO
You think?

ADOLF
It's the only way.

JOJO
I might get in trouble.

ADOLF
Good point.
(snaps his fingers)
Got it. Burn the house down, blame it
on Winston Churchill.

JOJO
No, I can't do that. This is MY family
home. I think I have to negotiate.

ADOLF
Even better! That's the spirit.
Negotiate. Ooh, ooh, and remember,
don't mention the war.

INT. JOJO'S HOUSE - UPSTAIRS HALL - DAY

From Inga's room we see an empty hallway. We hear clattering and
the slow clunking sound of footsteps getting closer.

Jojo comes into view wearing various household objects as ARMOUR; A CHEESE-GRATER protects his forearm and a CAST-IRON POT sits on his head. In one hand he now holds a KITCHEN KNIFE. He is tip-toeing yet his get-up is making a huge racket.

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

Jojo stands in his sister's empty room. He speaks to the wall Elsa lives behind.

JOJO

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

(beat)

Yoohoo, Jew?

Silence.

JOJO (CONT'D)

Ok well, I'll just say what I have to say.

(beat)

I don't think it's very convenient for you to be in my house and I'm not happy that my mother let you stay here. I'm sure she has her reasons but it really can't go on.

(beat)

Now, I'm aware you have my knife. I can't say I'm comfortable with that because it's a Nazi knife and you're obviously... Anyway, I just want you to know I'm not scared of you and I think you should find somewhere else to live. You have until tomorrow to leave, then everyone will be happy.

(beat)

Ok?

From behind, in his ear...

ELSA (O.S.)

Not okay.

Jojo spins to see Elsa standing directly behind him, holding his knife, a wry smile on her face. Jojo SQUEALS and stumbles back in fright, collapsing to the floor, his armour crashing around him. He drops the KITCHEN KNIFE as he scurries out of the room.

JOJO

Arrgh!!!

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

Back in his bedroom, the door firmly shut.

ADOLF
Great, now she's got TWO knives!

JOJO
I know!

ADOLF
How are you going to chop up stuff?!

JOJO
I don't know!

ADOLF
And she's still up there!

JOJO
You're the expert, you think of something!

Hitler lights another cigarette, offers it to Jojo.

JOJO (CONT'D)
I don't smoke! Stop offering me fucking cigarettes! I'm TEN!

ADOLF
Sorry, sorry, this is stressful.

They start pacing, thinking, pacing, thinking... Hitler produces a CAN OF GASOLINE and some MATCHES. Jojo waves it away. They pace and think some more... As Jojo paces back he turns to see Hitler has made a giant MOUSETRAP CONTRAPTION. He gestures "What about this?" Jojo shrugs, "Maybe"... and paces some more.

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

JOJO
How?

ADOLF
Well, when someone tries to use mind-powers on me, you know what I do?
(MORE)

ADOLF (CONT'D)

(beat)

Use mind powers back on them.

Jojo perks up.

ADOLF (CONT'D)

Remember last year when that pirate, Von Stauffenberg tried to blow me up with a bomb?

JOJO

Yeah, but you survived.

ADOLF

Correct-a-mundo. But the only reason I survived, apart from having bomb-proof legs, is because I outwitted old Von Stauffy. I let him think I was dead when in actual fact I was fine. By pretending I was dead I drew out all the traitors. So, what are you going to do?

JOJO

Pretend I'm dead?

ADOLF

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

JOJO

Is that "Reverse Psychology"?

ADOLF

Umm, I don't think so. Let's not complicate things. Stick with my idea - use mind-powers back on her - and you'll be fine.

(checks his watch)

I gotta go. Good luck and remember the old saying: a Jew living in your wall is better than a two Jews flying around eating innocent Nazis.

He climbs out the window.

ADOLF (CONT'D)

And don't give her any more KNIVES!

He winks and is gone. Out on Jojo's worried face.

INT. JOJO'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Jojo sits in the living room, a look of utter fear and confusion covers his face. The house is silent save for the ticking of a clock.

INT. JOJO'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - EVENING

Jojo stands in the kitchen holding a piece of bread in his hand, still staring into space. A tap drips to the same rhythm of the clock.

EXT. JOJO'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - EVENING

Jojo waits on the steps of his house. The sound of dripping is replaced by a man walking down the street in hard shoes. Across the road a neighbour peers through their curtain.

INT. JOJO'S HOUSE - FRAU BETZLER'S ROOM - EVENING

Jojo sits in his mother's room on the bed. The house is silent save for the ticking of Jojo's watch.

We hear a car pull up, the door close, footsteps. Frau Betzler enters the house. Jojo runs to meet her...

INT. JOJO'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - CONTINUOUS

He meets his mother at the front door.

JOJO

Mama!

FRAU BETZLER

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

JOJO

It's 10 o'clock. Where have you been?!

FRAU BETZLER

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

JOJO

Mama you should be careful. They frown upon those who display sneaky behaviour.

FRAU BETZLER

Sneaky?! You goose. I promise things will be back to normal soon. Trust me. How was the Hitlerjugend? Did you get some helpful work done today?

JOJO

Yes. Mama, I need to have a grown-up conversation with you.
(under his breath)
And what did you achieve?

No answer, Frau Betzler notices one of Jojo's laces are untied again.

FRAU BETZLER

(crouching to tie them)
Oh, your laces, you really must--

JOJO

I heard the her.

FRAU BETZLER

(jumping)
What?

Jojo keeps watching, trying to work her out.

JOJO

(staring at his mother)
Inga. Her ghost is here.

FRAU BETZLER

(laughing)
Oh for Heaven's sake what are you talking about?

JOJO

Noises.

FRAU BETZLER

Oh come on. You mean the RATS?! We have rats in the attic and yes, I've heard them too. Honestly, ghosts?! Actually, I've been meaning to say; you probably shouldn't go up there till I've caught them all, they have diseases and I don't need you getting sick. Okay?
(beat)
Okay?

Jojo nods.

JOJO

Okay mama.

FRAU BETZLER

Now, I left my gloves in a dream,
could you be a darling and go get them
for me?

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

Frau Betzler tucks Jojo into bed.

JOJO

Mama, do you miss papa?

FRAU BETZLER

Like the sun misses the moon.

JOJO

And you miss Inga.

FRAU BETZLER

Like the moon misses the sun.

JOJO

Are you going to bed now?

FRAU BETZLER

Of course. I need to tidy up some
things before bed.

JOJO

What things?

FRAU BETZLER

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

A beautiful smile appears across her face, she WINKS. Jojo can't
help a tiny smirk, he tries a return wink but can't.

FRAU BETZLER (CONT'D)

Like this.

She demonstrates and winks again, Jojo attempts a return wink
but isn't getting it.

FRAU BETZLER (CONT'D)

Yeah, but with just one eye. You can
do it.

They continue this hopeful exchange a few more times. She eventually places a finger over one of his eyes. He blinks his other eye.

FRAU BETZLER (CONT'D)

There you go! You got it! Now go get my gloves, will ya? I left them by a rainbow.

She kisses him good-night and turns out the light.

INT. JOJO'S HOUSE - BEDROOM/KITCHEN - NIGHT

Jojo lies in bed, wide awake. We hear a door creak open and footsteps heading down the hall.

Leaving the safety of his room, Jojo creeps along the hall and sees candle-light coming from the kitchen. He peers round the corner and sees a glimpse of his mother's nightgown as she prepares something on a plate and disappears around the corner, tiptoeing upstairs. Jojo follows...

INT. JOJO'S HOUSE - UPSTAIRS HALL - NIGHT

Jojo reaches the top of the stairs in time to see his mother entering his sister's room. He stealthily makes his way to the doorway and sees his mother knock twice, lightly on a wall, before removing a panel in the wall, pulling it out towards her. She whispers something into the darkness of the SECRET ROOM. She holds out the plate of food and a glass of water. Jojo's eyes widen and he trembles with fear as Elsa's bony white arm extends from the darkness, her spidery hand opening up and taking the food. His mother whispers something else and then strokes the arm, almost like a pet. Jojo steps back into the hall, backing further away from what he has just seen.

JOJO

(whispering)

Mama what are you doing?? It's not allowed...

INT. REHABILITATION CENTRE - DAY

Jojo swims in a pool with various other wounded men. Jojo is helped by an older woman, HELGA. She stretches his arms.

HELGA

Yes, stretch, you must stretch. Now squeeze my hand. Squeeze!

A man swims past. He has no arms. Another man has no limbs, another no face at all.

Hitler swims by wearing a bathing cap, He is looking around at all the disabled people. He turns back to Jojo, an expression on his face that says: "How gross are these freaks??" Jojo is carried away by Helga to the other side of the pool.

INT. REICHSJUGENDAMT - DAY

Jojo collects the small pile of CONSCRIPTIONS for the day and approaches Herr Klenzendorf's office. He enters and we find Klenzendorf drawing pictures of FANTASY GUNS. Finkel sits at a smaller table playing with PINK TRIANGLE PATCHES. He holds them together like a sash and holds them across his chest, smiling at his pink fashion creation.

JOJO

Excuse me, Herr Klenzendorf.

Finkel drops the pink patches.

KLENZENDORF

(showing his drawing)

Ahh, Jojo. What do you think of this?
It's a type of Gatling Gun. It is also mounted with a radio which emits annoying music to deflect the enemy. I was thinking Pachelbel would be good.

JOJO

Do you do any actual real work?

KLENZENDORF

Nope. However, now and then I help out the Grey Goons.

JOJO

Who?

KLENZENDORF

Gestapo. They are low on numbers so sometimes they make me help them with their investigations.

JOJO

Ah, that must be exciting, solving crimes and finding people.

KLENZENDORF

Honestly, they couldn't find arse in a shit factory, but if you're looking for someone they're your best bet.

(MORE)

KLENZENDORF (CONT'D)

It's actually quite boring but at least I get out of this office and away from the children. My true place is at the front. I'm a soldier, not a baby-sitter.

Jojo sits, time for business.

JOJO

Can I ask you about Jews?

KLENZENDORF

Oh God, why?

JOJO

I'm curious. What happens if I see one?

KLENZENDORF

Hide the end of your penis!

He collapses into laughter. Finkel joins in, wobbling on his seat like a giggling jello. Klenzendorf encourages him by miming a CIRCUMCISION.

KLENZENDORF (CONT'D)

Ha haha, oh boy, I needed that.

FINKEL

Oh yes, me too Captain K. I really needed to laugh.

