

Unspoken Colours

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UNSPOKEN COLOURS

Written by

Alison Metoudi

Inspired by *The Owl and the Pussy-Cat*



FADE IN:

INT. WHITE PROJECTOR SCREEN - NIGHT

The HUM of a PROJECTOR (o.s.) accompanies a flash of red/green/blue, that fills the on-screen field of view.

CUT TO:

EXT. BRINY OCEAN - ROCKY OUTCROPS - DAY

In between angular rocks that jut out of the BRINY OCEAN WAVES; a sodden tiger striped PUSSY-CAT with a hallucinogenic stare, is scrambling around within a swirl of water and jetsam.

A child's shoe floats nearby, followed by an old and battered unopened suitcase, bobbing about.

Pussy-Cat lunges for the suitcase, in fits and starts and SPLUTTERS, going against the flow.

Pussy-Cat is alongside the suitcase. She paws at it, but it is repelled by her touch.

The sky becomes a gloomy dark mauve. CLOUDS BOOM. Black smoke filters through the air.

A fishing-boat is heard BURNING (o.s.).

Ocean surface, smoke and sky merge with DARK SHEET RAIN into a horizonless thick dark mass.

Pussy-Cat snatches wildly at the suitcase, mounting it with her front paws.

She drags herself on top of it, breathing rapidly. Slowly, without moving a muscle, Pussy-Cat gives a little startled MEOW!

She slides off the slippery suitcase: PLOP! She vanishes below the muddy coloured waves.

Pussy-Cat briefly surfaces, CHOKING. She battles with all her strength to keep her nose above water. The HISS of the smouldering BOAT, fire and rain (o.s.) accompanies.

A wave SMASHES over Pussy-Cat's head. Under the water, above the water, under, over, under, over, under, over. Pussy-Cat is DUNKED, SLAPPED about and GURGLES half-drowned. She slips under the water's surface.



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LATER:

No sign of Pussy-Cat. The suitcase floats further out into the ocean.

Pussy-Cat surfaces: no movement. Pussy-Cat is carried off by the waves, and rolls behind the back of a growing swell of water, out of view.

A tattered and scarified EAGLE OWL glides through the black smoke of a burning fishing boat. Owl swoops down and skims over the rough surface of the waves.

Owl surveys the spreading jetsam.

Owl spies a scrap of waste food afloat, and promptly swoops down. Owl snatches it and is off again.

INT. WHITE PROJECTOR SCREEN - NIGHT

There's a mechanical CLICK, a luminescent FLASH of red/green/blue, followed by a brief arching rainbow effect that fills the field of view. The magenta hue magnifies between the boundary of red and blue.

FADE TO DREAM:

EXT. BRINY OCEAN - NIGHT

A magenta tinged rainbow arches over the briny ocean.

Pussy-Cat PUFFS and WHEEZES, as her PAWS HAMMER the water surface fast; with little success.

Blast! Pussy-Cat SNEEZES violently; she jolts forward through the water, and her whiskers FRAZZLE, then go poker straight.

An upturned pea-green toy boat, drifts passed Pussy-Cat. She wrinkles her nose and wriggles her curly whiskers in contempt.

TOMI (V.O.)

(Czech accent throughout)

The Owl and the Pussy-cat went to sea in a beautiful pea-green boat.

A SHARK fin rises out of the waves and follows Pussy-Cat closely behind.

The exotic harmonics of a softly PLUCKED SITAR (o.s.) (plays continuously throughout) and WAFTS over the waves, in a quivering ribbon of blue mist.

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Pussy-Cat is enchanted, and swims smooth and strong. The MUSIC grows LOUDER (o.s.). Pussy-Cat is invigorated and goes faster. The shark matches pace.

Pussy-Cat's eyes widen as she notices the shark.

She leaps out of the water, and in an outstanding act of agility lands on the shark, and surfs on its back as the crest of the briny wave rises.

The sky brightens to dusky pink. The briny waves clear to become a vivid mosaic of aqua, emerald and turquoise wavy patterns.

Pussy-Cat grins widely and closes her eyes in satisfaction, as she reclines on top of the shark's back, and SNIFFS at the line of blue mist in front of her nose.

Her Whiskers CURL and UNCURL CRISPLY to the rhythm of the SITAR MUSIC (o.s.).

There is an abrupt HIGH PITCHED PIANO CHORD, as bright pink lines of wavering fluid colours DANCE and SPLASH across the ocean's surface, leaving inky pink impact stains behind.

