

One in the Magazine

By

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FADE IN:

EXT. SKY - DAY

A LARGE AIRPLANE with a large French Flag decal takes to the sky.

EXT. BERLIN STREET - DAY

SUPER: BERLIN, GERMANY 2002

A MASS OF PEOPLE populate the busy environment. LIAM, an 8 year-old German boy adorning a scout uniform with a badge reading "Liam", is holding his GRANDFATHER'S hand, an elderly gentleman (68) escorting Liam through Berlin.

They stand at a MAGAZINE STAND behind the counter is a CLERK. Liam grabs an ARCHERY MAGAZINE and the Grandfather gently takes it from his hand.

He chuckles softly and reaches for his wallet. In the b.g. the LARGE PLANE buzzes through the distance.

The Grandfather pays the Clerk and hands Liam the magazine. Liam hugs his Grandfather.

EXT. SKY - DAY

From the bottom of the plane falls a LARGE GLASS ORB FILLED WITH PINK MIST. The glass orb has text on it reading: "Retour à Vous"

SUPER: BACK AT YOU.

EXT. CHECKPOINT CHARLIE - DAY

In the sky the plane is seen dropping the GLASS ORB. Grandfather notices the orb and picks up Liam, holding him tightly and running away. Liam clutches the magazine.

The MASS OF PEOPLE SCREAMS in terror. They begin to run away. PINK MIST begins to dissipate around Checkpoint Charlie.

CLOSE ON: LIAM'S CONFUSED EYES LOOK RIGHT

A SINGLE PERSON FALLS. Beat. The ENTIRE HORDE falls to the ground.

CLOSE ON: LIAM'S CONFUSED EYES LOOK LEFT

(CONTINUED)

Grandfather drops Liam and falls to the ground lifeless.

CLOSE ON: LIAM'S CONFUSED EYES LOOK STRAIGHT FORWARD

As... LIAM falls to the ground the magazine by his side.

INT. MASS GRAVE - NIGHT

SUPER: ONE WEEK LATER

Very reminiscent of crypts this mass grave holds MASSES OF BODIES in piles and crevices in the dirt walls. The grave is dimly lit by a CRUDE OIL LANTERN in b.g. hanging from a post jammed into the wall.

The LANTERN dimly illuminates Liam on the outside of a PILE OF BODIES. He appears malnourished. His garb is dirty and worn, torn on the brim of the sleeve.

His eyes open frantically. He shuffles out from underneath a body. Liam skitters away as he realizes that everyone around him is dead.

He slowly stands up horror painting his face. Liam notices TWO DECEASED GERMAN SOLDIERS WEARING GAS MASKS with a BODY ON A STRETCHER separating them.

Liam hobbles away toward the lantern. He struggles reaching for it. He grabs the lantern and trudges deeper into the abyss.

INT. MASS GRAVE ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Moon light peers through through a STONE WELL acting as the entrance to the mass grave. A wooden ladder leads out.

Liam looks up the ladder and places the handle of the lantern in his mouth. His hands grip wrung by wrong, wrenching his body up the ladder into the darkness.

EXT. FIELD - NIGHT

STONE WELLS are scattered across the field with ladders extending out of a few of them. Some are BOARDED shut. A LARGE GERMAN FLAG is at half mast in the center of the field.

Liam climbs out of one of the WELLS. He stumbles to the flag. A BLUE SIGN with an arrow reads: BERLIN. Liam hangs his head sorrowfully.

EXT. FARMLAND - NIGHT

Liam hobbles on a dirt road forefront of a barren field with molded drops littering the fields. The rotted land is still and quiet.

Deeper into the fields lay the bodies of FRENCH and GERMAN SOLDIERS.

Liam stops as his stomach GROWLS. He peers forward and carries on.

EXT. WEATHERED FARM HOUSE - NIGHT

The paint has peeled up, the windows are boarded shut. A GERMAN FLAG with several bullet sized holes through it, waves high from the roof.

There are a few PIGS tied up near the house. The posts binding them to the ground are slanted; with a single tug more they may come unhinged. A SLEDGEHAMMER is propped against the house.

Liam limps to the door and KNOCKS. HE KNOCKS again with more effort. A CROW CAWS.

He SIGHS and falls to the ground.

CLOSE ON: LIAM'S BROWS TIGHTEN OVER HIS FRIGHTENED EYES.

CUT TO BLACK:

OVER BLACK

FOUR LOUD BASHES ARE HEARD.

INT. HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The inside of the house is run down. It wasn't anything special before the bombing. But time didn't do it any favors. It's ill furnished, poorly painted.

A stack of VARIOUS MAGAZINES adorn a small coffee table.

Liam enters through the wrecked door sledgehammer in hand. Liam KNOCKS on the wall. He snaps his neck cautiously: nothing.