KLENZENDORF

Ok, so in reality if you see a Jew you tell us and then we tell the Gestapo and they tell the SS and then they go and kill the Jew. And anyone who helped the Jew. And, because these are very paranoid times, probably some other people just in case. It's very convoluted.

Jojo gulps.

JOJO

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

KLENZENDORF

Err, yep. Though I'd be amazed if that could happen. Did you see one?

JOJO

Nope. I wouldn't be able to tell even if I did.

KLENZENDORF

Me neither. Without their funny hats it's damn near impossible. Someone should write a book on the subject.

This sparks an idea.

JOJO

I have to go deliver these conscriptions.

KLENZENDORF

Yes, good man. And watch your willy out there.

He mimes a pair of scissors 'SNIP SNIP' and collapses into a fit of laughter again, joined by the over-exuberant Finkel.

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

Jojo stands in his sister's room, while Elsa sits in the doorway to her hideout. She still has the knife and digs it into the floor.

JOJO

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

ELSA

A stalemate.

JOJO

Indeed. So, we must make a compromise. I have thought deeply about this and I now conclude that it's better to have you locked up in the house rather than letting you run around town causing Jewish havoc.

ELSA

I see.

JOJO

However, I have some conditions for allowing you to stay here in my house.

ELSA

Conditions?

JOJO

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

ELSA

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

JOJO

Please take this seriously. I want to know all your secrets, how you shape-shift, what you eat, how to tell a Jew from a real person and, where you build your hives. Think of it as an exposé.

ELSA

An exposé.

JOJO

On Jews, yes. I will deliver my findings to the authorities and hopefully get a medal or promotion of some sort.

ELSA

Wow.

JOJO

What? I think that's quite reasonable.

ELSA

You're a little bit of an idiot aren't you? Why do you want this?

JOJO

Because I'm interested, that's all.

ELSA

There are already Jew hunters.

Elsa stands and enters Inga's room. Jojo keeps his distance.

JOJO

Well they're not doing their best are they? You've been here at least a month.

ELSA
Three to be exact.

JOJO
Three?!

ELSA
You were asleep for two of them.

Elsa sits on Inga's bed.

JOJO
Kindly refrain from sitting on my
sister's bed.

ELSA
Why? She doesn't need it.

JOJO
You know nothing of my sister.

ELSA
You don't remember me do you?
(beat)
Inga and I were friends. I took violin
lessons with her when we were 10. We
practiced in this very room, sat on
this very bed. I was sad to hear of
her passing.

JOJO
You are not to talk of her.

ELSA
I remember you too. Such a funny
little boy, always trying to get in
here and play. Who knew you'd grow
into such a little... Nazi.

JOJO
Enough with the small talk. Start
telling me about your kind. I'm
interested especially in how you can
turn into animals and what your real
skin looks like.
(beat)
And the horns please.

Elsa stands. She walks to the window, peeks out.

ELSA
The neighbours are suspicious. They
always watch the house.

JOJO

Then get away from the window.

ELSA

The world is paranoid isn't it?
Everyone watching each other,
informing on each other.

JOJO

You're really not telling me anything
useful. Now, there are some things I
already know, like the fact that you -
Jews - love ugliness. You don't like
pretty things like... flowers or
butterflies.

ELSA

Where did you hear that?

JOJO

School.

ELSA

You like butterflies?

JOJO

They're okay. I'm more into guns. What
do you like?

Elsa laughs and moves away from the window.

ELSA

Ok. We are demons who love money,
that's clear right?

JOJO

Of course.

ELSA

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

JOJO

What?

ELSA

Cheese, bread and sausages. Those
things will kill us instantly. So...
if you're thinking of ending my life,
feeding me those things is the
quickest way. And Cake. Lethal.

Jojo is puzzled. Finally gets it.

JOJO
Very funny.

ELSA
I'm going back in my cave, the
sunlight weakens me.

Jojo writes that information down. She goes into her hideout and closes the door behind her. Jojo sits there, not sure what else to say.

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

ELSA (O.S.)
(From the wall)
Piss off.

Jojo packs his book away and leaves.

INT. JOJO'S HOUSE - EVENING

Jojo waits patiently in the living room.

ADOLF (O.S.)
She's pretty rude, y'know.

Jojo turns to see Adolf, standing in the doorway dressed as a Native American, complete with leather tunic and feather head-dress. He also smokes a long peace-pipe which he offers to Jojo.

ADOLF (CONT'D)
That's just my 2 pfennige.

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

ADOLF
Do you want to play Cowboys and
Indians? It might help take your mind
off the whole secret Jewish girl in
the attic thing.

Suddenly we hear the front door open and Frau Betzler bursting in, flustered. She closes the door loudly and in a loud voice:

FRAU BETZLER (O.S.)
 Hallo house! I'm home!

Hitler scurries around the room in a panic looking for somewhere to hide and finding nothing, hugs the wall. He closes his eyes tightly and holds his breath.

JOJO
 (whispering)
 She can't see you.

ADOLF
 (whispering)
 I know. Especially not now that I'm
 blending in to my surroundings.

We pull back to reveal Hitler, still dressed as an American Indian, frozen in a pose that doesn't blend in to his surroundings.

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

He closes his eyes tightly. Frau Betzler enters.

FRAU BETZLER
 Hello my darling!

She quickly scoots to the window and looks out to the street, muttering to herself.

JOJO
 Where have you been? It's 6 o'clock
 and I've had a hell of a day.

FRAU BETZLER
 Sorry, my love. I was at the library.

JOJO
 We can't eat books!

FRAU BETZLER
 How do you know? Have you even tried?
 Don't limit yourself, kid.
 (laughing)
 Come now Jojo. I'm still a mama Lion
 you know. And mama Lions are the best
 hunters in the pride...

She reveals a 1/2 LOAF OF BREAD, some CHEESE and a small bag of VEGETABLES.

JOJO
Where did you get that?

 FRAU BETZLER
Who's asking?

 JOJO
Me. Where is it from?

 FRAU BETZLER
God, What are you, the Food Gestapo?
Sheesh kid, give a girl a break. These
are tough times and I got us food; end
of discussion!

 JOJO
Who was out the window?

 FRAU BETZLER
Himmler. He's cleaning the yard and
I'm making sure he doesn't slack on
the job.

She laughs hysterically and moves off to the kitchen. Hitler exhales and opens his eyes.

 ADOLF
Phew.

Jojo goes to the window. Outside, a car drives slowly past the house. It resumes a normal speed and disappears into the night.

 ADOLF (CONT'D)
Well, I guess Cowboys and Indians is
off the cards. I may as well go home
and have dinner too.
(then)
She lied by the way; your mother.
Himmler's not out there.

Adolf leaves.

INT. JOJO'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Jojo sits at the table while Frau Betzler places a large pot in the middle of the table next to a loaf of bread. She ladles hot stew into the plates and sighs contentedly.

 JOJO
Why so cheerful?

 FRAU BETZLER
Oh, I heard some good news that's all.

JOJO

What news?

FRAU BETZLER

Things are changing. The Allies have nearly taken Italy. The war will soon be over.

JOJO

God Dammit.

FRAU BETZLER

Jojo, language.

JOJO

The war will soon end but it will be the Reich who stands tall and proud. We will crush the Roast Beef Englishmen like I am crushing this piece of bread.

He tries to squeeze the bread but is too weak.

JOJO (CONT'D)

My strength hasn't returned but you get my point.

FRAU BETZLER

Ok! Can we just eat?!

(composes herself)

No more politics. The dinner table is neutral ground, it's Switzerland.

She breaks the bread for him.

FRAU BETZLER (CONT'D)

Would you like to say Grace?

JOJO

God in Heaven, please watch over our beloved Germany, the great Third Reich, and our father Adolf Hitler who is the bestest, most wonderf--

FRAU BETZLER

AMEN! Let's eat.

She begins eating, Jojo fumes.

INT. JOJO'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - LATER

They are finishing their meals. Frau Betzler is clearing the table.

JOJO
Is papa really coming home?

FRAU BETZLER
Of course.

JOJO
What if he doesn't?

FRAU BETZLER
What nonsense, of course he's coming home. And the whole family will be together again.

Frau Betzler scrapes leftovers onto a plate. Jojo watches this.

JOJO
Except her.

Beat. She stops scraping. Jojo looks at her.

FRAU BETZLER
Who?

JOJO
Inga.

FRAU BETZLER
No. But of course she will be with us... in our hearts.

JOJO
I miss her.

She smiles sadly and finishes clearing.

JOJO (CONT'D)
Maybe we should get rid of her stuff and use the room for something else.

FRAU BETZLER
Hm. Yes, maybe when papa comes home he can use it for a study.

JOJO
Perhaps.

FRAU BETZLER
Are you done? May I take your plate?

JOJO
No. I'm going to eat everything like a good little boy. I'll even eat *your* leftovers if you don't mind.

He smiles and eats everything on his plate.

SFX: BOMBING RAID SIRENS...

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

Jojo sits in a chair opposite Elsa as BOMBS are dropped on the city in the distance. They speak in hushed tones.

JOJO

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

ELSA

You really are an idiot.

Elsa takes his pen and paper and starts drawing.

JOJO

Tell me about your family.

ELSA

My father is a 3-headed space-dog and my mother is a piglet who wears clothes to blend in.

Jojo gives an exasperated look.

ELSA (CONT'D)

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

JOJO

I need background.

ELSA

Ask them yourself.

JOJO

Where are they?

ELSA

(shrugging, pointing)
In the other wall. I think I heard them chewing on diamonds.

JOJO

I don't have time for this.

ELSA

I do. I have all the time in the world.

JOJO

I wouldn't be sure of that.

ELSA

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

JOJO

Of course. Many

ELSA

Who?

JOJO

Yorki.

ELSA

"Yorki". And...

JOJO

Others.

ELSA

Pff. You don't have any friends.

JOJO

You don't. You don't have anyone.

ELSA

I have Nathan.

JOJO

Who the hell is that?

ELSA

My fiancée. I have him.

JOJO

A Jew too I suppose.

ELSA

Yes, and a very strong one.

JOJO

Where is he?

ELSA

Everywhere he is needed. He's fighting in the resistance. He's eighteen.

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

JOJO

Eurgh, how ugly. You deserve each other.

ELSA

Yes, we do.

She stares longingly at the photo. Jojo notices, he shifts uncomfortably.