The shark pushes out of the water: his eyes and nostrils are streaming with sticky pink ink.

He looks around in a confused daze. Pussy-Cat digs her claws into his back, then slides off into the water, nipping his tail.

Shark tails it in a hasty backwards retreat.

EXT. TALL SEA STACK - DAY

From the sharp peak of an inhospitable sea stack, Pussy-Cat's reflection is seen in the huge dark eyes of the EagleOwl.

Pussy-Cat trots in staccato style from wave to wave, to the MUSIC of his SITAR (o.s.).

EXT. MOON, SKY AND OCEAN - NIGHT

A jar of honey wrapped in an old English five pound note and piece of string drifts through the saturated night sky. The honey jar tumbles passed the reflected GLOW of the MOON (o.s.). Brightly coloured cup cakes spin across the night sky. A magenta fluttering feather floats by.

TOMI (V.O.)

They took some money, and plenty of honey, wrapped up in a five pound note.

A MOUSE SQUEALS and scrambles floating passed Owl, who soars sky-high, under an epic shimmering half-moon.

A watery foil of feathers, within a circling cloud, caress and frame the lower curve of the half-moon.

A TABLA DRUM sounds (o.s.). The feathery foil drifts downwards to open apart and reveal the intense luminosity of the night sky in the gap.

EXT. OCEAN AND SKY - NIGHT

Owl PLAYS the SITAR, while perched on a piano-keyboard stretched across the ocean from end to end.

TOMI (V.O.)

The Owl looked up to the stars above.

Cat cut-out wall paper in yellow, rolls out over the night sky, to the MUSIC of Owl's SITAR. The cat shapes within the wallpaper, TWINKLE, revolve and turn into six pointed stars.

TOMI (V.O.)

And sang to a small sitar

Ultramarine cat wallpaper rolls out to replace the yellow. Owl turns his head 360 degrees and looks up.

EXT. SKY OVER OCEAN - NIGHT

Powdery splashes of colour in bright pink, rose, magenta, deep yellow and gold, BURST over Pussy-Cat's head as she floats high above the ocean. Golden "CAT" inscribed headphones appear over Pussy-Cat's ears; she head-bobs. Rhythmic INDIGO LINES ECHO in repetition to the MUSIC of Owl's SITAR, as he strums away over the ocean.

OWL

Ooooh! loovely Poosy, Ooooh Poosy
mey lurv.

Pussy-cat looks at her HEART and listens to her own BEAT.

OWL (O.S.) (CONT'D)

What a beeoootifull Poosy, Yoo ahr,
Yoo ahr.

EXT. PIANO-KEYBOARD - NIGHT

Pussy-Cat strolls along the piano-keyboard, as blue/pink/blue/pink/blue/pink/blue/pink/blue cat wallpaper flashes (b.g.).

PUSSY-CAT

What a beeoootifull Poosy, O ahrrr.

EXT. HALF-MOON AND OCEAN - PIANO-KEYBOARD - NIGHT

The half-moon (b.g.) pulsates and HUMS above the piano-keyboard (f.g.). Both moon and sky change to a deep raspberry colour. Moon and sky drip with juice.

Pussy-Cat chases Mouse along the edge of the piano-keyboard, until both go out of view to one side.

TOMI (V.O.)

Pussy said to the Ow-

Pussy-Cat re-appears skipping in from the side.

She licks her lips as she squats down.

She stealthily crawls across the piano-keyboard in huntress mode, trembling.

Pussy-Cat smiles surreptitiously.

PUSSY-CAT

(to Owl)

You elegant fowl.

Moon and sky change to ultramarine, then crimson and back again to ultramarine.

PUSSY-CAT (CONT'D)

How cha-rrr-mingly sweet you sing.

Pussy-Cat's tail undulates as she walks along the piano-keyboard.

PUSSY-CAT (CONT'D)

O let us be married! Too long we have tarried: But what shall we do for a rrr-ing?

Owl rocks his head from side to side as he plays. Pussy-Cat coils and makes ready to pounce. MEOWING, she SPRINGS.

EXT. PIANO-KEYBOARD - TIGERSKIN FOREST - NIGHT

Pussy-Cat lands on the piano-keyboard. She is camouflaged as she merges with the striped b.g. of a tigerskin forest.

TOMI (V.O.)
They sailed away, for a year and a
day, to the land where the Bo-

Pussy-Cat PURRS DEEPLY.

