

ALL THE LIGHT WE CANNOT SEE

EPISODE 3

Written by

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Based on the novel, 'All The Light We Cannot See'

By Anthony Doerr

We open on black. We hear the roar of a German vehicle, which pulls up with a squeal of brakes.

Caption; St.Malo, Northern France, August 1944.

Still over black (Marie's POV) we hear the doors of the vehicle being slammed and heavy boots on the cobbled road. Then a gun shot...

1 EXT. MARIE LAURE'S HOUSE - DAY 1

In close up we see the lock on the door being shot out...

2 INT. MARIE LAURE'S ATTIC - DAY 2

We hear the echo of the gun shot as Marie reacts to it. Then she hears the door downstairs being pushed open...

Marie reacts and gathers courage. She reaches into the pocket of her coat and produces the jagged rock she used to hit Von Rumpel in the grotto. She squeezes it...

3 EXT. MARIE LAURE'S HOUSE, FRONT DOOR - DAY 3

We join as Mueller stands framed in the open doorway. Werner is facing him. The vehicle's driver waits in the field vehicle behind them. Mueller hands Werner the gun he took off him earlier.

MUELLER

You will lead the way. If she has accomplices, you will die first...

A pause. In the near distance the throaty roar of a motorbike....

MUELLER (CONT'D)

If she is alone, it will be you who has the pleasure of killing her.

Werner eyes his gun in Mueller's hand. Perhaps he considers using it to shoot his way out. Mueller sees the equivocation....

MUELLER (CONT'D)

With one communication I can give orders for your sister to be given to the dogs of the Waffen SS.

A pause.

MUELLER (CONT'D)

Once the dog handlers have finished with her.

Werner take his gun. The roar of the van gets louder and is now joined by the sound of a motorbike. Werner hesitates...

MUELLER (CONT'D)

Move.

Werner prepares. A motorbike comes around the corner of the street. Werner steps across the threshold followed by Mueller just as the motorcyclist pulls up outside.

The motorcyclist removes dark glasses and we see it is Etienne. He has a Sten gun strapped to his back. Mueller sees the Sten gun and turns as Etienne swings it into position.

Mueller has his gun aimed at Etienne and prepares to fire...

4 INT. MARIE'S LAURE'S ATTIC - DAY 4

Marie is still standing, frozen to the spot as a shot rings out. She grips her rock so hard her hand bleeds....

5 EXT. MARIE LAURE'S HOUSE, FRONT DOOR - DAY 5

Etienne stares as Mueller stands still with his gun pointed at Etienne. Then he falls forward, blood spurting from the side of his head.

A second later Werner emerges from the shadow with his gun drawn and pointed.

The Nazi soldier who had been driving Mueller rises out of the field vehicle, scrambling for his weapon.

BAM. Etienne takes him down with a single shot. Werner drops his weapon and turns to Etienne, hands raised.

Gun smoke drifts across the street. For a moment there is an incredulous silence. Etienne covers Werner with his gun and approaches. He speaks not expecting Werner to understand...

ETIENNE

You just shot your commanding officer?

Werner takes a moment, glances up at the attic window and then back to Etienne.

WERNER

It's a long story.

Etienne peers at Werner and sees something old and hurt in his young eyes. He calls up from the street, still looking at Werner...

ETIENNE
Marie! All is well, don't worry.

6 INT. MARIE'S HOUSE- ATTIC - DAY

6

Marie jumps a little at the sound of Etienne's voice.

ETIENNE (OOV)
...the lock on the door is broken.
You must come and pull the bolts
across from the inside.

Marie drops her jagged rock....

ETIENNE (OOV) (CONT'D)
The Americans are coming. It will
only be a matter of days now...

7 EXT. MARIE LAURE'S HOUSE, FRONT DOOR - DAY

7

Etienne is in the hallway carving deep lines into the wood of the door on the inside. He digs his blade into the wood and we see him draw the number 2.

Back outside, he calls up:

ETIENNE
Be strong a little longer...
Touch the door to hear my
instruction for tonight.

Werner is staring up at the window and sees the indistinct image of Marie by the window. Etienne emerges and grabs the body of Mueller. He grunts at Werner...

ETIENNE (CONT'D)
Help me.

Together Etienne and Werner drag the dead body of Mueller and the driver around the corner of the house, hiding them in a pile of garbage.

WERNER
You will leave the bodies here?

Etienne gestures.

ETIENNE
I have friends who will come
collect the trash.
(MORE)

ETIENNE (CONT'D)

They will get rid of the vehicle
and feed the bodies to the gulls.

WERNER

Good.

Werner spits on the dead body...

ETIENNE

(studies Werner)

Who the fuck are you?

Instead of answering, Werner looks up to the bedroom
window...

WERNER

So her name is Marie?

Etienne glares and shoves the barrel of his gun under
Werner's chin.

ETIENNE

I don't want to hear her name in a
German mouth. And whoever you are I
want to hear your long story. Take
off that jacket and get on the back
of the bike.

Etienne leads Werner toward the motorbike. Werner removes
his holster and uniform jacket and throws them down. They
both climb aboard and Etienne roars away.

8

INT. MARIE'S HOUSE, FRONT DOOR - DAY

8

Marie walks down the hall toward the front door. She reaches
out and begins to feel the wood of the door with the flat of
her hand.

She finds the number 22...

MARIE (SOFTLY)

Chapter twenty two...

She moves her fingers along the door and we see 'P2' carved
there...

MARIE (CONT'D)

Part two.

She moves her hand down the door and feels the broken lock
and reaches for the bolt and slides it shut.

Marie sits back against the door.

As she sits, her hand finds the key which was shot from the lock. She holds it in her hand tightly. She is lost in memories and raises her head...

After a moment, above her head, we see the same key in the hands of a woman reaching out to open the door (the broken lock is fixed). A woman in her late sixties, robust, handsome is unlocking the door. We will learn this is MADAME MANEC...

Caption; The same doorway, four years earlier.

The door opens and on the doorstep we see Marie and Daniel carrying their suitcase and leather bag. Daniel has a rather sad bunch of wild flowers he has stolen from the grass verge. As the door opens he looks uncertain and speaks softly....

DANIEL

Aunt Manec. Surprise.

He offers the flowers but Aunt Manec is frozen. We come around and see her for the first time. She is a strong woman but the surprise is absolute....

MADAME MANEC

Daniel?

DANIEL

And this is Marie. My little girl.
The one I have written to you about
so often.

Madam Manec looks to Marie, sees her sightless eyes, her nervous smile, the white cane in her hand. Marie curtseys...

MARIE

Pleased to meet you Madame Manec.

Madame Manec is filled with emotion but she tempers it.

MADAME MANEC

And I am so pleased to meet you.

Daniel glances down at his suitcase and delivers a speech he has prepared..

DANIEL

Aunt Manec, I'm sorry it's been so long since I visited...My job keep me very busy...and I know Uncle Etienne doesn't like visitors.

Madam Manec interrupts....

MADAME MANEC

...you stayed away because this house reminds you too much of happy times you spent with Juliette.

Daniel looks down. Madam Manec looks to Marie...

MADAME MANEC (CONT'D)

Marie, you are the living image of your mother.

Marie reacts. Madame Manec takes Marie's small case from her hands...

MADAME MANEC (CONT'D)

But if her ghost is here, she is as overjoyed to see you as I am and Etienne will adjust. Come.

9 INT. AUNT MANEC'S HOUSE (LATER MARIE'S HOUSE), KITCHEN - DAY

This is a place where good food is cooked well. For now Aunt Manec is sitting in a chair and Marie is placing the bunch of wild flowers into a vase. Madame Manec watches with fascination as she uses her fingers to locate the vase and spread the flowers....

Daniel is taking a moment to breath in the air of the room he evidently once knew so well. He conquers the emotion and drags open a sash window to let new air in. He speaks briskly...

DANIEL

So, Aunt Manec, is he here?

Madame Manec pours and then sips a shot of Eau de Vie...

MADAME MANEC

Of course he is here. He never leaves this house for any reason.

As she speaks Madame Manec stares at Marie as if she were an exotic mirage. The flowers look beautiful...

DANIEL

Then where is he?

Madame Manec continues to absorb Marie's presence...

MADAME MANEC

He will be in the attic, playing with his radio.

Daniel walks by and picks up her glass of Eau de vie and sniffs.

MADAME MANEC (CONT'D)
Reserved for moments of great joy
and great sorrow.

He hands the drink back.

DANIEL
I hope today is the former.

MADAME MANEC
Today is the day I have dreamed of.

Daniel calls up the steps....

DANIEL
Etienne! Uncle Etienne!

MADAME MANEC
He won't hear you. He wears
headphones.

Marie speaks up....

MARIE
What kind of radio does he have?

MADAME MANEC
A very annoying, absorbing, twenty
four hour radio that controls his
mind but is better than him staring
out at the ocean which is the only
other thing he does...

She turns to Daniel and whispers around Marie...

MADAME MANEC (CONT'D)
Daniel, I hope you tell her every
day how pretty she is...

Daniel responds in a similar stage whisper...

DANIEL
Aunt Manec, she is blind not deaf.

Marie giggles. Madame Manec takes her hands in her own...

MADAME MANEC
I will be her mirror on the wall...

Madame Manec is hit by a wave of emotion.....

MADAME MANEC (CONT'D)
...and it will be me who tells her
when she stops being pretty and
starts being beautiful....

Daniel takes a moment as Marie becomes a little sombre...

DANIEL

I don't mean to be rude but we've
been traveling for three days
living on herbs and stale bread...

MARIE

And stolen eggs. In a stolen car...

Daniel speaks quickly...

DANIEL

....Perhaps it would be possible
for Marie to be introduced to the
legend that is....

A pause.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

A Madame Manec omelette.

Madame Manec takes a huge breath. She stares at Marie as if she had just been tasked with curing her blindness. She reaches out and clutches Marie's hands again....