ELSA (CONT'D)

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

JOJO

Snore. Who's Rilke?

ELSA

A great Poet, Austrian, Nathan's favourite.

JOJO

(childish)

Ooooooh, Naaaathan's favourite. I think you mean German by the way.

ELSA

Austrian. Anyway, shut up. Nathan's coming, he'll rescue me and then we'll go live in Paris.

JOJO

Errr, News-Flash; we occupy Paris.

ELSA

Not for long. Your mother said it's about to fall.

JOJO

Oh God, what would she know??

ELSA

More than you think. You hear those bombs? They are landing on your precious Reich. It's said that Germany will fall within a year. Then I will be free.

(MORE)

ELSA (CONT'D)

I will leave this place and this town,
find Nathan, start a new life, and
never look back.

JOJO

You would turn your back on Germany
forever.

ELSA

She turned on me first.

JOJO

Yeah well we don't need you. You and
your stupid boyfriend can shut up and
go live in dumb-French-land. Good
luck.

ELSA

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

JOJO

Pah! Don't need one. I'm too busy for
girls.

ELSA

One day you'll make time.

He rolls his eyes.

ELSA (CONT'D)

You'll think of nothing else. You'll
meet a girl and spend your days
dreaming of the moment you can hold
her in your arms again. And she'll
think the same of you. This is called
love.

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

JOJO

Okayyyyy.
(smiling, venomous)
Sorry there wasn't enough food
tonight.

ELSA

Your mother managed to find some
bread. She is kind. She thought you
suspected something but I told her you
weren't smart enough.

JOJO

I'm glad you're so friendly with her.

ELSA

She's nice to me. She treats me like a person.

JOJO

But you're not. Not a proper person.

She looks him up and down.

ELSA

Are *you*?

JOJO

How dare you, Jew. You are weak like... a weak eyelash. I am born of Aryan ancestry, the strongest race on Earth. My blood is the colour of a pure red rose and my eyes are blue like a sapphi--

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

JOJO (CONT'D)

Ow ow ow ow ow ow...

She covers his mouth, suffocating him.

JOJO (CONT'D)

(muffled, quiet)

Mmmph!

ELSA

Break free.

JOJO

Mmrrmmph.

ELSA

Break free, great Aryan.

(leaning in close)

There are no weak Jews. I am descended from those who wrestle angels and kill giants. We were chosen by God. You were chosen by a fat man with greasy hair and half a moustache.

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

ELSA (CONT'D)

The stronger race, huh?

She tears off the paper and puts it down next to him. Jojo looks at the picture. It is a drawing of him, it's pretty good... underneath she has written the word **IDIOT**.

JOJO

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

She slinks back into her hideout --

ELSA

That's where we live.

-- and closes the wall behind her. Jojo stares at his drawing, the distant bombing continues.

INT. GESTAPO OFFICE - DAY

Jojo enters the local GESTAPO OFFICE, a long line of people wait to file reports and denounce other citizens. Jojo approaches a SECRETARY who, upon seeing his face, cringes.

SECRETARY

(then, disinterested)

Are you denouncing a neighbour, political traitor, or informing on friends and family?

She places some forms in front of Jojo.

JOJO

I am looking for someone. I haven't seen them in a while. I was wondering if you had any files on them.

SECRETARY

I'm obviously busy.

She's obviously not.

SECRETARY (CONT'D)

Why don't you go have a look back there in the file room.

(calling)

Erwin!

She indicates an area filled with a HUGE MESS of files and folders - paper piled high - complete disarray.

SECRETARY (CONT'D)

As you can see we're understaffed and inundated with files and reports.

(MORE)

SECRETARY (CONT'D)

These days being an informant has become a national pastime.

A large, pimply guy (20's) named Erwin arrives.

SECRETARY (CONT'D)

Erwin, take him to the file-room.

(off Erwin's silence)

Now!

Erwin grumbles something and beckons Jojo to follow him to the file-room. An old local woman now approaches the desk.

SECRETARY (CONT'D)

Hello. Denouncing a neighbour, political traitor, or informing on friends and family?

OLD LADY

Family.

INT. GESTAPO OFFICE - FILE ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Jojo searches through a chaotically messy filing system as Erwin scratches at something under his arm. Jojo flicks through folder after folder. CLOSE on the folders flicking back one after the other...

JOJO

Nathan Raame, Nathan Raaaaame, where are you, stupid Nathan, poetry reading dumbhead?

He sits back, NOTHING. Erwin scratches some more.

INT. TOWN - LIBRARY - DAY

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

HITLER

Great thinking, Rabbit. We'll use these to make a fake floor that she can fall through, straight into some piranhas.

(beat)

Or hot lava-- no, piranhas is good.

(cackling sinisterly)

(MORE)

HITLER (CONT'D)

She won't know what hit her when she starts getting chomped by those little fishies!

EXT. TOWN - LIBRARY - DAY

As he leaves the library Jojo hums softly to himself. Slowly it seems others are joining in his song. He looks around and the sound gets louder. From around a corner, lead by FRAULEIN RAHM, we see a group of "Jungvolk" marching and singing...

JUNGVOLK

*We are marching for Hitler through
Night and Need, with the flag of the
youth, for freedom and bread.*

(then)

We were born to die for Germany!

Jojo moves against the wall and watches them pass. It is glorious - he catches the eye of a couple of the kids. They smirk and look at him with contempt.

FRAULEIN RAHM

Come on everyone, one more time!

They keep singing as Jojo retreats into the shadows.

INT. JOJO'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

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

ADOLF

The humps are filled with water?!

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

Jojo and Hitler sit in darkness, listening. We hear footsteps down the hall and then a door closing softly. Hitler makes a military gesture to take action, Jojo moves out into the dark hallway.

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

Jojo knocks on Elsa's wall-door.

ELSA (O.S.)

I wonder who it could possibly be?

JOJO

It's Johannes Betzler. The little boy who lives downstairs.

ELSA (O.S.)

I knowwwwww...

JOJO

Oh. Well, I have something to tell you. I happened to be doing some important filing today and I came across an old letter from Nathan - your fiancée - addressed to you. It's quite lucky I found it.

ELSA (O.S.)

What the hell are you talking about?

JOJO

I have a letter from Nathan. Shall I read it to you?

Pause. Elsa opens the door a little. We see a piece of her face in the thin beam of light. Jojo unfolds a piece of paper - we can see that the writing is not that of a 17 year-old but that of a 10 year-old.

ELSA

Dear Elsa, this is hard for me to say but I don't want to marry you anymore. I found another woman and we laugh and have good talks. I'm sure there's better people for you anyway. It's like my favourite poet Rilke says: *"We need, in love, to practice only this: letting each other go."* So goodbye and sorry about dumping you. From Nathan your ex-fiancée. PS. I am not really in the resistance I was lying. I am unemployed.

Elsa retreats into her room and we hear her begin to cry.

JOJO

Oh. Why are you doing that?

ELSA

Please leave.

Jojo shuffles out of the room as Elsa continues to cry.

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

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

JOJO

Hi.

He knocks lightly again.

JOJO (CONT'D)

Are you still alive?

ELSA (O.S.)

Barely.

JOJO

Oh, well that's good. Um, don't open the door because it's risky today. So I actually forgot there was a second letter. I forgot I had it. I'll just read it.

(reading)

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

(beat)

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

(then)

No X's or O's I'm afraid but it still seems pretty positive.

A beat. Elsa's door opens to reveal her sitting, staring at Jojo, a peaceful look on her face. This Jojo kid's a character. He gives a tiny smile.

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

CLOSE UP on Jojo, mid-discussion with Elsa.

JOJO

Beethoven.

ELSA

Einstein.

JOJO
Bach.

 ELSA
Gerschwin.

 JOJO
Brahms.
Mozart.
Wagner.

 ELSA
All musicians, is that all you have?!

 JOJO
 (laughs)
Freud then.

 ELSA
Ha! You dare take Freud?!
 (waving a finger)
No, no, no, never. He's ours.

 JOJO
 (laughing)
He's German!

 ELSA
 (laughs)
No Freud for you! Or Proust.

 JOJO
Rilke.

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

 JOJO
Well no one takes Goethe.

 ELSA
Keep him, we have Kafka.

 JOJO
Durer.

 ELSA
Pah... Chagall shits on Durer. A big
Russian shit on your boring Durer.

They laugh some more.

JOJO
Marlene Dietrich, then.

 ELSA
 (smiling, clicking her
 fingers)
Houdini.

 JOJO
Nooooo... impossible.

 ELSA
Believe it brother. Just ask Pissaro,
Modigliani, Max Jacob, Man Ray,
Henschel, Nimzowitsch, Gertrude Stein,
Mr. Moses and Jesus Christi, Amen.

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

He stands and leaves the room. We stay with Elsa, after a
while...

 ELSA
Night.

EXT. FOOD RATION STORE - DAY

Frau Betzler stands in line to receive her food allowance. She
hands three RATION CARDS to the STOREMAN.

 STOREMAN
Three? I remember you only used two in
the past.

 FRAU BETZLER
Ah, yes, but I have developed a more
efficient system. I now use 3 ration
cards, taking enough for 2 to eat, but
then we take twice as long to eat it,
you see? 3 for 2, which makes 6. But
here's where it gets interesting; you
take the original number times it by
3, carry the 7, subtract 2, then add 2
again (because secretly you need the
2), then divide the whole thing by the
potatoes.
 (smiling)
Simple, no?

The Storeman looks puzzled and a couple of other people in line watch the exchange suspiciously. Jojo helps his mother with the shopping and they leave.

FRAU BETZLER (CONT'D)

Excuse me, look out, German coming through.

EXT. TOWN - RIVER - EVENING

Jojo and his mother sit with some locals on the banks of the river as a small, pathetic parade of RETURNED SOLDIERS go by. Frau Betzler looks to the sky.

FRAU BETZLER

Once there were fireworks. To celebrate them coming home. Now the sky is empty.

Jojo sees GUDRUN, the girl from Hitlerjugend camp. They make eye contact, he smiles but her face turns away in disgust.

FRAU BETZLER (CONT'D)

At least it's still romantic down here at the Fluss. There used to be lovers walking these banks, dancing. But now...

JOJO

Mama, there is no time for romance, we are at war.

FRAU BETZLER

There is always time for romance Jojo. One day you will meet someone special.

JOJO

Why does everyone keep telling me that?

FRAU BETZLER

Who else tells you?