His stomach GROWLS. Liam clenches his stomach.

A Crow's CAW can be heard in the b.g.

Liam walks to another room.

INT. HOUSE/KITCHEN - NIGHT

The kitchen is in shambles: rubble consisting of broken glass, porcelain, and silverware, stains and blood. Bullet holes tear through the walls and cabinets.

Most importantly, a FEMALE CORPSE, early 50's before passing, and a motherly appeal, is decomposing *dead center* of the kitchen.

Liam limps in. His eyes are immediately drawn on the Corpse.

Liam drops the SLEDGEHAMMER putting a dent in the ground. Seeming to fall as quickly as the hammer, Liam falls to the corpse immediately cradling it.

CLOSE ON: LIAM'S EYES SHED A SINGLE TEAR.

As...

A crow CAWS in the distance.

Liam sets the corpse down and SIGHS. He gets up off his knees. In the b.g. there's a small metallic SHIMMER.

Liam looks over to the shimmer. He GULPS. Liam walks over and slowly pulls up a knife with a German flag across the sheath.

INT. HOUSE/BEDROOM - NIGHT

The room is small and plain. Meant for a child, but not an entertained one. The closet has a vibrant egg shell white color, and an undamaged appeal.

Liam creeps into the room. Liam drags himself to the closet. He throws the doors open. Inside the closet is a BOW with a QUIVER FULL OF ARROWS propped on the wall. Next to it is a BOX OF ARCHERY MAGAZINES.

Liam clenches the bow and arrows. He stern slings them across his back and storms out of the room.

EXT. FARMLAND - NIGHT

A CROW is perched on a SCARECROW in the middle of the barren field. In the b.g. is Liam crouched, waiting.

Liam stands and draws his bow back.

The crow CAWS as...

CUT TO BLACK:

OVER BLACK

SFX: An arrow flies through the air, hits the mark, SQUAWK, THUD.

EXT. FARMLAND - NIGHT

Liam stands over the lifeless crow staring down at it. He slowly removes the knife from the sheath. A tear runs down his face.

CLOSE ON: LIAM JABS THE KNIFE INTO THE BIRD

MATCH CUT:

EXT. LAKESIDE - NIGHT

The knife draws down the bird splitting it in two. We see Liam now 20 years older looking down, daunting determination exuding from his face.

In the lake behind him is rubble of a once astute lake house. Still waving from the shambles is a LARGE FRENCH FLAG.

He's accumulated quite the collection of survival gear: LARGE BACKPACK with his name crudely sewn into the back, his trust bow and arrow, SEVERAL MAGAZINES protrude the busted zipper of his back pack.

SUPER: ???, FRANCE 2022

He reaches for the bird.

CUT TO:

EXT. LAKESIDE - NIGHT

Liam lays on the ground next to a CAMPFIRE. There is a pile of SMALL BONES next to the fire. FEATHERS burn in the fire.

He's flipping through a LINGERIE MAGAZINE. He stops halfway through the magazine and rests his hand on the page.

It's a beautiful girl CELESTE (34), scantily clad in RED LINGERIE and a FRENCH BERET. She's in a power stance, holding a LARGE FRENCH FLAG in one hand and an ASSAULT RIFLE in the other.

CLOSE ON: LIAM'S LONGING EYES

EXT. LAKESIDE - DAY

Liam paces the shore, supplies packed on his back. He is a vagabond unconcerned with the scenery and sights to be seen around him.

EXT. ALLEY - DAY

A cat stares down a single crow. The cat wiggles, ready to pounce.

EXT. PARIS - DAY

The city is in tarnished, rubble scattered every where. Fully decomposed BODIES line the streets: French and German soldiers and civilians alike. They all adorn gas masks.

Vacant cars line the streets. Except for a single clearing.

A single FIRE is lit in the clearing.

EXT. PARIS STREET - DAY

A HOODED FIGURE, female, carries a LARGE SACK next to the fire and a SCOPED ASSAULT RIFLE is slung around her other arm. She drops it. Several CAT carcasses topple out. She sets the gun down.

She removes her hood to reveal herself as CELESTE, (55) now much older and grizzled, but still resembles her younger self.

EXT. TALL BUILDING/ ROOF - DAY

The building is barely together. Many windows are boarded.

Liam is crouching and looking through BINOCULARS. He quickly sets them down and throws his backpack to the ground. He rifles through the contents and pulls out the lingerie magazine.

He flips to the Celeste's page.

CLOSE ON: LIAM'S HOPEFUL EYES

Liam packs his bag excitedly and accidentally kicks a PIECE OF RUBBLE off the roof. Beat. THUD!

EXT. PARIS STREET - DAY

Celeste cocks her head toward the large building. She picks up her rifle and stares down the scope.