TOMI (V.O.)
Owl. O Owl.

OWL PLUCKS a BRASH CHORD on the SITAR (o.s.).

A PINK tinged SLAP of paint appears, and the Pussy-Cat hops up again.

Pussy-Cat lands in suave style, producing a HIGH-PITCHED PIANO CHORD, as her PAWS touch the KEY-BOARD.

TOMI (V.O.)
Bong-tree grows.

EXT. PIANO-KEYBOARD - WAVE AND SKY - DAWN

The piano-keyboard is in the f.g. A rustic PIGGY-WIG with a large golden nose-ring, is within a symmetrical pattern of waves in motion, (b.g.). Wave patterns merge with sky.

Piggy-Wig thrusts his head into a pile of giant over-ripe purplish-red strawberries, MUNCHING HAPPILY.

TOMI (V.O.)
And there in a wood the Piggy-wig
stood.

EXT. WAVE AND SKY - DAWN

Within a pattern of merged waves and sky, Owl's eyes and Pussy-Cat's eyes lock and morph into one.

TOMI (V.O.)
With a ring.

EXT. BONG-TREES IN THE SKY - DAY

Piggy-Wig is glimpsed behind a copse of tall exotic Bong-trees.

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The Bong-trees are laden with giant swollen strawberries, on the ends of branches. The Bong-trees sway in time to the MUSIC of the SITAR (o.s.).

TOMI (V.O)
At the end of his nose.

EXT. TIGERSKIN FOREST - DAY

The forest is made of coloured tigerskin stripes changing pattern and colour below the TWINKLING cat wallpaper in the sky.

Owl PLUCKS the SITAR behind Piggy-Wig and gazes at the nose ring.

EXT. BONG-TREES IN THE SKY - DAY

Bong-trees sway in front of a moving pattern of sky and waves.

A silver English shilling appears in a spin: WHIRRRRR! The shilling circles Piggy-Wig's nose ring.

TOMI (V.O.)
His nose. His nose.
(beat)
With a ring at the end of his nose.

The shilling pauses mid-air: the date of "1871" is clearly marked on the coin. Piggy-Wig's ring hoops the shilling; a perfect fit.

Owl opens his wings over Piggy-Wig, as Pussy-Cat lounges nearby. Pussy-Cat is enjoying the soft feel of her luxuriously thick tail which she wraps around her neck like a feather boa.

OWL
(sings)
Dear pig. Are yoo willing
to sell for one shilling,
yoor ring.

PUSSY-CAT
(sings)
Dear pig. Are you willing to
sell for one shilling yourrrr-
rrrrrrring.

Piggy-Wig lifts his ringed nose out of a giant strawberry.

Piggy-Wig interrupts TOMI, an elderly but sprightly Clown, who has a white painted face etched with expressive deep grooves. Tomi appears in desaturated hues, wearing a black/white striped knee length shirt, red clown's nose, and wooden slippers, next to Piggy-Wig.



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TOMI
(sings)
Said Piggy-wig.

PIGGY-WIG
(sings)
I will.

Tomi gestures over Piggy-Wig's nose. SWOOSH! Piggy-Wig's nose ring is gone.

Piggy-Wig pokes his head back into the strawberry, MUNCHING LOUDLY.

TOMI
(clears throat)
They took it so. Ai. Ai. Ai.

Tomi kneels next to Piggy-Wig and watches eagerly with an open mouth. Tomi grimaces and grips his stomach.

Tomi removes his clown nose and throws it over his shoulder.

Tomi pulls out a long hooked walking stick from under his shirt sleeve.

He carefully hooks a giant strawberry from Piggy-Wig's pile of food, and gives a tug trying not to disturb Piggy-Wig.

Piggy-Wig SQUEALS in protest, seeing the theft.

Tomi watches in dismay as the hooked strawberry rolls away out of reach.

Piggy-Wig turns on Tomi then rears up, standing on two legs while clutching the walking stick. Piggy-Wig chases Tomi.

EXT. SKY AND CREAMY OCEAN - DAY

The giant strawberry falls from the sky towards a pink creamy sweet ocean.

The strawberry bounces slowly in thick creamy waves that swiftly change to and from burnt orange, red, sulphur yellow, cardinal pink, tangerine orange etc., and these roll over clashing hot coloured layers of cat wallpaper. The giant strawberry folds into the creamy goodness and jounces around.

EXT. CAT SKY AND CREAMY OCEAN - DAY

A red and black cat pattern is in the b.g spanning sea and sky, and luminously ripples around the giant strawberry.