JOJO

Everyone. Anyway, it's a stupid idea.

FRAU BETZLER

Love isn't stupid, cub. It's the strongest thing in the world.

JOJO

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

(beat)

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

FRAU BETZLER

Love?

JOJO

Yes, that. I suppose it smells like flowers or soap.

FRAU BETZLER

(looking down)

Oh surprise, surprise, your shoelaces undone. Again.

(putting on a voice)

"I'm Jojo and I don't know how to tie my shoelaces even though I'm 10".

(she ties his laces)

No Jojo. Love has no smell. It has no shape and it has no sound.

JOJO

Well then how would anyone know? It can't exist.

FRAU BETZLER

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

JOJO

Like a pain in my arse I bet.

FRAU BETZLER

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

JOJO

Butterflies huh? Yuck.

FRAU BETZLER

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

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

JOJO

Wha??

FRAU BETZLER

Haha! Come on kid, get your act together, don't you know how to walk properly?

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

JOJO

Mama, stop it!

FRAU BETZLER

What's wrong Jojo? Get it together, man. I'm worried about you, are you drunk?

(to a passer-by)

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

JOJO

(laughing)

Don't believe her!

FRAU BETZLER

(another silly voice)

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

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

EXT. TOWN - STREET - LATER

His shoelaces now properly tied, Jojo and his mother continue walking. Frau Betzler notices other children staring, laughing and pointing at Jojo behind his back. She turns and gives them a ghostly 'BOO!' They scatter in fright. Jojo smiles but is embarrassed.

FRAU BETZLER

Hey Jojo?

JOJO

Yes, Rosie?

FRAU BETZLER

Promise me one thing will you? When this is all over and the world is normal again, try to be a normal kid again?

JOJO

I don't know what you're talking about.

FRAU BETZLER

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

JOJO

But I must love war. Our father says when we win, it is us young boys who will rule the world.

FRAU BETZLER

The Reich is dying. There will be nothing to rule. Your beloved angry man is losing. And you already have a father.

JOJO

And where is he? Winning the war?

FRAU BETZLER

He is more of a man than any of your heroes... Oh Gott...

She stops suddenly. PAINTED in WHITE across their front door we see:

O 5

Jojo is puzzled. Frau Betzler gasps. Some neighbours are watching from their windows.

JOJO

Huh? That's not our address.

FRAU BETZLER

(to the neighbours)

Fascinating isn't it?! Oh so interesting!

The neighbours close the curtains as she storms inside.

EXT. JOJO'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - LATER

Jojo and his mother scrub the door with brushes and water. The paint is slow to come off.

JOJO
What does it mean, mama?

 FRAU BETZLER
Oh, pff, nothing darling. Those damned
neighbourhood kids playing pranks!
It's probably some sort of funny joke!

 JOJO
0-5...?

 FRAU BETZLER
It's probably their age. Ha!

She laughs and continues to scrub.

 JOJO
It's probably their I.Q.

 FRAU BETZLER
Exactly! 05! So funny, I love it!

Jojo watches her scrub, as do the neighbours. She looks back and
WINKS at Jojo.

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

Jojo sits on Inga's bed, lost in thought. Elsa sits nearby. Jojo
sighs.

 ELSA
What's wrong?

 JOJO
I'm just distracted. There's a gang of
5 year-old vandals running around the
neighbourhood.

 ELSA
I heard people near the house earlier.

 JOJO
That's them. Degenerate toddlers
harassing innocent people. I'm worried
about my mother.

He takes a seat.

 JOJO (CONT'D)
No news from Nathan today I'm afraid.
He's probably doing something *amazing*
like blowing up trains or growing a
moustache.

She smiles at this.

ELSA

You want me to tell you about the
Jews?

Jojo looks at her. Really?

ELSA (CONT'D)

Get comfortable.

(she takes a breath)

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

JOJO

Wait.

Jojo takes a pen and starts writing furiously in his book.

ELSA

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

JOJO

(nodding, knowingly)

Stealing the ends of penises.

ELSA

(laughing)

No you idiot. A love of art and
poetry.

JOJO

No cutting penises off?

ELSA

You want the story or not?

JOJO

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

ELSA

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

JOJO

Which are... blobs or something?

ELSA

Well, I'll draw them for you.

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

ELSA (CONT'D)

It would be better with colour but all I have is this blunt pencil.

JOJO

Where's the horns?

ELSA

Um, they're under the hair.

JOJO

Where are yours?

ELSA

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

JOJO

(of course!)

Ahhh...

He writes that down too.

ELSA

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

JOJO

Everyone's minds? What about German minds?

ELSA

No, they are too thick for us to penetrate. We can only read Jewish thoughts.

JOJO

So you're weaker when you're separated from your hive...

ELSA

Exactly.

JOJO

Oh my God, this is so good. So what are your other weaknesses?

ELSA

Well, although we used to be able to fly unfortunately we can't anymore - otherwise I'd be long gone.

JOJO

Of course.

ELSA

Our wings got burnt off after that whole Jesus debacle. Punishment from God.

JOJO

Makes sense.

ELSA

Oh, and we are attracted to shiny things, like birds. That is why we came to the beautiful cities of Germany, all the glass and gold and crystals.

JOJO

(writing)

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

(beat)

Ugly things yes? You love them?

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

ELSA

No, not ugly things, exotic things.

JOJO

(ignoring her, writing)

Hmm yes, they love ugly things.

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

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

Jojo enters his room with a pep in his step..

VOICE (O.S.)

Ahem...

Jojo turns to see Adolf Hitler sitting in his bed.

JOJO

Wha-- Hey, that's *my* bed.

ADOLF

You two seem to be getting on well.

JOJO

Who?

ADOLF

You and old Jew face.

JOJO

No, I just...

ADOLF

(mocking)

I was jus-- I was jus--

JOJO

I was making sure she was still alive.

ADOLF

What do you care?

JOJO

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

ADOLF

(wiggling his toes)

I wouldn't care. I'm tough. Look, I want to believe you but part of me doesn't. Whatever that feeling is called. That and all the time you guys are spending together... I have to admit, it makes me uncomfortable.

JOJO

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

ADOLF

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

A moment as we take in Hitler in Jojo's bed. Weird.

JOJO

It's fine, look I'm just tired. I need to go to bed.

ADOLF

Sure, I was just keeping it warm for you.

He gets out of bed, dressed in full regalia, including those PUFFY-HIPPED PANTS that WW2 Generals wear.

ADOLF (CONT'D)

Hey do you think this uniform is slimming? I'm not sure about the hips on the pants. I've seen them on other people and honestly, they make the thighs look absolutely HUGE.

JOJO

You look great. As usual.

ADOLF

What about the moustache? I'm thinking about losing it. It seemed like a great idea at first but now I'm not sure. It's always there, like a little black worm. Whenever I look at my face I just see this stupid thing crawling on my lip.

JOJO

Well, it's kind of your trademark now.

ADOLF

(feeling his moustache)
You're right. I guess I'll keep it. Thanks, I can always count on you to make me feel better. You're like an honest and reliable son to me.

JOJO

And you're like a fashionable dad.

Throughout this very short monologue, Adolf Hitler builds in energy, resembling for the first time, the intense yet charismatic Hitler we know from the famous speeches.

ADOLF

Be careful Jojo, and remember this good advice from me. Once you see what's in her mind and where she's trying to get you to go - in your own head, you must go the other way. Don't let her put you in a brain prison! You must be strong, you must always be alert and ready for anything. She's dangerous and cunning like an unpredictable baby opossum. Before you know it, you've got that thing clinging to your face, and that, dear Jojo, is one thing that does not happen to a German! Do not let her boss your German brain around!

He has worked himself up into quite a frenzy. Jojo stares at him with love and admiration.

JOJO

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

ADOLF

Try not to. Bossing around people's brains is extremely rude and uncalled for. It looks like you've got a lot of good information so far. Now to share it with others, yes?

Jojo nods. Hitler goes to leave.

JOJO

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

ADOLF

Is that a trick question?

(he ponders, then)

Is there another word for ugly but not quite as offensive?

JOJO

I don't think so.

ADOLF

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

(then)

Sweet dreams, little Rabbit.

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

INT. REICHSJUGENDAMT - DAY

Jojo enters the office and is immediately greeted by Captain Klenzendorf who sits at a desk drawing.

KLENZENDORF
Heyyy, look who it is!

OFFICER 1
The Handgrenade kid!

KLENZENDORF
So, how can we help you today? Are you missing a pee-pee?

Finkel giggles, he loves Klenzendorf.

JOJO
I'm not missing my pee-pee.

KLENZENDORF
What? Oh, false alarm Finkel. All pee-pee's are accounted for. What's up?

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

KLENZENDORF
Have you found one?

JOJO
I'm on the lookout. I'm learning a lot about Jews actually.

KLENZENDORF
Really?

JOJO
Did you know they are attracted to shiny things and they sleep upside down from the ceiling, like bats?

KLENZENDORF
(nodding, enjoying this)
Ok, bats, yes.

JOJO

And another thing you might be interested to know is they can read each others' minds and their true language sounds like birds chirping.

KLENZENDORF

And where on earth did you come by this information?

JOJO

Research. I'm writing a book.

Jojo pulls out his book.

KLENZENDORF

What's it called?

JOJO

"Yoohoo Jew".

KLENZENDORF

(stifling laughter)

Pardon?

JOJO

"Yoohoo Jew". It's an expose on Jews.

KLENZENDORF

(giggling)

"Yoohoo Jew", oh my god, I love it!

You could also call it "Jew, Who?"

(new idea)

Ooh! Ooh! What about "Jews News"??

FINKEL

What about Jew... Spoo... Loo

He trails off, not able to make a good joke. Jojo opens his book and the giggling officers gather to inspect his fantastical drawings and writings, all carefully penned in the hand of a 10-year old. The adults try to contain their amusement.

KLENZENDORF

Oh my, look at that. This guy is riding a giraffe.

JOJO

One of their modes of transport.

(turning a page)

This is a drawing of their anatomy.

Look, this one here shows the inside of their heads.

KLENZENDORF

Yes, I can see, they're filled with sawdust! So informative! You're something else kid. Well, it's all very interesting stuff Jojo but I'm afraid right now I have slightly more important things on my plate. Namely the impending invasion of our wonderful Vienna. But boy, you do have an imagination on you, I love it!