MADAME MANEC

My sweet little child. My precious.
Let me ask you a very important
question....

A pause.

MADAME MANEC (CONT'D)

Ham? Or mushroom? Or both?

Marie smiles....

MARIE

Both.

Madame Manec smiles...

MADAME MANEC

Excellent answer.

Madame Manec leaps to her feet, fully recovered...

10

INT. ATTIC ROOM - DAY

10

We are in the same attic room where we have found Marie so many times. But now the room is ordered and there is a stack of vinyl records beside the keyboard. The radio looks newer and better kept and of course the windows are all intact.

Etienne as he was four years before. He is sitting in Marie's chair. He has his back to us and is wearing headphones.

A record is spinning on the keyboard (fast at 33 rpm) but we do not hear it. The same microphone that is in place for Marie is in the same position.

As we approach and come around we see Etienne's face. He is younger here than when we meet him in contemporary time, and yet he looks weaker, less certain. He has a wild beard and his hair is unkempt. He has his eyes firmly closed and looks to be about to speak into the microphone.

Then he hears a heavy knock on the door which is heavy enough to break through the headphones.

He exhales the breath that would have been his opening words and snatches the headphones off. He hears the knock again and then Daniel calling through the door....

DANIEL (OOV)
Uncle Etienne. It's me. Daniel.
Your nephew from Paris.

Etienne takes a breath of astonishment. He hurriedly turns off the radio, turns off the turntable and puts the vinyl record back into its sleeve (we do not see the name of the record).

The door is knocked again. Etienne speaks softly.

ETIENNE
Yes, yes. I'm here.

Etienne takes a moment to decide this is real.

DANIEL
May I come in?

ETIENNE
The door is locked. Wait.

Etienne is buying time while he recovers from the shock of having a visitor. He remembers his appearance and straightens his hair and brushes crumbs from his stubble. He stands and reacts to dizziness after being seated for so long.

He goes to the door and fumbles with the lock. His eyes are misty but he is determined to be strong. At last he prepares for a second then pulls open the door.

Daniel and Etienne face each other for the first time in what is evidently a long time. Daniel is unable to hide his surprise at Etienne's appearance and Etienne apologizes for it with a single look.

DANIEL
Etienne. I'm sorry. I know you
don't like surprises.

ETIENNE

Daniel. Goodness. So long.

DANIEL

Yes.

Daniel reaches out and hugs Etienne. Etienne closes his eyes tight to hold in emotion....

ETIENNE

Is it ten years or....

DANIEL

Twelve.

ETIENNE

Goodness. Goodness.

They part.

ETIENNE (CONT'D)

I was... so sorry to hear about Juliette...

DANIEL

Thank you.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Can I come in?

ETIENNE

No. I mean you wouldn't want to. I keep the windows closed because of the noise. I imagine the air is heavy with the presence of myself...

DANIEL

I smell only lilacs.

He looks back to the attic....

ETIENNE

My Cologne. My last remaining absurdity. I will come down.

He turns and goes to the radio desk and fusses to find his slippers (one is on the desk). He picks it up and apologizes....

ETIENNE (CONT'D)

There was a fly. I used this to hit it. I missed. Fortunately. I would have regretted...

Etienne leans on the radio desk to pull on his slipper. Daniel looks at the radio...

DANIEL

What do you listen to all day?

ETIENNE

Oh, you know. The world. Talking
to itself. Like an angry lunatic.
Gone mad with war, yet again...

Etienne drifts off, his mind haunted. Daniel darkens a
little, but pushes it aside.

DANIEL

And what is the microphone for?

Etienne fusses with his buttons and evades. Daniel speaks
softly...

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Uncle Etienne we are in occupied
territory. Broadcasting from radios
is illegal.

Etienne deceives....

ETIENNE

Is it? I no longer read the
newspapers...

DANIEL

The punishment is death...

Etienne got his buttons in the wrong holes and corrects
them...

ETIENNE

Everyone must die of something. Why
not die of speaking freely?

Before Daniel can continue Etienne takes a breath of the new
air coming into the room from the doorway....

ETIENNE (CONT'D)

Goodness. I smell a legendary
omelette. Ham and mushroom.

His eyes twinkle and he half smiles as he smells the air....

ETIENNE (CONT'D)

And what's this? You are indeed
honored. She is using rosemary and
thyme.

Daniel smiles too, perhaps glad to see Etienne's sense of
humor has survived...

DANIEL

I think the honor is not for me.

Etienne stops buttoning his cardigan.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
I did not come here alone.

Etienne peers at Daniel. He appears to know who Daniel is referring to....

11 INT. KITCHEN - DAY

11

Marie is sitting at the kitchen table, plain wood, well scrubbed. Madame Manec is conducting the orchestra of her ingredients with a steady hand. We find her flipping an omelette with ease then dribbling olive oil onto the surface....

MADAME MANEC

You see the secret Marie is how you introduce the ingredients to each other. You can't just drop them in a bowl and let them get on with it. Like strangers at a train station. You must prepare them for each other....

She takes the pan from the heat and hears footsteps from above.

MADAME MANEC (CONT'D)

There. I hear them coming down the stairs. So...

Madame Manec quickly dries her hands and comes to sit at the table....

MADAME MANEC (CONT'D)

...let me tell you about my brother Etienne.

MARIE

I hear he likes radios.

MADAME MANEC

I will tell you about him as if this were the label on a tin. A very odd and battered tin. Battered by war. You see, Uncle Etienne was a war hero. He won many medals, all of which he threw into the ocean, the ocean you see out of the window....

MARIE

I don't see the ocean Madame Manec....

MADAME MANEC

Oh goodness forgive me....

MARIE

He is a war hero.....

MADAME MANEC

But the things he saw in the war he is now unable to not see. He sees them when he closes his eyes. How often I refer to sight Marie, forgive me...

MARIE

Nothing to forgive. He sees bad things....

MADAME MANEC

Especially when there is loud noise, or unexpected things. Cars and sea gulls screaming.

A pause.

MADAME MANEC (CONT'D)

And so, for twenty years, almost since the day he came back from the war, he has stayed here inside this house...

Marie reacts....

MARIE

He does not even go to the beach?

MADAME MANEC

Not even to the beach. He says he travels the world through his books, though I rarely see him read, and through his radio, which I rarely see him leave.

A pause.

MADAME MANEC (CONT'D)

I speak to him about fresh air and light but you know what the silly man says?

They can both hear Daniel and Etienne just outside the kitchen door....

MADAME MANEC (CONT'D)

He says the most important light in the world is *all the light you can not see.*

Marie reacts instantly. At that moment the kitchen door opens at the same moment as the phrase so familiar to her is ringing in her ears.

She is still adjusting as Daniel smiles....

DANIEL

Marie, this is my Uncle Etienne. So he is your great uncle. Etienne, this is Marie.

He peers at Marie who is still recovering from hearing the phrase. She says nothing.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Marie, are you alright?

MARIE

Yes, yes....

At last she gets to her feet and Etienne steps closer. He hesitantly reaches out and takes her hands. Daniel encourages Etienne...

ETIENNE

Your father said you had a very interesting journey to get here.

Marie hears Etienne's voice and reacts. She thinks she recognizes it. She doesn't reply....

DANIEL

Marie I have never known you speechless.

MARIE

I'm sorry. I didn't hear. Could you say that again?

Etienne hesitates then repeats....

ETIENNE

Your father tells me you have had an interesting journey.

Marie is now certain she knows the voice. She answers...

MARIE

Yes. It was a very interesting journey. You have a radio?...

Etienne smiles...

ETIENNE

Yes...

MARIE

Do you broadcast from it?

The air chills and Marie feels it. Etienne's smile fades and Madame Manec steps in...

MADAME MANEC

Etienne, they are very hungry. Cut some bread.

Madame Manec grabs the omelette and places it on the table.

MADAME MANEC (CONT'D)

There. Breakfast is served.

Marie raises her head and savors the smell with a half smile...

MADAME MANEC (CONT'D)

The smell of 'home at last' Marie.

12

INT. ST.MALO BAKERY, OVEN ROOM - DAY

12

A back door is thrown open and daylight floods in. Werner is led into the bakery by Etienne. A resistance fighter, HENRI, is seated inside, a gun sits on the table next to him.

Henri notices Werner feeling the warmth of the bread oven.

HENRI

Hey German. I hear you have ovens in Germany. You use them to cook Jews....

Werner looks away. Etienne studies him. (We now have a chance to see how much Etienne has changed since Marie first met him).

ETIENNE

He is just a soldier. Just a boy.

Werner fights emotion and wins. Etienne sees it.

ETIENNE (CONT'D)

Who has probably seen things he wishes he had not seen.

Again Werner is silent. The oven crackles and glows. Etienne looks to Henri.

ETIENNE (CONT'D)

There will be more air raids tonight. We will have much to do. You should go and get some sleep.

Henri hesitates. He looks from Etienne to Werner....

HENRI

What about you?

ETIENNE

I will interrogate the prisoner.

Henri takes a moment then leaves out the back. The only sound is the crackling of the bread oven. Etienne takes out a cigarette and offers one to Werner. He takes it and Etienne gets a light from the oven, which he shares.

ETIENNE (CONT'D)

When I pointed out to you that you had shot your commanding officer, you said 'it's a long story'.

Werner nods, smokes, remembers....

ETIENNE (CONT'D)

And you were interested in the name of the girl in the house.

WERNER

Marie. It's a good name.

ETIENNE

Why are you interested in the girl?

Werner peers at Etienne and half smiles at the absurdity...

WERNER

The same long story.

Etienne pointedly cocks his revolver....

ETIENNE

You tracked down the frequency she was broadcasting on. Who else knows that frequency?

WERNER

Only myself and the Officer I shot. That was part of the reason I shot him.

Etienne is intrigued. He disengages the revolver.

ETIENNE

To protect her?

A pause.

WERNER

To protect the frequency.
Short wave 13.10.

Werner blows smoke. Etienne reacts inside but shows nothing.