TOMI (V.O)
Away. And were married next day. By
the turkey.

EXT. LIMINAL SKY - TWILIGHT

From a liminal twilight sky, Mouse peeks out of Tomi's shirt sleeve.

Mouse and Tomi are surprised as a groomed and fattened Turkey appears to intrude into the liminal sky which then parts and flees away to be replaced by...

EXT. CAT SKY AND CREAMY OCEAN - DAY

... the cat sky which is spreading out. Turkey perches atop an unstable pinnacle of food between the cat sky and creamy ocean.

Tomi sweats in tears as he exerts himself bending down from the cat sky. He tries to pull the giant strawberry out of the creamy ocean below using his hooked stick.

Tomi's tears quickly multiply to become an expansive DELUGE of PELTING RAIN that fills up the ocean below.

Mouse runs up Tomi's sleeve and balances behind Tomi's ear.

TOMI (V.O.)
Who lives on the hill.

Piggy-Wig's ring encircles the head of Turkey like a halo. The SOUND of a HIGH PITCHED PIANO CHORD (o.s) strikes at the same time. Turkey's snood rises to attention.

Mouse nibbles Tomi's ear nervously. Tomi swats at the irritating antics of Mouse. Tomi becomes dizzy. Mouse and Tomi teeter and fall out of the cat sky towards the teary filled rising waters of the creamy ocean.

EXT. UNDER THE GLOWING OCEAN - NIGHT

A luminous blue hue lights everything under the ocean.

BULLET PACED TEARS as BIG DROPS of RAIN pierce the OCEAN SURFACE, reaching down into the deep waters. Tomi and Mouse drop through the piercing rain drops under the ocean until they both go out of view. The RAIN DROPS SLOWLY PETER OUT TO A STOP.

A full sized astronomical moon is submerged and slowly moves through the deep water.

Yellow stars, strawberries, mince pies, cup-cakes, slices of quince, rashers and sausages fall through translucent layers of waves.

TOMI (V.O)

They dined on mince, and slices of
quince, which they ate with a
runcible spoon.

Owl and Pussy-Cat drop and spin through the banquet, as a
huge fishing net spreads over them and everything else.

A massive soup ladle catches, then loses, a flow of
fluorescent cerulean and red liquids that SPURT like lava,
flowing into the deeper water.

EXT. UNDER THE BLACK OCEAN - NIGHT

The waves are thick and black under the ocean. The sky is
red, seen from under the water.

Exceedingly bright waves of contrasting colours weave through
the black waves.

In repetition, the waves rise and fall over the submerged
form of the astronomical moon.

The gold nose ring appears around the moon, like a giant
axis.

A HUGE SHADOWY OWL swoops across the brightness of the moon,
as vibrant contrasting colours of blue/orange,
magenta/turquoise, red/ultramarine, gold/bright blue, and
violet/yellow etc., make patterns around the dark lines of
the black waves, and sweep over the moon.

A ghostly DARK CAT prances beneath the Shadowy Owl. The
Ghostly Cat reaches towards the Shadowy Owl.

TOMI (V.O)

And hand in hand, on the edge of
the sand.

The Ghostly Cat tries to snag the Shadowy Owl between her
paws and claws, but he is out of range.

The Ghostly Cat and Shadowy Owl merge with the waves (b.g.).

The small figures of Owl, with his sitar, and Pussy-Cat
emerge from below and work their way up through the black
deep water.

A giant strawberry drops from the sky into the black ocean,
and passes Pussy-Cat and Owl as they rise up.

TOMI (V.O) (CONT'D)
They danced by the light of the
moon.

EXT. BENEATH/ABOVE THE BLACK OCEAN - NIGHT

Mouse is swept into Pussy-Cat's path by the waves, just as Pussy-Cat is about to emerge above the waters.

Pussy-Cat loses momentum, MEOWS, and stumbles, falling over herself. Owl continues upwards without looking back, and flies out of the ocean into the sky, and out of view.

A TABLA DRUM SOUNDS (o.s.).

Pussy-Cat recovers and climbs up the axis of the moon's ring.

She bounds towards the sky at a fast pace, until she too goes out of view amongst the red clouds. Mouse is swept away by the swirling violence of the waves, unnoticed.

EXT. SHADOW SIDE OF MOON AND OCEAN - NIGHT

Owl re-appears above the shadow side of the moon.

Owl flies downwards in a near vertical dive.