JOJO

But it's real, not imagina--

KLENZENDORF

Oh, of course it is! When I was your age I had a "friend" called Kack who used wet my bed when I was asleep. He got me in so much trouble.

(beat)

He also shit my pants sometimes. Naughty Kack.

JOJO

(weakly)

I already have an imaginary friend. I know the difference.

KLENZENDORF

(not listening)

Hey, you might like to check out my drawings. I'm re-designing the SS-Uniforms. A re-vamp if you will.

He holds up a sketch of a man wearing a tasselled uniform, cape, and large PIRATE HAT.

KLENZENDORF (CONT'D)

It's based loosely on East Asian fashions but also has a distinct pirate skew. Sort of warrior meets musketeer. Note the feathers down the arms for aerodynamics. The sparkly collar is to dazzle the enemy and the pirate hat is purely decorative. Same with the high-heel boots.

(suddenly covering the picture with his hand)

This is all copyrighted by the way.

FINKEL

It's copyrighted which means you can't copy it.

Jojo gives up.

JOJO

Are there any conscriptions today?

KLENZENDORF

No, not right now. But I do have another job for you. I won't lie, it's a bit of a step-down from delivering conscriptions but you still get some good face time with the locals.

FINKEL

Jew. Shoe... Boo.. Hoo.

Finkel sinks his head.

EXT. TOWN - HOUSE - DAY

Jojo knocks at a house. An OLD WOMAN answers.

JOJO

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

OLD WOMAN

What?

JOJO

Do you have anything metal?

She stares at him a while.

OLD WOMAN

What?

Jojo wheels his barrow away.

EXT. TOWN - FLORIDSDORFER SPITZ - LATER

Jojo wheels his barrow through town collecting metal. In his barrow are various items; a piece of RUSTED STEEL, a LEAD PIPE, a few NUTS & BOLTS.

He notices that some of the Hitler Propaganda Posters he put up earlier are falling down. He tries to stick one back up but it immediately falls down again.

VOICE (O.S.)

Jojo?

He turns to see YORKI approaching.

JOJO

Yorki!

The two embrace. Jojo steps back to take in his old friend who dressed in a soldier's uniform. But it's still the same old Yorki, clumsy and a bit pudgy.

JOJO (CONT'D)

You're a soldier?

YORKI

At your service!

JOJO

But you're only 12.

YORKI

I know! They think we're just as good as the older lads so they're recruiting us early. And look at this uniform, it's state of the art!

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

JOJO

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

YORKI

Hmm, that's what I thought at first too. But it's "paper like". It's the latest material invented by our top scientists. It keeps you warm in snow and cool in the desert. It's also impervious to shrapnel, bullets and some bombs. And, because it will never degrade I can grow into it!

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

JOJO

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

YORKI

Exactly! And I'm only 12! So geil!

(beat)

What have you been doing?

Jojo shuffles on the spot.

JOJO

I... caught a Jew. A real one.

YORKI

Wow, good for you! I saw some that they caught hiding in the forest last month. Personally I didn't see what all the fuss was about. They weren't at all scary and seemed kind of normal. But don't tell anyone I said that.

He starts off in the opposite direction.

YORKI (CONT'D)

I have to go show this uniform to my mama. Take care Jojo, you're looking good!

JOJO

Yorki, can I ask a favour?

YORKI

Of course!

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

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

JOJO

I got you this, it's nothing, just stupid pencils. It doesn't mean anything. They're probably broken.

Elsa takes her gift, some sheets of paper rolled around a collection of pencils, some coloured, tied together with string.

ELSA

Thank you.

JOJO

I doubt they even work.

ELSA

Thank you.

JOJO

Yeah well, maybe you can draw something. Maybe more pictures for my book. Or not. I don't care.

Jojo turns away, quiet.

ELSA
Can I draw you again?

JOJO
Don't make fun please.

ELSA
I'm not.

JOJO
Find a real face.

ELSA
It is a real face.

JOJO
You're blind. It's a bad, ugly face.
No normal person would come near this.

ELSA
The outside is not what's important.

JOJO
It makes a pretty big difference
actually. The girl from Jungvolk,
Gudrun, she used to like me but now,
no way.

ELSA
What do you care what she thinks?

JOJO
Um, because she's only the prettiest
girl in the whole town.

ELSA
If she was that special she wouldn't
even see your face.

JOJO
Well that's not a problem seeing she
can't bare to look at me. Look, it's
fine, I'll just accept that I'll be
one of those guys who will never get
to kiss a girl.

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

ELSA
You will be kissed, Jojo.

JOJO

By someone's grandmother, sure.

ELSA

Do you want me to kiss you?

JOJO

Woah. Ok, 2 things. Thing number one: it's illegal for Nazis and Jews to hang out like we do, let alone kiss, so already it's out of the question. And thing number 2: it would just be a sympathy kiss which doesn't count.

ELSA

You're not a Nazi.

JOJO

What are you talking about? Of course I am.

ELSA

You're not a Nazi.

JOJO

I'm into Swastikas. In fact, I love 'em so I think that's a pretty good sign right there.

ELSA

You're not a Nazi, Jojo.

JOJO

Not to be rude but I don't think you know anything about Nazis.

ELSA

I don't think you do either. You're a 10 year old kid who 'likes' Swastikas and dressing up in a funny uniform. The rest... is something else. But you're not one of them. Not you.

JOJO

(rolling his eyes)

Okayyyy... Let's just agree to disagree alright?

(beat, to himself)

Not a Nazi, ha.

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

ELSA
What a dirty Jew.

Jojo gets an idea.

INT. JOJO'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - LATER

Elsa pours a large pot of hot water into a wash basin. She wrings a flannel into the bowl and unties her dress, letting it slip to the floor.

Outside the bathroom, Jojo sits against the wall, listening to the sound of Elsa bathing. He closes his eyes.

INT. JOJO'S HOUSE - FRAU BETZLER'S ROOM - LATER

Back in his mother's room Jojo sits on the bed as Elsa puts on make-up and does her hair.

As he watches Elsa, Jojo shivers a little. He looks down and puts his hand on his TUMMY, then looks back at Elsa, worried.

INT. JOJO'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Downstairs, Jojo leads Elsa into the living room. She looks around. They speak in low voices.

ELSA
'Living room'. Funny name.

JOJO
Stay away from the windows.

ELSA
Yes, Dad.

Jojo reveals a meal of green potatoes. They are barely cooked.

JOJO
It's all I could get.

She takes one and bites into it. It is crunchy. They laugh. Suddenly there is a LOUD KNOCKING at the door. The children freeze.

JOJO (CONT'D)
(whispering)
Mama's home. You better hide.

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

More KNOCKING.

JOJO
(calling out)
Lost your key, Mama?

Jojo reaches the door and opens it, revealing FOUR MEN in trench-coats accompanied by Captain Klenzendorf. The others are GESTAPO AGENTS led by an officious CAPTAIN DEERTZ.

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

JOJO
Heil Hitler.
(to Mueller)
Heil Hitler.

MUELLER
Heil Hitler.

JOJO
(to Junker)
Heil Hitler.

JUNKER
Heil Hitler.

JOJO
(to Frosch)
Heil Hitler.

FROSCH
Heil Hitler.

DEERTZ
Now, we--

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

They are interrupted by Captain Klenzendorf entering, late, carrying a bicycle, trailed by Finkel. The other agents look down on Klenzendorf.

DEERTZ

Ah, Klenzendorf. Heil Hitler.

KLENZENDORF

Heil Hitler.

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

JOJO

Heil Hitler...

KLENZENDORF

Yes Johannes, we've Heil Hitler'd you already.

(then)

So, did I miss anything?

DEERTZ

No, we were just Heil Hitlering each other and were about to ransack the house.

He nods to the other agents who start snooping around the house, inspecting drawers, cupboards, shelves. Deertz smiles and moves into the Living Room. Jojo and Klenzendorf follow. Deertz examines the plate of potatoes. Sees the nibbled one, then the TWO SETS OF CUTLERY.

DEERTZ (CONT'D)

So, young Jojo, We hear you have been helping out at the Hitlerjugend office.

JOJO

Yes.

DEERTZ

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

KLENZENDORF

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

Deertz moves to the book-case, looks at the literature. The other two officers make notes and start trudging up the stairs. Deertz leads Jojo and Klenzendorf down the hall. They stop at Jojo's room. Deertz peeks inside.

DEERTZ

Your room?

(entering)

Nice drawings! Wow, look at this.

He points at a drawing of David killing Goliath.

DEERTZ (CONT'D)

This kid is killing a giant. You see this Klenzendorf?

KLENZENDORF

Yes, these are well executed. Did you know I also draw? I have better perspective and shading too.

Ignoring him, Deertz wanders on.

DEERTZ

(to Jojo)

I see someone vandalised your house. The front door.

JOJO

Children.

DEERTZ

(smiling)

Children?! The brats! What is this world coming to? What did it say? It has almost been washed away.

JOJO

I don't know. A number.

DEERTZ

A number? You know what it means?

JOJO

No.

DEERTZ

Oh, that's a shame.

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

DEERTZ (CONT'D)

(smiling)

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

He puts an arm around Jojo and they head upstairs.

INT. JOJO'S HOUSE - UPSTAIRS HALL - CONTINUOUS

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

DEERTZ

Do you know where your mother is?

JOJO

No. I think she's in town.

Klenzendorf exhales heavily, clearly uncomfortable.

DEERTZ

Is she? Hm.

(then)

Well it's good to see you are still wearing your Jugend uniform.

(beat)

But... where is your DJ knife?

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

ELSA (O.S.)

It's here.

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

DEERTZ

And who might you be?

ELSA

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

DEERTZ

You live here too?

JOJO

This... is...

ELSA

(mocking Jojo)

Thisss... isssss...

(to Deertz)

Speak properly idiot. You'll have to excuse my heavily retarded brother, I'm Inga Betzler.

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

JOJO

Heil Hitler.

ELSA
Heil. Hitler.

DEERTZ
Heil Hitler.

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

DEERTZ (CONT'D)
I didn't know you had a sister,
Johannes.

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

DEERTZ
Now, now, no need to attack his
physicality. It's a war wound.

ELSA
I'll speak to him how I like. Besides,
it isn't a war wound, he was born like
that.

DEERTZ
And why do you have his knife?

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

DEERTZ
What do you have hidden in there?

ELSA
(smiling)
Oh you know, girl's stuff.

Deertz goes to enter Inga's room.

DEERTZ
May I?