ETIENNE

What of it?

Werner has been through a lot and is now prepared to be entirely candid about everything.

WERNER

When I was a child short wave 13.10
was my only hope. Short wave 13.10
was my father. Now the frequency
belongs to a girl called Marie.

He looks at Etienne and half smiles....

WERNER (CONT'D)

I don't think you could ever
understand...

Quickly, firmly.....

ETIENNE

Try me. The bombers won't be here
until sunset.

Etienne is staring intently at Werner. Werner sees something in Etienne's reaction.

WERNER

I have always been interested in
radios.

A pause.

WERNER (CONT'D)

And when I was younger, my interest
got me into a lot of trouble.

A pause.

ETIENNE

What trouble?

Suddenly....

13

EXT NATIONAL POLITICAL INSTITUTE, COURTYARD- DAY

13

We open on a Nazi flag filling the frame. A moment later, Werner tumbles into frame in slow motion, falling helplessly away and towards the flag and depths below.

Caption; National Political Institute of education; May 1942

Werner lands in the flag with thump as his body slaps the ground below.

Another boy is now running on the platform and three more are climbing the ladder. Werner rolls out of the flag and takes the place of another boy holding the edge of the flag. The other boy runs to the ladder.

BASTIAN yells...

BASTIAN

Do not think! Do not stop to think! You have been given an order and you do will do it joyfully....

A second boy reaches the end of the platform and hesitates....

BASTIAN (CONT'D)

Thought destroys action. Frederick Neitzche states we are not required to consider our actions, we must simply do and do and do...

The boy jumps and Bastian continues...

BASTIAN (CONT'D)

The doctrine of freedom of will has human pride as its father. Your father is the Furher and he tells you to jump....

Another boy jumps. He falls sideways and lands badly in the flag. We come close to Werner as he sees the boy roll and sit up with a broken arm.

Bastian grabs him and hauls him off the flag....

BASTIAN (CONT'D)

Keep moving! Jump!

Werner reacts to the boy's broken arm as he is dragged away. Then the other boys all begin to laugh and whistle as they look up.

Werner stares ahead as the next boy plummets into the Nazi flag.

14

EXT. OBSTACLE COURSE - DAY

14

On the field behind the huge compound there is an obstacle course.

We see boys, including Werner, climbing ropes and leaping over obstacles.

Bastian and other instructors look on and whack the unwilling with hoses. Bastian has a stopwatch and yells....

BASTIAN

The strong are not free to be weak. The lion is not free to become a lamb, you are hunters, not the hunted....

We come close to Werner as he falls hard from a tangle of netting. He gets to his feet and joins the queue for the next obstacle.

15 EXT. FOREST PATH - DAY

15

The boys are running a cross country race. Werner is near to the front but looks back. He sees one of the boys grab a younger boy (FREDERICK) and haul him to the ground as he passes. Werner slows and goes back and pulls the boy to his feet.

WERNER

You OK?

Another boy runs past and growls at Werner...

RUNNER

Don't talk to him. He looks like a Jew....

Werner helps Frederick to his feet and they run side-by-side...

16 EXT. FOREST CLEARING - DAY

16

The boys are now in a semi circle, a steaming ring of sweat and heavy breaths, with Bastian in the middle of the circle.

BASTIAN

Now. The race is run. I will select a boy and ask him a question.

He looks around the circle. He settles on Werner.

BASTIAN (CONT'D)

You! In your opinion. Who is the weakest boy in this group?

Werner blinks....

BASTIAN (CONT'D)

If you can't choose, that means it is you.

Even after the threat, Werner hesitates.

BASTIAN (CONT'D)

Two seconds more and it's you.

Werner chooses Frederick, the young boy who was accused of looking like a Jew...

WERNER

Him.

BASTIAN

Ah. Little dark Frederick. Come...

He grabs Frederick and pulls him to the centre of the circle. The boys know the drill and form a line. Bastian raises his hand.

BASTIAN (CONT'D)

When I drop my hand little Jew
bird, you fly. Ten seconds later
the hounds will be released.

Bastian drops his hand and FREDERICK runs. Bastian consults a stopwatch. The boys pant for breath, some reluctant, some eager for the chase.

BASTIAN (CONT'D)

....eight, nine, ten. Go...

The boys begin to run into the thick woods. We come close to Werner as he runs and hear his voice in voiceover...

WERNER (V.O.)

My dearest sister Jutta, I am
settling in very well. Yesterday
for field exercises we went into
the forest...

We follow the chase as the boys begin to yell. Frederick falls badly on a log and scrambles to his feet...

WERNER (V.O.)

There were lots of martens and deer
and beautiful birds. We sat in the
woods and talked about magnificent
victories. And some of the boys
caught rabbits and we cooked them
on an open fire...

We come close to Frederick, his eyes filled with terror as his legs begin to fail him. Suddenly Frederick is grabbed and rolled to the ground.

WERNER

Sadly the Professor's voice can not
be received here. Only the voice of
our beloved Fuhrer....

The other boys grab Frederick's arms and legs and haul him to his feet. A voice yells...

VOICE

Tie him to the tree...

Quickly Frederick is tied to the trunk of a birch tree. Werner is breathing hard, looking on.

WERNER (V.O.)

But without the radio I have begun
to listen to the birds. I have
learnt how to identify different
birds from their songs...

As the knots are tied, Bastian catches up, wheezing. He
chuckles as he pants and looks for Werner, who selected
Frederick.

BASTIAN

He was your choice. You will have
the pleasure of going first.

Bastian hands Werner the hose. Werner takes it and the boys
fall silent. The only sound is heavy breathing and birds
singing sweetly in the trees. We come to Frederick as three
birds warble overhead. He looks up at the birds and
whispers...

FREDERICK (SOFTLY TO THE SKY)

Yellow hammer. Bullfinch.
Sparrow..

Werner hesitates. Bastian peers at him...

BASTIAN

Beat or be beaten.

Werner looks to Frederick and their eyes meet. Frederick
almost gives permission, knowing Werner has no choice.
Werner pulls back his arm and beats Frederick across the
face. Blood splatters. Werner's face contorts as he hands
the hose to the next boy. He steps back and watches each boy
in turn beat Frederick as his voiceover continues...

WERNER (V.O.)

Jutta, please tell Frau Elena not
to worry about me. I am in a very,
very beautiful place and I am
learning so much. Most important
of all, the frequency in my head
has not changed...

17 INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

17

...A metal box is clattered onto a desk top.

The stark classroom has several rows of desks and hard-backed
chairs. There is a boy at every desk and we see a bruised
and beaten Frederick, Volkheimer and Werner.

Bastian is at the back of the class. An instructor called
HAUPTMANN and an assistant are walking down the lines of
desks clattering a metal box onto each one.

As the boys unlock their boxes, Hauptmann calls out....

HAUPTMANN

Inside each box you will find all the components of a simple transceiver radio. Battery, magnets, wires. You have one hour to build a functioning radio, starting from now.

The boys are mostly puzzled and some utterly dumbfounded. Some try to whisper questions to each other and are whacked with a hose.

Bastian is at the back of the class blowing his nose from a bad cold. He curses under his breath and pockets his handkerchief. He sits wearily on a bulbous radiator and calls out...

BASTIAN

Mozart, Vivaldi, Bach, none of them have done so much for the human race as Otto Grottingen, the German inventor of the affordable radio...

He sneezes...

BASTIAN (CONT'D)

Goebbels himself has said without the radio, the Nazi party would never have come to power. What you are building is a weapon of war....

Then his eyes are caught by something.

He sees that on the back row Werner has set to work with calm efficiency. He is twisting wire and setting magnets in place with the precision of a production line worker. For anyone who knows, the task is relatively simple and Werner is almost half completed by the time Hauptmann comes back down the line.

BASTIAN (CONT'D)

Hauptmann, look.

He gestures at Werner and Hauptmann stops. Werner is in a kind of trance as he works, not even aware he is being watched. Slowly, boys around him begin to turn and stare in wonder. After a while the whole class is looking open mouthed as Werner's dextrous fingers complete the task.

Werner attaches a brush of wire to the battery. The motor begins to buzz in the silent classroom. Hauptmann is astonished. He checks his stop watch.

HAUPTMANN

One minute twenty seconds...

WERNER

I can do it faster if I don't have people staring at me.

Bastian looks to Hauptmann....

BASTIAN

Herr Hauptmann? It seems the boy genius you have been waiting for has finally arrived....

18

EXT. NPI - OBSTACLE COURSE - NIGHT

18

We see Werner, Hauptmann and Volkheimer walking through pouring rain with radios and transceivers in sacks.

Hauptmann stops in a small clearing.

HAUPTMANN

Volkheimer, you go into the forest. Get as far as you can in ten minutes then turn on your transceiver.

Volkheimer nods and jogs away into the woods. Hauptmann nods to Werner, who begins to unpack two radio signal detectors from his sacks. Hauptmann watches with fascination as Werner's eyes are fiercely focused.

We time cut around him as he winds, plugs, adjusts his equipment.

He pulls on headphones and we hear crackling and squeaks. He adjusts his radio frequency and listens. He angles his head. He hears a high pitched pulse.

Hauptmann tosses him a stick.

HAUPTMANN (CONT'D)

When you are operating on the Eastern Front, you won't always have paper and pencil to do your calculations.

Werner catches the stick and reacts...

WERNER

The Eastern Front? Am I not too young?

HAUPTMANN

Germany needs geniuses. Write your calculation in the mud.

We watch from above as Werner uses the stick to write a triangulation calculation in the moonlit mud.

He draws a triangle and then a circle around it that touches all three vertices. He works quickly and very soon has a resolution, (which we don't need to understand). He plants his stick into the circle.

WERNER

Volkheimer is one point two kilometres south south east from this point.

Hauptmann's eyes glisten as he stares at Werner.

HAUPTMANN

Werner. Age is just a number.
Genius is a gift.