Pussy-Cat abruptly reappears at the same spot. She follows in a free fall towards Owl.

The moon and axis ring are rising out of the ocean.

Pussy-Cat is falling through the sky in parallel with Owl.

The moon halts when it is half submerged.

Pussy-Cat catches up, and clips Owl with her paw, rebounds, then lands on the axis ring of the moon.

Owl's wings fold. He spins. He tumbles head first into the ocean. A BIG SPLASH surges!

Pussy-Cat looks on as she stands on the axis ring, and Owl flaps his wings on the water's surface.

MOMENTS LATER:

Owl streaks out of the ocean furiously. The sitar falls. The sitar music ends (o.s.).

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Pussy-Cat stands on the moon's dark side, on top of the axis ring, and looks towards Owl, as he flies away into the distance.

Colourful waves rise and churn over the moon.

TOMI (V.O)

The moon. The moon. They danced by
the light of the moon.

EXT. OCEAN AND SKY - NIGHT

A huge celestial Pussy-Cat, with an upright tail, and a gold ring hooked over it, sits unflinchingly on a heavenly moon. Contrasting colours of waves lap and pass over Pussy-Cat, red sky, moon and sea.

DREAM END.

INT. MOBILE HOSPITAL - WESTERN ASIA - NIGHT

The sharp light of a projector cuts through the dust and deep shadows creating an opaque bluish haze within the darkness.

A "STILL IMAGE" of "PUSSY-CAT AND OWL" is "PROJECTED" onto a white billowing sheet that doubles as a mobile hospital tent wall; the oscillating movements of the still image on the tent wall is uncanny.

In Western Asia, inside an improvised mobile hospital, made of white canvas and plastic sheeting, there's a crowd of injured displaced persons, all ages, with part-treated trauma and burn injuries, squatting, propped up and sitting tightly shoulder to shoulder in lively anticipation, on a groundsheet.

CHILDREN PLAY (b.g.) with discarded polystyrene packaging, in between the interior/exterior of the billowing tent walls. The INDISTINCT CHATTER of the AUDIENCE overlaps with a HARSH RATTLING NOISE from the external GENERATOR (o.s.).

A flash of red/green/blue follows, just before the 16 mm. projected animation restarts.

A pale faced woman with dark circles under her eyes, and wearing a head covering, YALDA, gets to her feet.

The "LUMINOUS PROJECTED IMAGE OF TURBULENT WAVES" from the "ANIMATION" and the words, "THE OWL AND THE PUSSYCAT WENT TO SEA" and "MUSIC SOUNDTRACK" play, and are lit across Yalda's whole figure, as she stands in front of the projected image.

YALDA
(in Arabic)
ضعبء ءايشلاأ تسبلا أءببصء .

A STRONG GUST of WIND makes the white sheeting of the projector wall fold over like a turning page.

Tomi is standing by a "PARTIALLY BURNED AND DAMAGED RED AND WHITE MÉDECINS SANS FRONTIÈRES FLAG" that is hanging with pride of place from the tented ceiling. Tomi is without white make-up and wears a black/white striped t-shirt; he switches off the animated film.

Blackness overtakes. TENT WALLS FLAP (o.s.). A blinding fluorescent white flash cuts off the darkness, as the OVERHEAD LIGHTS FLICKER on - white burnout.

Tomi secures the FLAPPING TENT WALL with a peg.

All audience heads turn towards Tomi, who in turn directs a questioning gesture towards Yalda.

Yalda hesitates in front of the GENTLY RIPPLING WHITE PROJECTOR WALL.

YALDA (CONT'D)
(broken English
throughout)
There's some things. Not right.
(beat)
Gulls screaming. Flying around.

Yalda motions with her arms that GULLS circled overhead. Her dark shadow is cast over the rippling surface of the white projector wall, creating a moving image.

YALDA (CONT'D)
My ring.

Yalda squeezes one hand tightly within the other. She rubs her bare ring finger.

YALDA (CONT'D)
Husband?

Yalda shakes her head and hangs her hands despondently. SHE GROANS inwardly, moving her lips without utterance.

A YOUNG CHILD glances at Yalda from across the floor. A gaze of unspoken recognition passes between them.

Yalda shrugs and smiles weakly.

YALDA (CONT'D)
(eyes down)
Owl comes back.

Yalda sits down heavily in resignation.

Tomi poises himself on tip-toes, then spreads his arms gracefully. A winged shadow is cast over the surface of the projector wall.