ELSA
Naturally.

He wanders in, inspecting the room. He walks past Elsa's secret door where the painting that covers it hangs crooked. Klenzendorf enters and walks past Jojo, eyeing him.

DEERTZ

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

He opens the curtains and looks out the window. We hear a scraping sound and reveal that Klenzendorf is straightening the painting. He then stands in front of the wall opening, concealing it.

DEERTZ (CONT'D)

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

(beat, to Elsa)

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

Elsa freezes.

DEERTZ (CONT'D)

Hmm?

KLENZENDORF

Papers! Quick, we don't have all day.

He holds out his hand.

ELSA

Yes, of course.

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

POV of the papers shows Inga when she was sick, GAUNT and PALE; the two girls share a vague resemblance. The DATE OF BIRTH reads: **May 7, 1929.**

KLENZENDORF

How old are you in this photo?

ELSA

They're 3 years old, I was 12.

KLENZENDORF

Date of birth?

A tense moment as Elsa pauses. A pin dropping would be quite audible right now...

ELSA

May 1, 1929.

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

KLENZENDORF

Correct.

(beat)

Thank you Inga. Get a new photo.

Klenzendorf hands the papers back while the other agents arrive from Frau Betzler's room. They hand Deertz some envelopes and photos and papers.

DEERTZ

Good good. Well, we'll be borrowing some of these little things if you don't mind. Nice meeting you.

ELSA

Heil Hitler.

More Heil Hitlers. Jojo just stands there, watching.

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

The men are almost out the front door.

DEERTZ

As usual, call us if you notice anything suspicious.

The officers leave. Klenzendorf stares at Jojo then smiles.

KLENZENDORF

Listen Johannes, we are scaling down our operations at the Jugend office so there's not really any work for you right now. Your services are no longer required.

Jojo nods.

KLENZENDORF (CONT'D)

Take care Jojo. Stay home. Look after yourself.

He gives a concerned, yet endearing smile, then leaves.

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

Elsa sits huddled in the corner, clutching Inga's papers. Jojo approaches.

 JOJO
Elsa, you fooled them. Elsa?

 ELSA
May 7.

 JOJO
What?

 ELSA
She was born May 7, not the first.

Jojo takes the papers and reads.

 ELSA (CONT'D)
They'll be back. They'll find out
she's dead. Then I'll be dead. I have
to leave here. I have to get out.

 JOJO
No. He's helping us. Either way no one
will know. I've seen the Records Room,
it's a complete mess. They won't
bother.

 ELSA
They always bother.

 JOJO
They won't. Nobody really knows she
died. You can be her Elsa. It's okay,
I'll tell mama I know about you and
that we're friends...

Elsa retreats away from Jojo.

 ELSA
Jew and Nazi are not friends.

This hits Jojo, he steps back. Elsa buries her head into her hands and begin to cry. Jojo waits a moment and then moves downstairs.

INT. JOJO'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Adolf Hitler wears oven gloves and stirs a pot that is heating on the stove, with a ladle. He smells the broth.

ADOLF
Mmm, lecker soup.

JOJO
It's just hot water, you don't need to stir it.

ADOLF
Fine.

He puts the ladle down, crosses his arms.

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

JOJO
I don't want to talk about it.

ADOLF
Well I'm not a mind reader Jojo.
(beat)
Actually I am, it's one of my abilities. But I still can't work out what's going on here.

JOJO
Nothing. I just, I'm confused and tired.

ADOLF
(immature)
Ewwwwwww, tired. Widdle Jojo's tired, and a widdle bit confused. Ewww, poor Jojo, and he's a widdle bit hungwy and the only thing he can cook is this invisible soup. Ooh, can I get you some invisible soup Jojo?

He mime pours some soup into a bowl and mimes eating it.

ADOLF (CONT'D)
Ewww, I'm eating invisible soup because there's no more food. I'll eat anything, even ants. Ewww, and now I'm a robot anteater.
(in a robot voice)
(MORE)

ADOLF (CONT'D)

Ooh, where's all the ants? I only eat ants. Must eat ants.

He stops his performance, suddenly serious. He's made his point, whatever that is. Jojo stares at him, baffled.

ADOLF (CONT'D)

Okay? To clarify: Get your shit together and sort out your priorities. You're ten, Jojo. Start acting like it.

He walks out, dramatically knocking over a cup.

EXT. TOWN - FOOD STORE - MORNING

Jojo is at the FOOD STORE. He hands over ONE RATION CARD. In return they give him a tiny piece of bread and a small piece of butter. He puts them in his pocket and leaves.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - FLORIDSDORFER SPITZ - AFTERNOON

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

Jojo smiles at this, takes interest and follows the butterfly, limping behind as it flutters along the flower bed. He moves further away from his barrow and into the park proper, moving around a few trees. He crouches and admires the butterfly which has now come to a stop upon another flower. Not yet looking up Jojo notices the light on the ground is disturbed by shadows moving back and forth. He looks up and sees he is standing near the site of the PUBLIC HANGING. TEN or so bodies hang from the gallows.

A sign nailed to a nearby tree reveals these people have been executed for treason, crimes against the Reich and involvement with a Resistance movement. Painted in white across the bodies' chests we see:

0 5

The bodies sway in the wind in a kind of floating waltz. Jojo tilts his head back and forth in rhythm and shuffles along the row of bodies. Most are men, a couple of girls. Then as he nears the row he sees one body in a dirty dress, a woman drifting in the breeze, twisting on the rope until she turns towards us, fully revealing her face... his MOTHER, FRAU BETZLER.

Jojo steps back, falls to the ground, eyes wide open, staring back at her. He begins to cry, suddenly losing his brave exterior and becoming the 10 year old child he is.

Jojo gets to his feet, goes to his mother and tries to reach her hand. It is too high. He looks down her body and notices her shoelace is untied. He tries to re-tie it but fumbles. He gives up and rests his head against her leg.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - FLORIDSDORFER SPITZ - DUSK

As the sun sets Jojo remains in the park, sitting near his mother, quiet and still.

A pair of shiny shoes appear next to Jojo. He looks up to see Adolf Hitler staring back at him with sympathetic eyes.

Jojo hangs his head again. Adolf touches him on the shoulder and disappears into the night.

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

Elsa reads by candlelight. The panel opens and Jojo stands before her, a knife in his hand.

ELSA

Jojo?

He runs at her but it's more of a hobble, she stops him, they struggle against each other.

ELSA (CONT'D)

Jojo, stop!

She pushes him away, he trips and falls, losing the knife. He stands and runs at her again and again until he finally collapses to the ground. He lies on his back and stares upwards.

JOJO

Mama...

Elsa covers her mouth, begins to cry.

EXT. JOJO'S HOUSE - ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Jojo and Elsa stand on a ladder in the attic, their heads poking out through the ROOFTOP HATCH. Distant bombing continues.

JOJO

She was with others. They had a number on them.

ELSA

05.

Jojo looks at her, she knows?

ELSA (CONT'D)

The Resistance, Jojo. O-Five. The 'O' stands for Oesterreich, Austria. The 5 is the fifth letter of the alphabet, 'E'. Together it makes "OE", the way we used to spell Austria before the Nazi regime. "Oesterreich". She was part of this.

JOJO

Did you know this before?

ELSA

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

JOJO

What? No, he's fighting in the war.

ELSA

She didn't want to tell you anything for obvious reasons.

JOJO

(nodding, tearing up)
Because I'm a Nazi.

ELSA

No, because she didn't want you to know anything that would get you in trouble. She wanted to protect you, more than anything, more than me. You were the most important thing to her.

JOJO

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

ELSA

Jojo, I'm sorry. She died trying to save lives. That is the greatest honour any human can achieve.

JOJO

But now I have nothing. No one.

Elsa puts an arm around his shoulder. More bombs.

ELSA

The last time I saw my parents was at Westbahnhof. They were put on a train, my cousin made me run with him and hide behind the terminus. Later we were sleeping in the forest, others were there. They found us. They shot everyone, Franz too. I ran and slowly found my way back to the city. A friend of my fathers hid me. Then another friend, then friends of friends... till she took me in.

(then)

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

He leans his head on her shoulder. They sit like this in the moonlight.

JOJO

Please don't leave.

She smiles.

ELSA

Where would I go? As long as they're out there I will stay here.

The BOMBING gets louder...

MONTAGE - JOJO AND ELSA

- Jojo and Elsa hang blankets over the windows as the bombing continues.
- Jojo barter with a local PEASANT for some OLD VEGETABLES.
- Elsa draws pictures of her surroundings; the view, the objects in the room, Jojo.
- Jojo walks past a wall where he previously tacked pictures of Hitler and propaganda notices. Some of the Hitler pictures have been torn away leaving half of the Fuhrer's face.
- Jojo peruses Elsa's drawings. He finds one of a BUTTERFLY.
- Jojo pins the butterfly drawing to his wall, near a photo of Hitler.
- Jojo attempts to prepare food in his kitchen. Obviously he's a terrible cook.

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

- Jojo delivers a plate of pretty questionable food to Elsa. They eat together. Mid-meal, fixated on Elsa, Jojo looks down at his tummy again. SUPERIMPOSED over his stomach we see an image of hundreds of butterflies fluttering around in an empty cave.

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

Outside the window we hear birds chirping and see fresh leaves on the trees. It's SPRING. Jojo is reading a letter to Elsa. She is listening with a smile on her face.

JOJO

New works by Elsa Korr. Reviewed by Mr. Smith...son...stein...berg. They're Jewish; the gallery is in New York.

(clears his throat)

I had the pleasure of seeing some really great drawings by a young girl from Austria named Elsa Korr. She certainly has an eye for detail; her pictures of butterflies are incredible. And I loved the drawing of the man riding a giraffe. But what really stood out was the one of the interesting little boy. It made me wonder a lot about him and what he was thinking about because he looked like he was thinking about stuff. Overall it was a great collection and I see a bright future for this girl, wherever she is. I encourage her to keep going with the drawings.

(beat)

Four out of five stars.

ELSA

Wow, that's pretty positive.

JOJO

Yeah.

(then)

They want to do another exhibition in June so give me some more drawings and I'll send them off.

Playing along, Elsa hands him another pile of her drawings.

YORKI

Are you kidding? Terribly! Our only friends are the Japanese and just between you and me, they don't look very Aryan. The whole country's run out of money. I mean look at this uniform, it really IS made of paper. They just glued a layer thin cotton over the top of it.