19

EXT. NPI - LARGE TREE CLEARING - NIGHT

19

Volkheimer is huddling around a small twig fire, smoking and sipping Schnapps from a flask. Beside him the radio blinks.

Then he hears footsteps. Werner arrives and squats. Volkheimer whispers...

VOLKHEIMER

Werner, you are buying yourself a passport to hell, you know that?

WERNER

The war will be over in one year.
Don't you listen to the radio?

VOLKHEIMER

Never.

Hauptmann looms out of the snow and stands over them as they both slowly stand. Hauptmann's pride in Werner's talent clearly evident as he picks up Volkheimer's radio.

HAUPTMANN

Werner Pfennig, you have everything it takes.

As Werner reacts, unsure whether this is a blessing or a curse, we hear an raid siren...

20

INT. BAKERY- OVEN ROOM - TWILIGHT

20

...The air raid siren continues to wail. It is almost dark now and the bread oven fire flickers and crackles. The ashtray has half a dozen cigarettes and Etienne has found a bottle of red wine which they are sharing.

WERNER

After that I was fast tracked. I
joined the signal corps and was
sent to the Eastern Front.

The air raid siren continues to wail and then a bomb
explodes. Etienne looks to the window and we see a pale
glow....

ETIENNE

And in the East you hunted down
patriots and partizans and executed
them.

Werner looks away....

WERNER

What happened after I reached the
front is also a long story.

Etienne gets to his feet, gathers his cigarettes and looks at
the flash of incendiaries at the window...

ETIENNE

Which will have to wait. You should
go to the basement.

Etienne pours three cigarettes from the pack and gives them
to Werner. Werner takes the cigarettes...

ETIENNE (CONT'D)

Tonight the others will come back.
There will be a trial...

Werner reacts....

ETIENNE (CONT'D)

I will explain to them that you
were sent to the front against your
will.

Etienne looks grave...

ETIENNE (CONT'D)

But they will only be interested in
things you did *after* you became a
soldier...

Werner's hand shakes as he lights a cigarette...

WERNER

I did bad things. Many bad
things...

Werner sees some connection in Etienne's eyes. Etienne takes
a key from his pocket.

ETIENNE

I have done many bad things too.
Save your confession until
tomorrow.

Werner blows smoke, looks away...

ETIENNE (CONT'D)

And perhaps when you've finished
your story, I will get a chance to
tell you mine.

They head for the door to the cellar and Etienne unlocks it. Werner steps inside and walks down a set of steps into darkness. We come to Etienne's face as the flash of an incendiary lights his troubled face. He locks the door, grabs his Sten gun and leaves. A bomb explodes nearby...

21

INT. SANDRINA'S BEDROOM/BROTHEL - TWILIGHT

21

....The same bomb rattles the windows. We find Von Rumpel sitting at a table near to the rattling window. He is eating roll mop herrings from the jar with his fingers.

Von Rumpel has a dressing on the wound on his head. Outside, smoke drifts through the fading light of day. Sandrina enters with a bowl of water, a fresh bandage, a bottle of Cognac.

SANDRINA

I just heard shooting in the
street.

She sits at the window opposite Von Rumpel.

SANDRINA (CONT'D)

The resistance are rising up
against you.

Von Rumpel wipes his fingers on the tablecloth then touches the bandage on his head.

SANDRINA (CONT'D)

Change the dressing. Change the
subject.

Sandrina begins the business of removing the bandage on Von Rumpel's head wound, cleaning it with water and Cognac and applying a new dressing.

She is dexterous and gentle. Von Rumpel stares out the window.

SANDRINA (CONT'D)

You have never explained. What interest do you have in this little blind girl who beat you up so badly?

VON RUMPEL

She is not so little. Bitch almost broke my skull.

The bowl of water swirls with blood.

VON RUMPEL (CONT'D)

She has something that doesn't belong to her.

A pause. Sandrina pours Cognac onto the wound. Von Rumpel takes it from her hand and swigs it from the bottle.

SANDRINA

May I ask what it is?

Von Rumpel wipes his mouth with his sleeve.

VON RUMPEL

It is a diamond.

Sandrina sits opposite him and takes a sip of cognac...

SANDRINA

It must be worth a great deal.

VON RUMPEL

More than money. To me. Three years ago I was diagnosed. My body is eating itself....

SANDRINA

And a diamond will cure you?

He sees Sandrina's look of incredulity and shrugs. He wipes his mouth with his sleeve and looks out into the glowing light.

VON RUMPEL

....For three years I have been searching for it....

We see a distant look in Von Rumpel's eyes...

VON RUMPEL (CONT'D)

Three fucking years....

22 INT. NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM- CORRIDOR 22

...Von Rumpel strides down the museum corridor with two German soldiers flanking him. A man on a mission.

*
*

*Caption; Natural History museum, Paris, three years earlier.
May 1941*

*

23 INT. NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM, PRECIOUS STONE VAULT - DAY 23

Von Rumpel enters the vault, which has been ransacked. Cabinets are open and files and containers are strewn across the table and floor. The foreman sits on a chair between two burly German soldiers. Von Rumpel approaches and looks around at the empty cases and safes.

*
*
*
*

We see that he is not surprised by what he sees. He turns to the foreman.

VON RUMPEL

Who took them?

The foreman takes a breath.

FOREMAN

I have no idea.

Von Rumpel turns and smartly pistol whips the foreman across the face. He shoves him against the wall and roughly frisks him, tearing his shirt open, shoving his hands into the foreman's pockets.

He finds a laminated ID card with a name and address. He hands it to one of the soldiers.

VON RUMPEL

Go to this address. If there are women and children, shoot them....

The foreman reacts....

VON RUMPEL (CONT'D)

...If this man doesn't return home in thirty minutes.

The soldier leaves.

*

VON RUMPEL (CONT'D)

Now. The clock is your master. Let us begin again.

The foreman is breathing hard, bleeding. Von Rumpel grabs him and sits him down and pulls up a chair to face him, close up... *

VON RUMPEL (CONT'D)

If you tell me the truth, you will be home in time to save your family. Who took the jewels that were in this strong room?

The foreman's breath shudders and he now has no decision to make...

FOREMAN

His name is Daniel. Daniel LeBlanc. The master of the locks in the museum. God forgive me...

VON RUMPEL

Where did he go?

FOREMAN

I swear I don't know, he didn't tell me...

Von Rumpel casually cocks the trigger of his gun....

FOREMAN (CONT'D)

But the jewels you are looking for are on their way to Geneva. Hidden inside the head of a dinosaur.

Von Rumpel stares at the foreman who looks pleadingly and speaks evenly.

FOREMAN (CONT'D)

If you make that known to the soldiers at the check points on the perimeter of the city you will get all the jewels that were in this room. Please let me go home.

Von Rumpel gestures to one of the soldiers to relay the message. The soldier leaves.

Von Rumpel gets to his feet. He scans the walls and sees the safe set into the wall from which Daniel took the Sea of Flames. He is instantly engaged and approaches it....

VON RUMPEL

According to the archive there was one jewel in particular in this vault. Worth more than all the others put together. It is called the Sea of Flame...

Von Rumpel crosses to the safe from which Daniel extracted the Sea of Flames. He looks from the safe to the Foreman.

VON RUMPEL (CONT'D)
It was kept in here, yes?

The foreman nods, wipes sweat...

FOREMAN
It was never exhibited. There is a superstition....

Von Rumpel stares into the blackness of the safe.

VON RUMPEL
A curse...

He continues to stare into the darkness....

VON RUMPEL (CONT'D)
Did this Daniel LeBlanc
take it with his own hands?

FOREMAN
He does not believe in curses. He is a very scientific man. As am I. Only he and I ever handled that stone.

Von Rumpel is amused...

VON RUMPEL
Only he and you.

FOREMAN
Please may I go home?

VON RUMPEL
Was he alone when he took the jewels?

FOREMAN
Yes. No. He was with his daughter.

VON RUMPEL
A woman?

Von Rumpel turns...

FOREMAN
A little girl. She is blind.

VON RUMPEL
He has a daughter who is blind?

Von Rumpel studies the foreman then looks back to the darkness inside the safe.

VON RUMPEL (CONT'D)

Then perhaps Daniel LeBlanc-man-of-science should review his dismissal of the superstition.

A pause.

VON RUMPEL (CONT'D)

Where did Daniel Le Blanc and his little cursed blind girl go?

FOREMAN

I told you I have no idea. I swear to God. I swear on the lives of my babies, I do not know Sir where he went, Heil Hitler...

Von Rumpel returns from the safe wearily. *

VON RUMPEL

You know what the curse of the Sea of Flames is?

FOREMAN

Please Sir, it will take me at least fifteen minutes to reach my apartment. Let me go...

VON RUMPEL

Those who handle it live forever, but their loved ones suffer terrible misfortune.

He glances back at the darkness of the safe then hisses in the Foreman's ear....

VON RUMPEL (CONT'D)

You should have at least worn gloves.

He shoves the foreman back and he clatters to the floor. Von Rumpel then leaves and closes the door.... *

24 INT. NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM, CORRIDOR OUTSIDE VAULT - DAY 24

The key is still in the lock and Von Rumpel locks it. As he does we hear the foreman fly at the door inside the locked room and scream.....

FOREMAN

No!!! Let me go!!!!

He begins to hammer on the door as Von Rumpel puts the keys into his pocket. One of the soldiers speaks up....

SOLDIER

Sir. His family...

Von Rumpel walks and calls back...

VON RUMPEL

The sea of flames shows no mercy.

The soldiers look to each other as the foreman screams inside the locked room...

25

INT. SANDRINA'S BEDROOM/BROTHEL- NIGHT

25

Von Rumpel is now drinking Cognac as night has fallen and bombs fall and he concludes...

VON RUMPEL

We found the dinosaur head but the sea of flames was not in there.

Sandrina is at the window looking up at the bombers patrolling the sky.

SANDRINA

And you think the blind girl has it?

She turns to Von Rumpel then steps away from the glowing light of the window...