Tomi mimes flying in big sweeping gestures over imaginary rolling waves.

Tomi circles around the seated crowd, then charges towards them.

GASPS ARISE as individuals move aside for Tomi, who runs nimbly in between the sudden gaps.

Tomi appears to search for something lost.

Tomi pecks at sleeves, heads, necks, causing a SMALL COMMOTION. A few CHILDREN push in and run after him, GIGGLING.

Tomi glides over in little steps towards Yalda.

Tomi gestures as if lifting a concealed mouse by the tail out of her pocket.

Yalda jumps and stifles a nervous exclamation.

Tomi mimes the part of flying off with the mouse in hand.

Yalda gets up, faintly bemused, and follows Tomi. Yalda points at Tomi's cupped hands.

Yalda faces Tomi. He raises his arms above his head and wiggles his fingers and empty hands gesturing at her.

The AUDIENCE and CHILDREN LAUGH TOGETHER (o.s.). Yalda turns away.

YALDA (CONT'D)
Water pours from the mouth of the
cat. No more cat.
(beat)
Dead. Is drowned.

The playing CHILDREN are taken out quickly by a youthful VOLUNTEER NURSE but are heard COMPLAINING NOISILY (b.g.).

The AUDIENCE GRUMBLES.

Tomi pauses.

Yalda goes closer to Tomi.

YALDA (CONT'D)
(whispers)
Our boat. Just a piece of old
scrap.
(beat)
Machine-gun fire; TAT! TAT! TAT!
All along. Bodies over waves.

With frightened eyes, Yalda puts her hands over her ears and stands motionless in a frozen gesture.

Tomi waits, then touches Yalda's shoulder to reassure her.

She collapses her arms.

Tomi waits.

Yalda exhales.

She sways momentarily, then lightly leans her head against Tomi's shoulder.

Yalda stares ahead, as the AUDIENCE (b.g.) MURMUR and SCUFFLE towards the exit.

Yalda's face is near expressionless, but the corner of her mouth trembles. She slowly closes her tired eyes.

Tomi puts his arms around Yalda's shoulders and steadies her. His t-shirt sleeves are hoisted back to reveal a SIX DIGIT HOLOCAUST SERIAL NUMBER TATTOOED on his LEFT FOREARM.

Tomi's eyes stare at the blank white projector wall.

SOUNDS fade to NEAR NOTHINGNESS.

CUT TO DREAM:

EXT. BRINY OCEAN - ROCKY OUTCROPS - DAY

In the colourless cold half-light of early morning, SHRIEKING GULLS circle the dark rocky outcrop in the ocean.

SWISH! OWL SWOOPS across the water, and swiftly SCOOPS the PUSSY-CAT clean out of the BRINY WAVES.

A pattern of brightly coloured strawberries bends and ripples in and out of focus, on top of the cyan tinged greywaves.

Clearer, and a bright little dress patterned with red strawberries comes into view.

The strawberry pattern is splattered with vermilion blotches of blood.

The bloody dress floats over the sullied cyan brine of the SLURPING WAVES. A trail of oil and diesel mixes with the water.

In the b.g. a column of smoke rises from a burning overcrowded fishing-boat, pinned to the rocks.

It is peppered with gun holes along the lower hull.

EXT. BRINY OCEAN - ROCKY OUTCROPS - SPEEDBOAT - DAY

SHOUTING, SCREAMS and PANIC SPREAD amongst the YOUNG WOMEN and CHILDREN, who are bundled onto an adjacent speedboat between the gunpoint and machete knives of ARMED TRAFFICKERS.

EXT. BRINY OCEAN - ROCKY OUTCROPS - DAY

HUMAN CRIES OF DISTRESS in CHORUS (o.s.) rise above the SOUND OF CRASHING WAVES and mingle with the GUTTURAL SHRIEKS of the GULLS (o.s.); all is punctuated by RAPID BURSTS of MACHINE GUN FIRE (o.s).

The bloody blotches on the little dress spread.

Blood leaches from the dress into the cyan water.

Bloody waves and a scattering of lines of fire on water, fills an expanding view of the ocean, to the diminished MOANING of the INJURED and DROWNING (o.s.).

Ash falls and embebs itself within the motion of the waves, dirtying the water to a dull grey.

Ash wafts like torn feathers above a child's shoe floating by, then is blown further until it settles on a child's twisted pale limbs that are glimpsed in a watery cul-de-sac by some rocks.