He turns around and see the back of his jacket has been completely burned off. We see it is made of CARDBOARD covered in thin COTTON.

YORKI (CONT'D)

You're lucky you got out, this is crazy. Go and hide, buddy.

He tries to lift the boxes of ammunition up again but has difficulty.

YORKI (CONT'D)

Shit, and someone should tell you how heavy guns and bullets are.

JOJO

What's it like out there?

YORKI

Ummm... shitty. It's fun at first but then it's really scary. Hans, that big asshole from Jungvolk training, he got killed about a week ago. His head got shot off. I saw it - SHOT OFF! And he was still standing holding his gun and then he did a little dance like this.

Yorki shimmies on his feet for a second. Silly.

YORKI (CONT'D)

I know you're not supposed to laugh but it looked so funny. Plus he was such an asshole.

(then)

I gotta go.

JOJO

Take me with you, I can help. I wanna be part of it!

YORKI

Why? We're losing.

JOJO

No we're not. We can't lose, it's impossible. We're German. We don't know how to lose, we're invincible.

YORKI

Tell that to old Hans "No more head".

(then)

Ok, come. I gotta get this ammo to the gunners. You can help me.

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

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - BEETHOVEN PLATZ - DAY

They reach a square, the fire-fight in the distance gets closer. There are a few other explosions, heard but not seen, down the street. It's loud and chaotic. Other soldiers run around, many of them are JOJO'S AGE. Jojo is a little bewildered.

YORKI

Woah, listen, they're getting closer.

JOJO

Remember that Jew I told you about?

YORKI

Oh yeah. You caught one.

JOJO

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

YORKI

Good for you Jojo! A girlfriend!

JOJO

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

YORKI

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

JOJO

Sex with dogs?

YORKI

Yeah, and the Englishmen do it too. We have to stop them before they eat us and fuck all our dogs. It's crazy.

(then)

Wait, what's that annoying music?

Just then, we hear **PACHELBEL'S CANON in D** and we see KLENZENDORF run past, stopping near the boys. We see that he is wearing his uniform but it has been altered according to his earlier drawing. It has SPARKLY SEQUINS on the collar and TASSELS down the sleeves. He wears HIGH HEEL BOOTS and is carrying a MACHINE GUN which has a RADIO strapped to it, playing the music. Obviously, he's also wearing a PIRATE HAT.

Finkel runs up, dressed in a similar outfit, but he wears a cape made of pink triangle patches. He stands proudly next to Captain K, there is an electric energy between them. Klenzendorf gives a triumphant smile, doffs his pirate hat and runs off, Finkel close behind, Pachelbel swelling.

YORKI (CONT'D)

Okay, I gotta go Jojo, the guys need these bullets.

JOJO

We were born to die for Germany.

YORKI

Yeah? Well I'm still not gonna laugh when they shoot me.

(prodding his fat belly)

Shit, I'm a pretty big target too.

He heads across the plaza, the gunfire gets louder. Jojo calls out.

JOJO

Yorki, you're my best friend!

But Yorki can't hear him, he continues around the corner, out of sight. There are more shots and yelling. Suddenly a huge explosion rocks the street, debris and smoke pours around the corner and back into the square. Jojo hides behind a tree and watches as German soldiers come running from the street, some are gunned down, others hide behind vehicles and continue to engage the enemy. Klenzendorf runs around too, his Pirate Hat is on fire.

Jojo runs back up a side-street, away from the chaos.

FADE OUT.

SFX: TRIUMPHANT MUSIC AND THE SOUND OF TANKS ROLLING

EXT. TOWN - STREET - DAY

Jojo walks down a street, music blares, an anthem of some sort. He stares wide-eyed as the CANNIBAL TRIBES of RUSSIA, GREAT BRITAIN, and AMERICA parade down the street. Some people are waving, happy. Others devastated, unwilling to accept defeat.

A Russian soldier passes by and thrusts a small Union-Jack flag into Jojo's hand. He says something indecipherable and continues on. An excitable WOMAN (30 plus holding her child) runs past them.

JOJO

What's happening?

WOMAN

It's over! The war is over! We will have peace!

JOJO

What do you mean?

WOMAN

The Allies have won. The war is over!
Americaaaaa!!! Everyone is free!
Everyone is free!

Fantasy Adolf Hitler joins Jojo.

ADOLF

I have no idea what's going on but I do like the little flags and the parade.

JOJO

Wha-? Adolf the war is over, what now? We lost!

ADOLF

Good. That means your stupid free-loading *girlfriend* can finally go away to Paris with Nathan. Then it'll just be you and me like normal.

Jojo looks worried.

ADOLF (CONT'D)

That's what we want, right?

He skips away, waving a flag.

ADOLF (CONT'D)
 No more girl in the attic! No more
 girl in the attic! Yayyy!

EXT. TOWN - STREET - LATER

The streets are quiet, heavy with Russian presence. Jojo stands in line at a FOOD RATION STATION, holding a bag. Among the GERMAN CIVILIANS and RUSSIAN TROOPS he feels like a stranger. A tank rumbles past with the sounds of Soviet music wafting out.

He stumbles upon a make-shift morgue for the casualties of the final battle for Vienna. He walks past many dead German boys and men. Some are draped in their ARMY COATS. He stops near one who lies the same way. He pulls the Army Coat off the body... it is a stranger but a young lad all the same. Jojo rolls up the coat and puts it under his arm.

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

Wearing the jacket, Jojo stands at the door to Elsa's room. He puts a hand on the door, clearly debating something internally. He enters, Elsa is at the window, peering through a crack in the curtain as fireworks go off and music plays in the distance.

ELSA
 Jojo! What's happening out there?

JOJO
 Hmm? Where?

ELSA
 Out there dummy! Listen.

JOJO
 Oh, I'm not sure. Celebrations?

ELSA
 For what?

Jojo doesn't answer.

ELSA (CONT'D)
 For what, Jojo? Tell me...
 (beat)
 Wait... is it over?

He nods.

ELSA (CONT'D)
 The war is over?!

He nods again.

ELSA (CONT'D)
Yes!!! It's over!!!

She stands, hugs Jojo, skips around the room and draws the curtains wide.

ELSA (CONT'D)
Come, we must go outside! Come on
Jojo! We are free! I can go home! I
can go!

Jojo just stares ahead, bites his lip.

JOJO
You can't go.

ELSA
What, why? What's wrong?
(beat)
Jojo?

She looks back out the window, her smile fades. She steps back from the window into the room.

ELSA (CONT'D)
Who won...?
(then)
Jojo, who won the war?

Jojo takes his time and making his decision... speaks.

JOJO
We did.
(then)
Hitler won the war.

Her face drops, she slinks to the ground, broken.

ELSA
But, they said the Allies were going
to win.

Long silence as tears well in her eyes. She walks back to her hideout.

ELSA (CONT'D)
Congratulations.

JOJO
I'm sorry.
(then)
But you can still stay here.
(MORE)

JOJO (CONT'D)

That's one good thing. You'll live with me. Here.

ELSA

Yes. And I'll die here too. In this room, just like Inga.

JOJO

No. I will look after you.

ELSA

Or they will come and find me and do it themselves.

JOJO

No they won't.

ELSA

(panic building)

They're going to get me.

JOJO

I'll take care of you!

ELSA

(snapping)

You can't take care of anything! Not even yourself. You're a monster like all of the others! Monster!!!

Elsa flops down on the bed and bursts into tears.

INT. SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - DAY

CLOSE UP on a word written on a BLACKBOARD:

MONSTERS!

Jojo sits in a broken down classroom with some other children. They are being addressed by a woman, a RUSSIAN TEACHER. On the board behind her are written other words like BEASTS, KILLERS, EVIL, ANIMALS, DEVILS, INHUMAN, BAD, UGLY...

The teacher speaks in a RUSSIAN ACCENT.

RUSSIAN TEACHER

What else do we know about the German Nazis? Hmm? They are also HEARTLESS.

(she writes)

Now, you beautiful children are not like these Germans, you will learn to be better Germans, ok? More like the Russians.

(MORE)

RUSSIAN TEACHER (CONT'D)

Because Germans are bad people, they do very bad things. They have very bad taste in art and music, they have bad hearts. Now, you need to learn how to be better Germans. Who wants to be better Germans?

A little confused the children tentatively raise their hands. Jojo looks beside him and sees Adolf Hitler sitting in the seat next to him, his hand is also raised. He looks to Jojo and smiles.

ADOLF

(whispering)

I want to be a better German! Pick me!
 (looking to Jojo)
 Put your hand up! Don't you want to be better?

After a beat, Jojo joins in and raises his hand.

RUSSIAN TEACHER

Wunderbarr! Now. Come and collect some of these silly old German books. We're going to tear them to a million pieces!

She indicates a large pile of German literature stacked at the front of the class. She takes a thick book and rips it in half with her strong Russian hands.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - FLORIDSDORFER SPITZ - DAY

Jojo walks through the city, he sees some Russian soldiers busting into a house, looting it. Others are pushing an old piano out of a window as locals watch on. Gunshots are heard across the city.

Jojo enters the square where he found his mother. There is some commotion on the other side of the trees. He walks over and sees a group of German men and women who have been rounded up by an angry mob. Temporary police made up of Russians do little as they are taunted and beaten and spat on.

Among the group being rounded up Jojo sees OFFICER DEERTZ, FRAULEIN RAHM and also HERR KLENZENDORF, his revamped uniform is tatters. Jojo's spying NEIGHBOURS are also with their group, stumbling around looking desperate. They are all being jostled about by PARTISANS and LOCALS and Jojo watches as Fraulein Rahm, his teacher from Hitlerjugend Camp gets dragged from the group. She looks haggard and tries to break free in panic.

FRAULEIN RAHM

No... I... I was helping them. I was good to the Jews. Please, someone tell them, I helped them!

Someone SPITS in her face. Her and FIVE OTHERS are led to a STONE WALL and lined up. Before we see what happens next Jojo finds himself carried with the wave of bystanders where he passes another group of prisoners.

It is here that he meets with Captain Klenzendorf. They make eye-contact and we see Klenzendorf has been beaten up. Nevertheless, he gives a nice warm, gentle smile.

JOJO

Captain K.

KLENZENDORF

Heya kid. Look at all this commotion, huh?

JOJO

What's going on?

KLENZENDORF

Not much. My dear Finkel is dead.

JOJO

Sorry.