SANDRINA (CONT'D)

You know when the Americans come, the people here will drag me into the street as a traitor because I slept with German soldiers.

A pause.

SANDRINA (CONT'D)

They will shave my head and cover me in black tar and then throw pillow cases full of feathers over me.

She stubs her cigarette.

SANDRINA (CONT'D)

Then they will hang me.

Von Rumpel puts the pill bottle back in his pocket.

VON RUMPEL

We will all face our fate when the Americans come...

He gets to his feet...

SANDRINA

Can you get me out of this city?

VON RUMPEL

Why would I do that?

SANDRINA

Because I know now where the blind girl lives.

The flash of another incendiary lights the window. Von Rumpel studies her...

SANDRINA (CONT'D)

Yesterday a customer came. The baker. He was drunk. He forgot that the blind girl is meant to be a secret.

VON RUMPEL

And he gave you an address?

Sandrina takes a shot of Cognac...

SANDRINA

If you can get me beyond the city perimeter in a vehicle with gasoline I will tell you where she lives..

VON RUMPEL

How can I trust you?

SANDRINA

I can't trust you, you can't trust me. It is a question of whose need is the greater.

VON RUMPEL

Trust is overrated. Necessity I understand completely.

A pause. Von Rumpel decides quickly...

VON RUMPEL (CONT'D)

I will get you out of the city tonight.

The air raid rumbles on...

26

INT. MARIE LAURE'S ATTIC - NIGHT

26

Marie is broadcasting over the sound. She concludes...

MARIE

...And that completes chapter
twenty two, part two, of Twenty
Thousand Leagues under the Sea.

She closes the Braille book. Marie is about to turn off the
radio but hesitates. The rock is beside the microphone and it
appears to remind her of something.

MARIE (CONT'D)

Papa, if you are listening, before
I go...

Marie picks up the rock and clutches it...

MARIE (CONT'D)

Yesterday it was a rock that saved
my life. Today, it was Etienne.
Etienne is a rock too. When we came
to this house we thought he was
made of straw. But he is made of
much stronger stuff.

Marie breaths the air in the room and we move to the door to
the attic.

MARIE (CONT'D)

After all the bombs and smoke I
still smell lilacs....

We rest on the attic door for a few moments then it is
unlocked and Etienne enters. We repeat the caption...

Caption: Same doorway, three years earlier...

(The use of doorways for time shifts is deliberate). Etienne
ushers Marie inside and closes the door and looks around the
room....

ETIENNE

I am only allowing you in because
you can't see what a mess it is.
And so you will not judge me.

Marie breaths the air...

MARIE

Lilacs?

ETIENNE

Yes. The smell brings back happier
times when I was a young man and
something of a dandy. Now. There.
There is my radio.

He gently helps her to the desk and the chair. Marie begins
to explore the microphone and the turntable with her
fingertips. She finds the dial and turns it just a little.

As we move with her fingers we might glimpse the cover of a record of '*Clair De Lune*'. Marie, of course, doesn't see it.

As she explores...

ETIENNE (CONT'D)

I have a dial which takes me around the globe in sixty seconds. One moment I am in Africa, the next I am in Cuba, then Australia, then damn, the battery is gone and I have to run to the basement for a new one.

Marie smiles. She touches the microphone.

MARIE

What is the microphone for?

ETIENNE

Sometimes I add my own voice to the babble of voices.

Marie takes a moment. We should know that she already believes that Etienne is the Professor but as yet she hasn't spoken of it...

MARIE

And what do you say when you speak?

Etienne sits beside her, runs his hands through his hair...

ETIENNE

I say 'isn't the world a beautiful place'...

Marie interrupts and completes...

MARIE

...And then you ask, 'so why are we destroying it?'

He peers at her.

MARIE (CONT'D)

Is that what you say?

ETIENNE

Sometimes, when I speak, the words choose themselves.

Marie takes a moment...

MARIE

Etienne. Can I call you just Etienne? Because 'Great Uncle Etienne' makes you sound like some sort of Emperor.

Etienne chuckles. He likes Marie...

ETIENNE

An emperor I am. But only of this
attic room.

Marie takes a moment...

MARIE

Etienne. I feel as if I know you
already. Not by that name though.

Etienne peers at her and suspects her agenda. He decides to
close it down...

ETIENNE

Marie, you should go. Your father
said he wants to take you to the
ocean.

MARIE

Will you come with us?

ETIENNE

No.

MARIE

Why not?

The question instantly shakes Etienne and he looks down,
breathing a little more heavily. Marie senses his distress
but continues....

MARIE (CONT'D)

Because there are things inside
your head that make you afraid.

ETIENNE (QUICKLY)

Marie, your father is waiting.

He stands quickly and takes her hand. She gets to her feet
and takes hold of her cane. Marie makes a decision...

MARIE

Etienne...

A pause. A breath...

MARIE (CONT'D)

...when I heard you speak
downstairs, I was sure I knew your
voice.

Etienne reacts. Marie dares to continue...

MARIE (CONT'D)

Most of my life I have listened to the broadcasts of a man who calls himself the Professor. On shortwave 13.10....

Etienne reacts...

MARIE (CONT'D)

You are the Professor....

Instantly Etienne looks up to the ceiling. It takes a while for him to absorb...

ETIENNE

That would be absurd. Do I look like a Professor?

MARIE

I have no idea what you look like. But I know voices as if they were faces. And you are the Professor.

At last he speaks softly....

ETIENNE

I was never sure anyone was even listening.

MARIE

I was *always* listening. So many of us were.

He looks to his desk and his microphone.

ETIENNE

Well, the Professor is gone now. I packed him away....

He stares at the microphone.

ETIENNE (CONT'D)

I now use my radio for more important things.

A pause. He looks to Marie and sees the look of undiminished glory on her face...

ETIENNE (CONT'D)

You are not disappointed? Like Dorothy when she met the Wizard.

MARIE (PUZZLED)

What wizard? Who is Dorothy?

Etienne smiles.

ETIENNE

Please. Tell no one. Go to your father. Be careful on the stairs.

Marie takes a moment and breaths the air in this holy room once more, then departs.

Etienne closes the door and leans on it and reacts to the fact that another human being knows the truth.

27

EXT. ST.MALO, SEA SHELL BEACH - DAY

27

Marie and Daniel walk arm-in-arm along the beach as the sea air fizzes....

DANIEL

What do you think of the ocean?

MARIE

It sounds like someone breathing in their sleep.

Daniel smiles, her description striking a chord...

DANIEL

I've always felt it sounds like the world catching its breath. Over and over again.

MARIE

Or it is just water on sand...

DANIEL

Never. Everything is more than just its pieces. Everything has a voice. Telling us something.

They walk on...

DANIEL (CONT'D)

So, do you like Etienne and Madame Manec?

MARIE

One makes me laugh, one makes me sad. But I like them both very much.

DANIEL

I knew you would. So I think we might be here for quite a time. Is that OK?

MARIE

It is more than OK.

As they walk, Daniel hands Marie seashells which she feels with her fingers.

DANIEL
Why 'more' than OK?

Marie decides not to give an answer. They walk on and we see that Daniel is scanning the buildings above as if calculating something. Marie begins to dig....

MARIE
Aunt Manec said Uncle Etienne was a war hero. He doesn't seem like a hero.

Daniel looks out at the castle on an island out to sea.

DANIEL
If you lock a tiger in a metal box it will look like a metal box...

MARIE
Then we should open the box....

DANIEL
Then we would be living with a tiger, Marie.

Marie decides and speaks firmly....

MARIE
Someone must help him to be free.

Daniel stops walking. His mind is filled with the project in his head...

MARIE (CONT'D)
Papa? We should help him. What do you say?

DANIEL
(looking at the town up above)
I will begin it at the coast road and end it at the town square.

MARIE
Begin what?

Daniel looks to her....

DANIEL
Just as with Paris, so with St.Malo. I will build a model of the town for your fingers to explore.

(MORE)

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Otherwise you will be stuck inside
the house and will become like
Uncle Etienne...

Marie laughs...

MARIE

Yes, and when I have learned the
model, I will take him by the hand
and show him around town myself.
You'll see....

Daniel hardly hears....

DANIEL

But there are things I will need...

As waves crash, music begins...

28 EXT. ST MALO, BACK STREET - DAY

28

Horns hoot as a small traffic jam snarls up in a junction. Through the car windscreens we see Daniel and Madam Manec carrying a large wooden board, eight feet by five, across the street. Madam Manec has put her side down to rest her hands in the middle of the street and driver's half get out of their cars to yell at her. Madame Manec calls out with great dignity...

MADAME MANEC

We are working on behalf of a girl
who is blind. He who hoots his horn
has no heart. So hush.

The traffic jam is silenced. Music continues...

29 INT. MADAME MANEC/MARIE'S HOUSE, PARLOUR - DAY

29

Etienne and Daniel lift the rectangular board onto a table in the parlour. It dominates the room. Daniel looks at it and Etienne looks at Daniel...

ETIENNE

Daniel. How on earth are you going
to measure out a whole City?

DANIEL

One step at a time.

30 EXT. ST.MALO STREET - BAKERY - DAY

30

We are with Monsieur Caron the baker. He is looking out of the window of his shop as Daniel walks past. The door is open so he can hear Daniel counting.

DANIEL

...Three hundred and twenty four,
three hundred twenty five, three
hundred twenty six...

Monsieur Caron reacts. He steps outside and calls out.

MONSIEUR CARON

Daniel! The whole town is talking
about you, what are you doing?

Daniel stops. He turns. His face freezes for a moment then
he growls.

DANIEL

Damnit. Now I will have to start
again.

Daniel turns and walks back up the hill past the shop as the
baker stares with incredulity...

Music continues...

31 INT. MADAME MANEC/MARIE'S HOUSE, PARLOUR - DAY 31

...A series of detailed shots show Daniel building the model
city with utmost craftsmanship and care. Dissolving vignettes
show the progress, along with glimpses of Manec bringing
meals in and taking away untouched others, Etienne and
occasionally Marie helping out here and there, all the while
Daniel remains vigilantly focused.