Red stains scar the rocky outcrops, then are wiped clean with the LASHING of the briny grey WAVES, over and over again.

Owl flies off in full strength clutching Pussy-Cat firmly between his claws.

END DREAM.

INT. MOBILE HOSPITAL - WESTERN ASIA - NIGHT

Tomi is alone and stares towards the RIPPLING WHITE MOBILE HOSPITAL TENT WALLS, as TWO SMALL BOYS enter, then run in and out of the darkness, now in front, then behind the tent walls, playing hide-and-seek in a chase of growing excitement.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

EXT. EIFFEL TOWER ABOVE 1940 PARIS - NIGHT

Through the gaps in the structure of the Eiffel Tower, HUNDREDS of LUFTWAFFE barely discernible, are framed MILLING through the night sky, in the far off distance. Their LOW DRONING DIN, gathers momentum.

SUPERIMPOSE: "PARIS JUNE 3RD 1940."

EXT. SKY - LUFTWAFFE OVER PARIS SUBURBS - NIGHT

The RUMBLING DRONE of the LUFTWAFFE is ALARMINGLY LOUD DIRECTLY OVERHEAD as a procession of YOUNG CHILDREN, who are wearing backpacks, accompanied and lead by Tomi, aged 11, and his older brother DANI aged 17; both boys are neatly turned out as Boy Scouts, pause to look up from below.

The group of children below, scramble in distressed disarray, in the unlit suburbs as...

EXT. PARIS STREET - NIGHT

... a series of aerial BOMBS EXPLODE overhead mid-air, turning the darkness to day.

The children instantly halt, blinded for a moment.

BOOM! The children are immediately buried under a mushrooming tower of smoke, SCREAMING.

EXT. PARIS STREET - MILITARY VEHICLE - NIGHT

Tomi instinctively dives under a nearby sturdy military vehicle. The GROUND SHAKES underneath him.

Tomi edges about the vehicle's undercarriage, trying to see what is happening through the blanket of darkness and dust.

Tomi (p.o.v.), from under the vehicle sees BUILDINGS CRUMBLE nearby. MORTAR CRASHES OVER THE MILITARY VEHICLE, and BOUNCES off partly damaging it.

EXT. PARIS STREET - COLLAPSED BUILDING - NIGHT

DANI
(in French: English
subtitles)
This way, over here. Hurry! Come
this way. Here!

Some children manage to scabble their way through the darkness and dust towards Dani.

Tomi emerges from under the vehicle and runs towards the sound of Dani's calls.

LATER:

No sign of Dani. Tomi bites his lip as he stands at the edge of the thick shroud of smoke; struggling to hold an injured CHILD in his arms.

Tomi mimes a silly clown face and dances about holding the CHILD, who gradually settles.

MOMENTS LATER:

Dani emerges ragged but victorious, followed by the other dirty faced children relatively unharmed.

DANI (CONT'D)
(in Czech: English
subtitles)
Where were you little brother?

TOMI
(in Czech: English
subtitles)
Waiting for you lazy bones.

Dani gives a STIFLED LAUGH and pulls Tomi towards himself.

EXT. FROM PARIS BOMB SHELTER TO DEATH MARCH - MONTAGE - NIGHT

The children, Tomi, then Dani, enter the dark mouth of the Paris underground metro. SIRENS SCREECH (o.s.).

DEATH CAMP: Tomi and Dani, a few years older, are amongst hundreds of dazed JEWISH, WOMEN, CHILDREN and MEN, wearing "BRIGHT YELLOW STARS", sewn to colourless drab clothing.

19 .

Tomi peers through a dark split in the side of the cramped over-full rail carriage, to see that the Jewish passengers are being harassed at the carriage doorway by Kapos wearing "GREEN TRIANGLES" stitched to striped shirts.

A nearby SS officer gives a nonchalant nod of approval towards the Kapos, then strolls off.

Some Jewish women are yanked out of the rail carriage by the gang of Kapos, their clothes are torn as they are sexually assaulted, before being made to hand up hidden valuables, then pushed thoughtlessly to one side.

An old man protests in defiance; a Kapo grabs him by the beard, then swings him from side to side mocking. His beard is torn out.

Frightened passengers jostle each other to desperately disembark before the merciless Kapos can make contact.

Tomi hides himself among the new internees as they limp forward, before being greeted by the glow of the crematorium fires.

DEATH MARCH: SS guards patrol in the snow, along the edge of thousands of evacuated Jewish internees.