EXT. TALL BUILDING/ ROOF - DAY

CLOSE ON: LIAM'S KNIFE SHEATH WITH GERMAN FLAG

EXT. PARIS STREET - DAY

Celeste pulls the trigger. BANG. She flees.

EXT. TALL BUILDING/ ROOF - DAY

The shot misses Liam. He quickly descends the building.

EXT. ABANDONED CAR WASH - DAY

Celeste runs into an abandoned car wash, hiding inside one of the lanes. Leon quickly makes it there. Celeste continues to hide, peaking around the corner, watching him. She notices a bird in the middle of the lane.

Celeste begins to walk out to meet him, but sees a cat suddenly creep up on the bird and devour it. She steps back and runs out the back of the car wash.

EXT. PARIS/PARK - NIGHT

Liam sitting next to a CAMPFIRE. He has a NOTEBOOK in his hand, with tally marks in it.

He flips through and finds that the last page is empty. He gets a pencil out of his backpack. Crudely, almost child like, he writes...

SUPER: HI I'M LIAM

He rips the page out and jogs out of the park.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARIS/ALLEY - NIGHT

A dark alley, lit only by the small campfire. Celeste is roasting a cat carcass.

Through the wind drifts a piece of notebook paper. The paper hits Celeste. She grabs it and tries to decipher what it says. She cocks her head to the side.

In the b.g. is a SILHOUETTED LIAM. He waves nervously. He holds a dead CROW in his hand. He takes each step slowly, cautiously.

Celeste's breaths grow deeper, and faster. She clenches her gun in her hand. Liam draws closer.

CLOSE ON: LIAM'S CONFUSED EYES

CLOSE ON: CELESTE'S FRIGHTENED EYES

OVER BLACK

BANG! Celeste's gun fires.

EXT. PARIS/ALLEY - CONTINUOUS

The bird lays on the ground, fully exploded. In the b.g. is Liam running away.

Celeste takes a deep BREATH and looks up.

INT. PHARMACY - DAY

Deceased BODIES line the isles. Bullet holes have broken most of the displays, but surprisingly not the front door made of glass.

Celeste BUSTS through the front door with the stock of her gun. She rushes to the pharmacy.

A single light flickers and illuminates a BOTTLE with a skull and cross bones. She grabs it.

On her way out Celeste notices a FRENCH TO GERMAN translation book. She grabs it and swiftly makes her exit.

Beat.

Liam's head pokes in. He looks left and right. Aware of his surroundings, he proceeds.

He looks through the isles curiously.

Liam comes across a display of PLASTIC ROSES. He grabs one.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARIS/ALLEY - NIGHT

Celeste is sitting cross legged glossing through the translation book using the notebook paper as a bookmark, and with pencil in hand.

She makes a few scribbles on the paper and pockets it.

EXT. PARIS/PARK - NIGHT

Liam's camp is still. He's left a few MAGAZINES including the lingerie edition with Celeste.

Celeste marches in and takes notice of the camp.

She rushes over, and glances anxiously around her.

She picks up the magazine to see her picture.

CLOSE ON: CELESTE'S FURIOUS EYES.

EXT. PARIS/PARK - NIGHT

The campfire at Liam's camp has reignited. The magazines are in the heap. Liam rushes to them.

CLOSE ON: MAGAZINE CELESTE'S FACE AS IT BURNS

Liam falls to his knees and drops the plastic rose. He notices his note on the ground. He picks it up and looks at it.

He flips it over and it reads: Fick dich.

SUPER: FUCK OFF

CLOSE ON: LIAM'S CONFUSED EYES.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

The house is unscathed, in perfect condition. It's a modest home, and no bodies are near.

Exhausted Celeste limps into the house.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

There are PICTURES of Celeste everywhere, mostly with her PARENTS, both (55), all dating back before the war.

She limps past the initial landing, the door CREEKS, but it doesn't shut. She walks up the stairs.

INT. HOUSE/BEDROOM - LATER

The room is in immaculate shape. In the closet hangs several French soldier uniforms. On the night stand is the bottle of poison.

Celeste lays on the bed, asleep. A THUD comes from the other room. Celeste pops back to life. She gets up, grabs her GUN out from under her pillow and exits the bedroom. She comes back in and grabs the poison.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Liam stands at the door marveling all of the pictures of Celeste.

She steps out and looks at him down the stairs.

(CONTINUED)

Liam reaches in his backpack and pulls out the rose. HE extends it to her.

CLOSE ON: CELESTE'S VACANT EYES

She puts the safety on, on her gun. She throws it down the stairs.

CLOSE ON: LIAM'S VACANT EYES

Celeste reaches into her pocket and pulls out the poison. Celeste quickly swallows the contents of the poison. Celeste falls to the ground, dying.

FADE TO BLACK.