A true labor of love.

31A INT. MADAME MANEC/MARIE'S HOUSE, PARLOUR - LATE AFTERNOON 31A

Daniel surveys his 'City' which is now almost complete. The
blue "ocean" stretches out all along one side of the base.
The buildings are unpainted but the wooden City looks as
magnificent as the model of Paris once did.

Etienne enters with a cup of coffee.

DANIEL

It's OK, Etienne, I don't want
more coffee. I'm almost done here.

Etienne walks around the model with a look of admiration. But
he speaks with concern...

ETIENNE

Your measuring out of the streets
is finished, yes?

DANIEL

Almost. Why?

ETIENNE

Madame Manec was in the butcher's shop and heard people talking about the man who counts his foot steps. This is a small town Daniel.

DANIEL

What of it?

ETIENNE

Another lady whispered that the man had a Parisian accent...

Etienne squints and looks through a window in the fortress.

ETIENNE (CONT'D)

A third lady said she had heard the mysterious man from Paris had come to help the resistance.

Daniel looks to him sharply.

ETIENNE (CONT'D)

....That he was measuring out the City for American bombers.

Daniel is about to speak with horror but Etienne concludes calmly...

ETIENNE (CONT'D)

Get Marie and bring her downstairs.

A pause.

ETIENNE (CONT'D)

The Gestapo are here.

Daniel has joined Etienne at the window and stares down at the Germans below in horror.

ETIENNE (CONT'D)

It's OK, it's OK. If it was for the radio there would be a hundred of them. They are just coming to check out the rumors about the strange man from Paris...

Etienne looks to Daniel...

ETIENNE (CONT'D)

Tell them the truth and show them your papers and you will be OK. You've done nothing wrong.

There is a heavy bang on the door downstairs. Etienne turns to Daniel and sees his look of dread.

ETIENNE (CONT'D)
What is it Daniel?

DANIEL
Etienne, there are some things I haven't told you.

Another heavy knock on the door.

ETIENNE
What things?

DANIEL
I am going to have to lie to them about who I am....

ETIENNE (INCREDULOUS)
You are? Why?

DANIEL
Sometimes secrets are best kept secret. I know you might not understand...

ETIENNE
You are not the only one with secrets.

Daniel looks long at Etienne but his stare is interrupted by the door being beaten hard with the butt of a gun.

DANIEL
You'd better go open the door before they break it down. I'll fetch Marie.

Etienne sets off for the stairs.

32

INT. MADAME MANEC'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - LATE AFTERNOON

32

Etienne, Marie and Daniel arrive downstairs in a hurry. Etienne approaches the front door while Daniel heads into the kitchen with Marie.

DANIEL
Marie, you know what not to mention don't you? Do not mention the museum. Do not mention the radio or the microphone...

MARIE

I know, Papa. Also we must not seem afraid...

DANIEL

No. We must not..

Marie adds to convince her father...

MARIE

Because we are not afraid...

He turns to her, absorbs her strength and hugs her. The footsteps coming from the entryway are heavy. Etienne enters the kitchen first, followed by the Gestapo officer and soldiers...

ETIENNE

This is the girl. And this is her father.

Daniel smiles and offers his hand. The Officer peers at it then walks by him and goes to Marie. He grabs her head and pushes it back....

DANIEL

Hey....

Etienne takes his arm and squeezes it....

ETIENNE

It's OK. Our German friends just want to confirm Marie's condition.

The officer puts his face close to Marie's and stares into her eyes...

OFFICER

You are blind?

MARIE

Yes Sir.

He stays close to her face. Too close. He grabs a knife from the nearby countertop. Daniel reacts but Etienne holds his arm tight. The officer puts the tip of the blade close to Marie's open eye.

OFFICER

What am I holding?

MARIE

I don't know, Sir.

OFFICER

Your Daddy has been seen around town measuring streets and pavements.

MARIE

Yes Sir.

OFFICER

'Yes Sir'. She's cute.

A pause...

OFFICER (CONT'D)

Measuring as if to make a map for people who might be planning to come here...

DANIEL

I am building a scale model of the City so my daughter can get to know the streets.

OFFICER

Is what your father said true?

MARIE

Yes. He built a model of Paris for me when we lived there.

The officer puts the tip of the blade close to her other eye.

OFFICER

One, two. Both eyes pretty. But both not functional. The first part of the story confirmed.

The officer lets Marie go and glares at Daniel.

OFFICER (CONT'D)

Now, show me what you built.

32A INT. MADAME MANEC/MARIE'S PARLOUR - LATE AFTERNOON

32A

We come close to the model of St.Malo as the officer puts his face close. He peers in through one of the windows. He then straightens and studies the streets and the buildings. Etienne, Daniel and Marie are near to the window. The officer turns to Daniel..

OFFICER

You came here from Paris?

DANIEL

Yes.

OFFICER

What did you do in Paris?

A pause. The officer looks up. Daniel makes a quick decision...

DANIEL

I was a carpenter. As you can see.

Etienne reacts inside to the lie but shows nothing.

OFFICER

Why did you come here?

DANIEL

To get away from the city. To give my daughter a vacation.

The officer peers at Daniel.

OFFICER

What is your name?

DANIEL

Claude. Claude Dugarry.

Again Etienne reacts to the lie but shows nothing. The officer approaches Daniel...

OFFICER

Show me your papers Mr Dugarry.

Silence. Concealed horror. Then...

DANIEL

Certainly. They are in my jacket pocket.

Daniel moves towards his jacket slung over a chair in the corner. The officer slowly moves his hand to his holstered gun and watches carefully.

Daniel removes a well worn envelope and hands it to the officer.

The officer examines the papers, taking a last look at the model.

OFFICER

I will send your papers to Paris. They will check you out.

The officer stares at Daniel a little longer.

OFFICER (CONT'D)
You have great skill.

He looks to Marie...

OFFICER (CONT'D)
And terrible misfortune.

DANIEL
It is no misfortune. It is a
blessing.

The officer waits a little longer then leaves. Daniel, Etienne and Marie remain frozen for a moment as they listen to heavy footsteps on the stairs. As the front door opens, Etienne sweeps his hand through his hair...

ETIENNE
(Incredulous)
You just gave false papers to the
Gestapo.

DANIEL
They are very good. I had the Head
of Fine Art Restoration at the
museum make them up.

ETIENNE
Why does that not fill me with
confidence?

32B INT MADAME MANEC/MARIE'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - NIGHT

32B

Manec glances at Daniel and studies him.

MANEC
How much does he know?

Silence. Daniel looks from one to the other.

DANIEL
Know about what?

Etienne nods to Madame Manec and she takes the signal...

MADAME MANEC
I will take Marie to bed.

MARIE
I don't want to go to bed.

DANIEL

Marie...

MARIE

There is a secret. I hear a secret
in their voices...

MADAM MANEC

Which is why you must go to bed.

DANIEL

Marie, please.

Daniel kisses Marie good night and she leaves with Madame Manec. After they have gone...

ETIENNE

Sit down Daniel. Now that you live
here it is best that you know the
truth.

Daniel sits....

ETIENNE (CONT'D)

Within this City there is an
organization. Certain people in
this town bring certain information
to me regarding troop movements and
ships that come and go in the
harbor. And I....

A silence. Daniel guesses...

DANIEL

The radio?

Etienne takes a moment...

ETIENNE

Before the Germans came I used my
radio to preach peace. Now it is an
instrument of war. A very valuable
one. I pass the information on to
London using ciphers and code.

Daniel is shocked by the revelation and excited by it...

DANIEL

If I were needed, I would do
whatever you want me to do.

ETIENNE

For now, what we need is for you to
not draw attention to this house
again. Clear?

Daniel peers at Etienne and smiles....

DANIEL

So the tiger still patrols inside
his metal box.

(CONT'D)

33 INT. OYSTER GROTTTO - DAY

33

A wave crashes and fizzes into the grotto in a shaft of sunlight. Then two shadows appear. Daniel and Marie walk down the stone steps and into the grotto, with Daniel holding Marie's arm tight.

She sits on the bottom step and removes her shoes and puts them on the steps above.

DANIEL

Ever since we came to St.Malo I
have wanted to bring you here.

Marie takes a deep breath...

MARIE

It is as if we are under the ocean.

They are now barefoot and walk on the sand toward the walls of the grotto.

DANIEL

We are inside a cave made of simple rock but to me it looks like a secret palace, because when I come here I am a boy again...

Marie laughs...

DANIEL (CONT'D)

I used to visit St.Malo to stay with Madame Manec for my holidays. I would come down here to collect oysters...

Daniel takes an oyster knife from his pocket and peers up at the half lit roof of the grotto...

DANIEL (CONT'D)

This was once the place where the guard dogs of St.Malo were kept.

We stay with Daniel as he considers the roof of the grotto while he pries open an oyster.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

This was my secret place.

Finally it pops open and he hands it to Marie...

Daniel plucks an oyster from the rocks and drops it into the basket...

MARIE

Was Etienne here when you were a boy?

DANIEL

Of course. A young man...

MARIE

Before the war changed him.

Daniel peers at Marie.

DANIEL

Before it did. Yes.

MARIE

What was he like?

DANIEL

(smiles at the memory)
He wore Cologne and girls would ride on the back of his motorcycle and scream.

(MORE)

DANIEL (CONT'D)

That is what I remember. He was remarkable. Why do you ask?

Marie drops one oyster shell into the water and shrugs away the question. Then...

MARIE

Papa, who is Dorothy and who is the Wizard?

A pause. Daniel is puzzled but smiles as he plucks more oysters from the rock....

DANIEL

They are characters in an American book. Dorothy is a girl your age. The wizard is an old man who pretends to know everything. But Dorothy finds out...

He clatters another oyster into the basket...

DANIEL (CONT'D)

...He knows nothing.