SUPERIMPOSE: "1945 MARCH TO THE GERMAN BORDER."

Tomi, emaciated, with swollen infected feet wrapped in dirty rags, and with the prematurely aged face of an old man, struggles to keep pace in the midst of a quick marching column of evacuated JEWISH MALES.

Nearby Tomi, a big MAN stoops to secure a loose shoe. SLAM-WHACK! The man drops from a bullet to the back of the head.

Tomi weakens and begins to sink to his knees, but his brother, Dani and MATE on either side hold him up and keep him moving.

The EXECUTION GUARDS on ROARING MOTORBIKES approach from the rear.

Dani and his mate are singled out by the execution guards. Dani and his mate are beaten to a pulp with rifle butts and left for dead. Tomi is forced to keep marching.

LATER:

The inadequately dressed skin-and-bone internees huddle together as they stagger running through driving thick snow.

20 .

The column, like tiny ants, marches fast into the far distance.

A sea of broken, wasted and trodden down semi-naked corpses are left behind in the faint glow of muddied snow and darkness.

END FLASHBACK.

EXT/INT. MOBILE HOSPITAL - WESTERN ASIA - NIGHT

An outside lamp frames Tomi in silhouette as he stands within a dimly lit gap that serves as a door to the hospital tent.

He gazes towards the inside of the tent. The TWO SMALL (Arab) BOYS DIVE AROUND inside PLAYING WAR GAMES (o.s.).

Tomi observes them.

INT. HOSPITAL TENT - WESTERN ASIA - NIGHT

The two boys are curious about the projector apparatus. One of them manages to switch on the projector. There is a burst of red/green/blue light, then Tomi rushes across to the boys, just as the animation is about to restart.

The EXCITED BOYS are startled, and one pushes the other out of the way, in a bid to control the situation.

TOMI
(in Arabic)
رانح دلاولاً .

CLATTER! The BOYS KNOCK OVER the PROJECTOR by accident.

The ANIMATION STUTTERS and SPINS HALF OFF-REEL at an ODD ANGLE, showing a SERIES OF SKEWED, DISJOINTED AND SATURATED IMAGES of WAR, that PLAY OUT OVER ALL THE BLANK WHITE WALLS and ROOF of the INTERIOR HOSPITAL TENT.

The BOYS run towards an exit point YELLING.

Tomi halts the film temporarily, then begins to check the projector.

Yalda enters the hospital tent.

Yalda catches hold of the smaller boy as he passes her. She gestures to both of the boys to calm. The smaller boys squirms and pulls away from her.

SMALLER BOY
(in Arabic: English
subtitles)
Let go or you will be made to say
prayers and beaten.

The small boy makes a cut throat gesture towards her. The
BOYS JEER. YALDA LAUGHS NERVOUSLY.

YALDA
(in Arabic, English
subtitles)
Then there will be no one to keep
you safe.

Tomi stops what he is doing, although he has not managed to
straighten out the film reel yet.

TOMI WHISTLES. The boys look at him. He rummages in his
pockets, searching for something. He mimes a coin falling
through a hole in his pocket. He turns his pockets inside
out. He looks in his shoe. He searches across the floor.

The boys are distracted, and start to search for the lost
coin with Tomi.

Tomi mimes finding the coin. The boys want it - they grab
Tomi playfully and try to snatch the hidden coin from his
hand. Tomi pretends to toss the coin to Yalda.

YALDA CLAPS her hands pretending to catch it.

YALDA (CONT'D)
(in Arabic, English subtitles)
Take this. Go and buy some bread.

Yalda gives the boys some real coins.

YALDA (CONT'D)
(in Arabic, English subtitles)
Since you helped, you can buy
something sweet for later.

The boys leave in good humour.

MOMENTS LATER:

The FILM REEL BUZZES and RATTLES. It SHUDDERS: CLICK,
CLICK, CLICK, the projector topples again. The reel becomes
unhinged and rolls across the floor.

Yalda watches Tomi dash across to the fallen projector. Tomi
stops the projector wheel from rolling any further. He starts
to re-wind the 16mm film tape that now is in a tangled mess
on the floor. Tomi sees that the film tape is snapped. TOMI
TUTS!

TOMI
(in Czech: English
subtitles)
If I could pick you up Dani.

Tomi sits immobile on the floor next to the remainder of the broken 16mm film tape.

Yalda nods smiling. She goes over to Tomi and helps him to disentangle the tape.

FADE OUT.