KLENZENDORF

Mm, I was quite fond of him.

(beat, looking round)

Wow, now is not a good time to be dressed like a Nazi.

(then)

Hey, I've been meaning to tell you, I think your book is really great. I'm sorry for laughing at it. There's some very important stuff in there. You should publish it.

A PARTISAN with a rifle pulls Jojo forward.

PARTISAN

You know each other?

JOJO

(pointing at Klenzendorf)

Him. Yes.

PARTISAN

How?

Jojo pauses.

PARTISAN (CONT'D)

How do you know him? He is Nazi. A
Nazi yes?

JOJO

No, he's... He helped...

PARTISAN

Nazi.

JOJO

No, he's just a...

PARTISAN

(to Klenzendorf)

You know the ugly boy?

A brief moment as Klenzendorf stares at Jojo.

KLENZENDORF

Oh, I've seen him round but I don't
know him. Go away little boy.

PARTISAN

Yeah, go away ugly little gypsy. Scat!

Jojo is pushed back into the crowd, losing sight of Klenzendorf. Someone calls out a command, indecipherable amongst the cries of the crazed crowd. As Jojo pushes his way to the back of the mob we see over the top of the crowd that Klenzendorf and some others are standing in a line, on a platform. He doesn't look back and so doesn't see all five of them drop out of sight, the ropes around their necks going tight. All we hear are gasps and cheers.

EXT. TOWN - RIVER - DAY

Jojo sits on the banks of the river. He watches the water flow past him as more gunshots and cheering can be heard in the distance.

He looks over at the bridge and sees a young couple holding hands, happy. Coming the opposite way, towards Jojo, is YORKI. They embrace.

YORKI

Jojo!

JOJO

Yorki! I thought you were surely dead.

YORKI

No, I can never die! I fell in a hole and luckily I'm a little bit fat so I got stuck. Anyway, a tank parked over the top of my hole and then that got blown up and it was a whole 2 days before anyone found me.

JOJO

I'm glad they did.

YORKI

Me too. I lost three Pounds!
(then)
Did you hear? About Hitler?

JOJO

What?

YORKI

He's dead. They say he killed himself.

Jojo stares dead ahead.

JOJO

Bullshit. He wouldn't.

YORKI

He did. He was in a bunker and the Russians were all outside and he had nowhere to run and so he did it. He just blew his brains out. All over the wall.

JOJO

He blew his brains out?

YORKI

All over the wall. Brains *everywhere*. Betrayed us all. Turns out he was hiding a lot of stuff from us. Doing some really bad things behind everyone's backs. Especially in the "constipation camps".

JOJO

What?

YORKI

I don't really know the details. Also... look at this.

He hands Jojo a pile of letters, all addressed to Roswita Betzler, his mother. Jojo sorts through the mail, opens an envelope.

YORKI (CONT'D)

There's a whole section at the post-office. Did I mention I'm a postman now? Anyway, there's a bunch of letters that were confiscated because of security stuff but I was snooping around and I found them.

JOJO

They're from my father.
(looking up, smiling)
This one is from last week. He's been in Switzerland.
(then)
I guess he was a deserter after all.

YORKI

That's ok, I would have too if I had known what it was like.

They sit for a moment.

JOJO

Can I come and stay at your place for a while? Until my dad comes home?

YORKI

Sure. That's probably a good idea, they're sending orphans to Hungary. That's bad, I heard Hungarians bathe in human blood. Dracula's from somewhere round there so it makes sense. Yeah, come and stay. You can be my brother.

JOJO

I'd like that.
(then)
I'm not alone.

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

Jojo enters the room wearing a suit that's too big for him. The sleeves and pants are rolled up. He places a sandwich on the floor near Elsa's door. He takes a piece of paper and facing Elsa's wall he reads...

JOJO

I managed to find another letter for you at the post office. It's from Nathan.

(beat, reading)

Dear Elsa, I hope you aren't too sad about the result of the war. Oh well. But it's not the end of the world. There are still small areas on Earth where it's ok not to be a Nazi so please stay alive. Thank God you have your good friend Johannes to look after you. He really is a fabulous person, so brave.

(wincing, is this too much?)

Soooo very brave. It is important that you stay alive and healthy until I find you. So eat food, including sandwiches, if there are any. I love you, Nathan.

Silence. Jojo folds up the letter and puts it in his pocket. Elsa opens the door again.

ELSA

Hi.

JOJO

Hi.

Pause.

ELSA

He's dead.

JOJO

Um, pardon?

ELSA

Nathan.

(then)

Last winter. Tuberculosis.

JOJO

But then who wrote this...?

ELSA

(smiling)

Thank you, kind Jojo. You see, I was right. You are not one of them.

(beat)

How's it going out there?

JOJO
Okay. How's it going in there?

 ELSA
Fabulous.

 JOJO
We're friends, right?

 ELSA
I'm not sure we're allowed to be,
remember the rules.

 JOJO
I know but, I think it's ok if no one
knows. I don't mind hanging out with
you.

 ELSA
I don't mind hanging out with you
either.

 JOJO
And if we're friends you trust me,
right?

 ELSA
It depends.

 JOJO
Well, what if I told you I found a way
to escape Nazi Germany?

 ELSA
What do you mean?

 JOJO
I've found a way for you to be free.

 ELSA
Yes, me too. I'm going to kill myself.

 JOJO
Exactly. Wait. No! Not that!

 ELSA
Jojo, there's no point in going on.
There is no place for me anymore.

 JOJO
Look, it's like Nathan said in my fake
letter from him. There are still Nazi-
free places. I can make it happen, I
know a secret way out.

(MORE)

JOJO (CONT'D)

But you have to trust me and we can't delay. Get your things together, we leave in an hour.

ELSA

Why don't we wait till night?

JOJO

Are you crazy? Night is when they expect us to make a move. Look, I don't try and tell you how to do art or poems, do I? No. So please leave the escape plans up to me. We'll be fine. The key is to blend in.

Elsa picks up the sandwich and takes a bite.

ELSA

You think the suit helps?

Jojo looks at himself. It is pretty ridiculous.

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

Jojo is now dressed in his normal clothes. He checks himself out in the mirror and tucks in his shirt. Adolf Hitler is standing behind him.

ADOLF (O.S.)

I'm not sure what's going on with us. I mean, what you're doing right now, I'm not comfortable with it.

JOJO

I don't think we should hang out anymore.

ADOLF

Okayyy, that was out of the blue.

JOJO

I can't be your friend anymore.

ADOLF

Wow, don't hold back.

Adolf lights a cigarette. Offers Jojo a drag. Jojo takes the cigarette and throws it in the opposite direction.

ADOLF (CONT'D)

Very mature.

He lights another.

ADOLF (CONT'D)

I gotta say, I'm pretty disappointed.

JOJO

You lied to me. You lied to everyone and then you blew your brains out.

ADOLF

(cocky)

Brains are very overrated my friend.

JOJO

You ran away. You're a coward.

ADOLF

That's a big accusation young man. Blowing your brains out is actually a pretty gutsy thing to do. I'd like to see you try it.

JOJO

I wouldn't. And would you mind explaining the constipation camps?

ADOLF

Constellation camps. We encourage people to Stargaze.

JOJO

Liar.

ADOLF

Okay, okay, I get it, you wanna go your own way, maybe start a Fourth Reich or something. Fine. But you know what, you let me down too so now we're even.

JOJO

Even?! How? I believed in you!

ADOLF

Yeah well, you stopped believing. What's more you missed my birthday which was just last week and you ended up making friends with that thing upstairs.

JOJO

That *thing* is a little girl.

ADOLF

Says who?

JOJO

Says anyone who's ever met a little girl before!

ADOLF

Well excuse me for not knowing any little girls.

(then)

You're in love with her, aren't you!

JOJO

Yes, I am.

ADOLF

Admit it!

JOJO

I said yes.

ADOLF

I knew it. Well, she's too old for you. You don't stand a chance.

JOJO

If I were bigger and more agile I'd kick your damn head off.

Adolf steps backwards, wary, a little scared.

ADOLF

Okay look, I'm sorry things didn't work out with us. But y'know, we're more alike than you think. I'm still quite proud of you. Intensely disappointed but also proud.

(then)

I now like to think of you as my strange, wayward, ugly son.

JOJO

I'm not your son. I've already got a dad and he's coming home.

He shakes one of his mother's letters in Adolf's face.

ADOLF

(hopeful)

What about having two dads?

JOJO

I just want the one!

Adolf nods, he knows it's over.

ADOLF

Good luck little Jojo Rabbit. I'll see you round the traps.

(then)

Before I go, could I give you a little bit of advice?

Jojo stares at him for a moment.

JOJO

No. Fuck off, Hitler.

Hitler nods knowingly, as if they are sharing a really deep and important moment of exquisite understanding... yet obviously hiding his disappointment. He WINKS at Jojo and saunters off.

Jojo TEARS DOWN the pictures of Hitler from his wall.

INT. JOJO'S HOUSE - DAY

Jojo leads Elsa along the hall. Her hair is washed, she wears clean clothes and holds Inga's papers. They head down the stairs. Elsa catches a glimpse into Jojo's room and sees all of her drawings on his wall. She hides a small smile and takes Jojo by the hand.

He smiles, takes a breath and leads her carefully along the hall, past the various rooms of the house. Pausing now and then along the way, Jojo takes the time to savour his hand-holding session with Elsa.

They reach the front door. Jojo looks down and notices something. He bends down and does up Elsa's shoelaces. It is slow-going but he succeeds. He stands.

JOJO

(whispering)

Ready?

Elsa nods.

ELSA

Is it dangerous?

He smiles wide.

JOJO

Extremely.

Jojo WINKS a PERFECT WINK at Elsa, she takes a deep breath and Jojo opens the door. Light fills the entrance to the house. They step outside...

EXT. JOJO'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Jojo and Elsa stand on the front steps of the house. Elsa looks at Jojo and then back out to the street. Yorki sits nearby, he waves, smiling.

On the opposite corner we see a couple of British soldiers crossing the road talking casually, in ENGLISH. An AMERICAN and RUSSIAN FLAG can be seen hanging from a building in the distance.

Realising what is going on, Elsa drops her bag. Jojo shuffles his feet nervously. After a while, he does a small fist pump.

JOJO

Yes...

(then)

We made it.

Long pause.

The silence is cut by David Bowie's "HEROES" and we FADE OUT.

SUPER:

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

RILKE

END.