Marie speaks with certainty...

MARIE

Then he is *not* the wizard.

Daniel turns to her...

DANIEL

Who is not the wizard?

Marie is silent and we might think she is about to answer. Then suddenly...

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Shit....

MARIE

What?

DANIEL

Your shoes.

A wave has caught Marie's shoes and they float quickly into the grotto. Daniel goes to grab one and slips on a rock and lands in the water with a splash...

MARIE

Papa! What are you doing?

Daniel sits up then lays back in the foaming water with his arms outstretched....

DANIEL

I am being a boy again Marie.

He grins and splashes Marie full in the face with a wave of sea water. Marie gasps and then kicks her feet and splashes him back. Daniel splashes to her and grabs her and lifts her up, both of them soaked...

DANIEL (CONT'D)

From now on Marie, for us this big ugly war will be one giant holiday.

34

INT. MADAME MANEC/MARIE'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - DAY

34

Daniel is soaked as he drops his basket of oysters onto the table. Marie takes off her wet shoes and Daniel peels off his jacket. They both hear footsteps on the stairs and Etienne bursts in...

ETIENNE

Where are the little angels?...

Daniel gestures at the basket...

DANIEL

As you can see, I sacrificed a whole suit of clothes for them. Help yourself.

Daniel hands him an oyster knife and Etienne begins to shuck an oyster greedily...

ETIENNE

Oysters from the fortress grotto were always the best in the world...

He swallows one down and savors it...

ETIENNE (CONT'D)

Ah. And they still are. It has been twenty years Daniel.

Marie asks casually as she ties back her wet hair...

MARIE

If you like them so much why do you never go and collect them yourself Etienne?

Etienne slows with an open oyster in his hand. Daniel glances at Marie as his smile dries...

MARIE (CONT'D)

It is only a short walk along the beach...

DANIEL (SHARPLY)
Marie, please...

Marie puts her shoes onto the stove...

MARIE
Papa, if you stop asking it becomes normal...

Etienne and Daniel look to each other. Marie continues..

MARIE (CONT'D)
Perhaps next time you will come with us. And when my fingers learn the streets, I will take you out myself...

DANIEL
I'm sorry Etienne, my daughter can be very direct.

Etienne swallows another oyster. He wipes his eyes with his sleeve and grabs another...

ETIENNE
Marie, I think you know the reason why I don't go...

MARIE
But there is no reason in it. The past is done and gone. I thought you believed in science...

DANIEL
Marie, please stop...

Etienne blinks as he shucks the oyster. He pretends to laugh.....

ETIENNE
No, no, it's fine Daniel. Marie, why don't you just think of me as an oyster. Stuck inside my shell.

Marie sits down at the table.

MARIE
But you are not an oyster Etienne. Whoever heard of an oyster wearing lilac Cologne riding a motorcycle with a girl screaming...

Etienne puts his arm across his eyes and Daniel interrupts...

DANIEL (INTERRUPTING)
Well done Marie. You can't see but you have made him cry.

MARIE

Well perhaps someone must.

ETIENNE (FIRMLY)

Marie?..

Silence. Marie is defiant...

MARIE

Yes?

Etienne speaks very deliberately.

ETIENNE

Keep. Asking. Me...

A pause.

ETIENNE (CONT'D)

...To come with you.

He removes his arm and takes a deep breath.

ETIENNE (CONT'D)

And one time, if it is you who is asking, I just might come.

Etienne is perhaps surprised at his own words. A long pause. Rather than react Marie speaks evenly like a school teacher...

MARIE

Good. Then that is settled.

Daniel senses that there is some connection between Marie and Etienne but doesn't yet know what it is. Marie speaks with new authority...

MARIE (CONT'D)

And please you two: no more oysters. There will be none left for Madame Manec.

Etienne and Daniel look to each other and this time they begin to smile. Marie is a force to be reckoned with. Etienne shushes Daniel and slowly reaches out to the oysters and takes one silently. He puts the tip of the knife into the oyster and twists....

MARIE (CONT'D)

Etienne, I can hear you. Give that one to me.

Daniel and Etienne laugh out loud as Marie takes the oyster and swallows it down. For a moment there is a glow of happiness around the table as Marie wipes her mouth.

Etienne watches Marie for a beat before changing subjects.

ETIENNE

Now Daniel, in a short while, you will meet the intelligence committee of the resistance organization in St. Malo. You know our secrets, it's time we learned yours.

DANIEL

Should Marie leave?

ETIENNE

Marie is proving smarter than both of us. She should stay.

Suddenly, Madame Manec enters through the back courtyard with a basket of fruits and bread. She is accompanied by two ladies in their sixties in fine hats, both carrying bags of cakes and pastries. (They are MADAME FONTINEAIU and MADAME BLANCHARD).

MADAME MANEC

We come bearing pastries and treats!

As they place their food on the table Daniel glances at Etienne, then speaks gently to Madame Manec....

DANIEL

Madame Manec, forgive me, but... I think we are about to have a sensitive meeting here...

She takes off her coat and sits. The other ladies take off their hats and sit too.

MADAME MANEC

Indeed we are.

Daniel very quickly connects the dots, looking at Manec and her friends and realizing...

DANIEL

You are the Resistance.

MADAME MANEC

(smiles)

Smart boy. May I introduce you to the St. Malo Old Ladies Resistance Club.

(off Marie's surprise, pats her hand)

Women keep secrets far better than men, my dear.

MARIE

I smell vanilla.

MADAME MANEC

Vanilla and anise. These ladies
bake cakes...

Etienne is pouring three glasses of wine...

ETIENNE

They also observe troop movements
and the passage of ships in and out
of the harbour.

Madame Blanchard takes a sip of wine. Madame Fontineau takes a madelein cookie.

MADAME BLANCHARD

We shop for fish on the harbour wall. Three old ladies. Beyond suspicion. Our shopping lists are the names of torpedo boats.

MADAME FONTINEAU

We take coffee to the young German soldiers and they speak to us as if we were their mothers.

MADAME BLANCHARD

They tell us everything.

ETIENNE

It was my sister who insisted that I be the honorary male member of the intelligence committee.

Madame Manec speaks casually....

MADAME MANEC

He was a hero in the trenches. How much simpler to be a hero in your own attic.

MADAME FONTINEAU

And Etienne tells us we have a problem.

All eyes fall on Daniel. He looks to the ladies who stare solemnly...

DANIEL

....At the museum of natural history in Paris. Where I was curator. I removed all of the precious stones that belonged to France and shipped them to Geneva before the Germans could take them.

Madame Manec reacts.

MADAME FONTINEAU (SOFTLY)

Bravo.

DANIEL

Yes, bravo, but I have no doubt my name will be on a list.

ETIENNE

Daniel gave them a false name.

DANIEL

But still I am a man from Paris with a daughter who is blind. The officer said he would send a report to Paris...

Madame Manec is silent. Etienne looks for hope...

ETIENNE

The Germans are too busy to make those kind of connections.

DANIEL

The Germans are German. There will be a unit allocated to the retrieval of the precious stones. If my description is in the system it will reach them eventually.

MARIE

But by then the war will be over Papa. You said by Christmas...

DANIEL

And, anyway, it isn't really me they will be looking for.

A pause. He looks to Etienne and gives new information...

DANIEL (CONT'D)

It is something I have. A particular jewel. It is the most famous jewel in France...

There is silent consultation and silent realization. Madame Fontineau speaks darkly...

MADAM FONTINEAU

The one all the magazines say has a terrible curse?...

Daniel continues quickly...

DANIEL

It is the kind of stone that interests madmen. Like those who rule the Reich. I know it will be a high priority. A very high priority.

A pause.

MADAME MANEC

You have it here in this house?

A long pause.

DANIEL

Yes. I do not believe in curses...

Madame Blanchard glances once at Marie...

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Besides, I had no choice.

Marie takes his hand and grips it.

MADAME BLANCHARD

You are being very honest with us.

DANIEL

That's because I know you are doing important work. If I'd known what you were doing, Etienne, I would never have come here and brought you this trouble. If you want us to leave, we will leave.

Marie reacts but Daniel squeezes her hand. Etienne runs his hand through his hair. The ladies are silent. Then Madame Manec looks to Daniel...

MADAME MANEC

During time of war, Daniel, priorities are altered. And this is an enemy we must not underestimate.

A pause.

MADAME MANEC (CONT'D)
We are family. We are blood. And
blood is forever, but our duty
right now is to France.

35-38 OMITTED

35-38

39

INT. MADAME MANEC/MARIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

39

In silhouette against a moonlit ocean we see Daniel packing a small case with clothes. We see that as well as his own clothes he is packing Marie's clothes. He also packs a photograph of himself and Marie. He spends a moment peering at the photo in moonlight.

He takes a breath of resolve and zips the case.

Then he goes to the table in the middle of the room. It is heavy and he has to heave it aside. He then rolls up the rug beneath it. He has a tool box with the tools he used to build the model and he unscrews two screws in one of the floorboards. He turns the floorboard over and locates a small rectangular panel that has been chiselled into the floorboard.

He uses a sharp screw driver to remove the cover of the panel. He reaches in and pulls out a black velvet bag.

40 INT. PARLOUR - NIGHT

40

Moonlight bathes the room and we see the model of St.Malo with moon shadows across the streets and rooftops.

The door opens and Daniel enters. He comes to the model and takes a moment. Then he begins to unscrew the roof of the *very house we are in*. The work should be intricate and we come close.

Daniel sets the screws aside. He then places the Sea of Flames inside the roof space. We see the diamond flash red in the light of the Moon.

Then Daniel replaces the roof and begins to screw it back in place.

41 INT. MADAME MANEC/MARIE'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - DAY

41

Madame Manec is sitting at the table. An envelope sits on the tablecloth. Etienne is sitting across the table and Marie is sitting on a hard-backed chair, facing the window, pointedly facing away from the room.

Daniel enters and Madame Manec stands and hands him the envelope. She speaks softly...

MADAME MANEC

A return ticket to Paris. Some cash, an address where you will be safe...

Daniel takes a moment and looks at Marie, who doesn't turn around...

DANIEL

Please. Marie, don't worry. Everything is in hand...

Marie speaks evenly, doesn't turn, speaks with burning irony.

MARIE

Why would I worry?

Daniel looks to Etienne.

ETIENNE

Marie, your father will return. There is a plan in place...

MARIE

What plan?

DANIEL

It is best you don't know Marie.

Marie shakes her head (back still turned)...

MARIE

What plan?

Madame Manec nods permission.

ETIENNE

We have already asked our friends
in the Parisienne resistance to let
it be known through their
informants that Daniel LeBlanc has
been spotted in Paris...

Daniel goes to approach Marie but Madame Manec gently shakes
her head. Daniel speaks to her back...

DANIEL

Tomorrow they will take a
photograph of me in a cafe, reading
tomorrow's newspaper. Then they
will give the Germans an address..

We are behind Marie and slowly begin to come around to see
her face...

MARIE

But when they visit the address,
you won't be there.

DANIEL

They will find my things. And some
of yours as well. I have them in my
case. I will leave them in the
apartment for them to find...

We come around and see a tear trickling down Marie's
otherwise stoic face...

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Then I will be seen and
photographed in Bordeaux.

Marie reacts with a flicker of horror...

MARIE

Bordeaux?

MADAME MANEC

Just three hours by train Marie.

DANIEL

And just for one day...

Daniel fills with emotion and Madame Manec continues...

MADAME MANEC

In Bordeaux our friends will let it be known that a man with a blind daughter was smuggled across the border into Spain.

A pause.

DANIEL

And that he paid the smugglers with a large diamond. Which has now also been smuggled into Spain.

We are still on Marie's face with Daniel hovering behind her...

DANIEL (CONT'D)

If the plan works...

MARIE

If...

DANIEL

...I will be home in six days.

Marie's firm voice almost breaks...

MARIE

Papa, you have never left me before. You said you would never leave me.

DANIEL

I will do what I have to do and then I will return...

Marie grips the chair, still facing the window...

MARIE

Why don't you take this cursed jewel to Paris and leave it there for the Germans to find. Then they would stop looking.

A pause. Daniel, Etienne and Madam Manec look to each other. It is a debate they have all had in their own minds and reached the same conclusion.

MADAME MANEC

Because the Germans are our enemies. And the stone does not belong to them.

ETIENNE

It belongs to the people of France. We are the people of France.

Daniel nods once.

MARIE

The Professor did not believe in nations. Only people.

In the moment the word Professor hangs unexplained. Daniel continues...

DANIEL

Marie, in Paris I will buy you those candies you like. And the puzzle boxes and some Braille books. But now there is a train I have to catch and...

Marie suddenly stands and the chair clatters over and she turns and she and Daniel grab each other and hug tightly. They both have tears in their eyes.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Etienne will let you use the radio. Speak to me every day. I will listen wherever I am whenever I can. Speak to me when you can and know I will be listening...

MARIE

I will continue to speak to you Papa no matter how long you are gone.

DANIEL

I will be with you Marie. Always I will be with you...

MARIE

And I will be with you.

Marie takes one last deep breath of the air around her father. Then Daniel breaks away and walks...

42

INT. MARIE'S ATTIC - NIGHT

42

We find the attic with broken glass and shattered windows. Outside bombs are falling and we hear the rumble of bombers...

Caption: St.Malo - August 1944

Marie is in her chair, broadcasting into her microphone.

MARIE

...Papa, it is now one year and three months since you left. You said you would be gone only six days.

A pause.

MARIE (CONT'D)

But I know you are still listening.
I know you can hear me....

She wipes a hard fought tear from her eye.

MARIE (CONT'D)

You are waiting for the Americans
to come. Then you will come home.
I know it.

A pause.

MARIE (CONT'D)

Good night Papa. I love you.

Marie closes her eyes. A bomb explodes...

43 INT. BAKERY, OVEN ROOM - NIGHT

43

Etienne enters and searches for keys. He goes to the door of the cellar and unlocks it.

ETIENNE

It's time. Come.

After a moment a sleepless Werner appears on the cellar stairs. Etienne offers him a cup of black coffee which he sips.

ETIENNE (CONT'D)

I thought you might try to escape.

Werner peers at Etienne.

WERNER

I stayed because I trust you.

Etienne is struck hard. A moment...

ETIENNE

Why would you trust me?

WERNER

Yesterday I was sure I recognized
your voice. In the night I
realized...

Etienne breaks off and busies himself placing four hard-backed chairs in a line...

WERNER (CONT'D)

You know the girl who now
broadcasts on 13.10. You know the
house. You are him...

They hear a car pulling up outside.

WERNER (CONT'D)
You are the Professor.

Etienne has no energy left to dissemble.

ETIENNE
I am a soldier. You are a soldier.
Nothing before matters. Sit.

Etienne shows him to the single chair. Werner hesitates then sits. Henri enters with two other resistance fighters. A woman, JACQUELINE, and a burly grim-faced fighter with a machine gun strapped around his back. They glare at Werner as they take their seats.

Jacqueline takes Werner's coffee and pours it out onto the concrete floor.

JACQUELINE
So?

ETIENNE
He is eighteen. He is a radio operator. His name is...

Henri speaks with a deadly look....

HENRI
We don't care about names.

A pause.

ETIENNE
He was taken from an orphanage against his will and made to join a signals regiment.

JACQUELINE
How many men, women and children have you killed?

Werner looks away. He closes his eyes briefly.

WERNER
My job was to locate radios which were transmitting messages.

ETIENNE
And when the radios were located?

JACQUELINE
Just give us a rough estimate. How many men, women and children have you killed?

Werner looks to Etienne with bleak horror...

WERNER

Sir. You said I could finish my story. I want to explain what happened....

HENRI

We know what happened.

Etienne is expressionless but he is holding back agony. Jacqueline angles her head at Werner...

JACQUELINE

Our comrades in Normandy and Belgium told us what happened. Anyone found with a radio was executed by members of your regiment. Their family executed with them. Their neighbors executed. Men women, children, executed.

Etienne sees the burden in Werner's eyes. The two look to each other.

ETIENNE

He was only engaged in finding frequencies...

WERNER

Professor, please let me finish my story...

JACQUELINE (SOFTLY)

Professor?

HENRI

There is no time for stories. And we don't have the capacity to keep prisoners...

ETIENNE

I would take care of him...

JACQUELINE (INCREDULOUS)

'Take care'....

Werner has his head lowered, fighting tears...

HENRI

He is not your child....

ETIENNE

I meant I would take responsibility...

JACQUELINE

Why? Why would you do that?!

Etienne has no answer. Brief silence. Then voices are raised. Voices clash and echo...

HENRI

The verdict is simple!

ETIENNE

He is a boy who loves radios.

WERNER

Please let me tell you what happened...

Henri get to his feet...

HENRI

The sentence is death. Who will carry out the sentence?

JACQUELINE

I will. I will shoot him with my own hand.

Jacqueline stands and takes out her gun. Etienne gets to his feet too.

ETIENNE

No!

JACQUELINE

Etienne. Go home!

Then, at that moment, we hear the screaming howling flight of a shell ripping open the air. Then a huge explosion in the distance....

Dust and plaster float down from the rafters above. All four instinctively duck then straighten. Etienne waits for the percussion to subside then speaks with wonder....

ETIENNE

That was not a bomb from a plane.

A pause. Werner is looking toward the door and speaks softly....

WERNER

No. That was artillery.

A pause.

WERNER (CONT'D)

American artillery.

44 INT. MARIE'S HOUSE, BEDROOM - NIGHT 44

Marie was sleeping but is shaken awake by a second screaming shell renting the air. The sound is louder than anything she has experienced and she covers her ears for the explosion.

She moves to the window to listen. Outside, she hears a voice....

OLD MAN (O.S.)
Comrades! People of St.Malo!

Another huge whoosh and distant explosion...

OLD MAN (CONT'D)
The Americans are at the gates!

Marie staggers back from the window. Tears appear in her eyes.

MARIE
Papa? Freedom is coming. It is finally coming.

Another shell flies...

45 INT. BAKERY, OVEN ROOM - NIGHT 45

Jacqueline aims her gun at Werner. Etienne steps in front of Werner, protecting him.

JACQUELINE
Etienne, MOVE!

ETIENNE
(not moving)
He is good.

JACQUELINE
He is the enemy. Now stand aside!

46 EXT. MARIE'S HOUSE, STREET OUTSIDE - NIGHT 46

As the shells fly, we see a man approaching. In the flash of artillery explosions we see that it is Von Rumpel.

He arrives at Marie's door and checks the number. He sees the lock has been shot away.

He shoves the door then kicks it....

47 INT. MADAME MANEC/MARIE'S HOUSE, DOORWAY - NIGHT 47

We come tight on the single bolt that Marie managed to pull across. The kick makes it shift and dust sprinkles from the screws that hold it to the wall. Another kick, then another. The bolt will come loose any moment...

48 INT. BAKERY - NIGHT 48

We join as Jacqueline cocks the trigger of her gun, the standoff between her and Etienne and Werner now breathlessly tense. Etienne turns back to Werner who is protected behind him.

ETIENNE

I wasted half my life hiding from my own fears. You must now be fearless.

JACQUELINE

Etienne, I won't tell you again!

ETIENNE

(ignoring, to Werner behind him)

Boy, I am the Professor. Now listen to me as you once did: RUN....

49 INT. MADAME MANEC/MARIE'S HOUSE, STAIRWELL - NIGHT 49

Marie moves into the landing to better hear what is happening downstairs. From below, we see her slowly lean into the opening of the circular stairwell, its spirals curling like a seashell.

Under the shelling, Marie hears the steady rhythmic beat of Von Rumpel's boot on the door.

Then she hears the door fly open....

THE END