

THE SOLO OBOE

by
MILLER H CALDWELL

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By Miller Caldwell
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FADE IN

EXT OHLSDORF CEMETERY HAMBURG MAY 1935 DAY

Branches of sycamore trees lovingly caress each other in the peaceful cemetery grounds. A funeral party gathers round the grave of Dr. WILLY RICHTER. Many of his former patients are in the background. FLEUR RICHTER(49) tightly holds her son's hand. Otto Bruce Richter (16) stands smartly beside her in his Hitler Youth uniform. The Pastor stands over the grave.

PASTOR

Dust to dust, ashes to ashes. In
the name of the Father, Son and
Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Pastor throws soil over the grave. Fleur steps forward and does the same, then takes from her purse, a sprig of heather and throws it into the grave. It lands on the coffin and masks the brass nameplate. Fleur's brother-in-law, KARL RICHTER (52) observes and approaches, gently laying his hand on Fleur's shoulder.

KARL RICHTER

Willy would have liked that,
Fleur.

FLEUR

Thank you Karl. He loved our
holidays in Scotland.

The mourning party of Karl, his wife Renate and Otto leave the grave-side and begin to walk down the path to leave the cemetery. GERHARD EICKE (40) approaches and extends his hand

HERR EICKE

Frau Richter, my condolences.

They exchange a brief handshake.

HERR EICKE (CONT'D)

Excuse me, Herr Gerhard Eicke. I
am one of your son's training
officers. Otto is a fine young
man and one of the best in the
Hitler Youth.

Fleur looks troubled by his remark. She is apprehensive of the bellicose direction of Germany's one party State.

HERR EICKE (CONT'D)

If there is anything I can do for
you in your time of need, then
Frau Richter, I hope you would
not hesitate to get in touch with
me.

FLEUR

Oh...well, thank you Herr Eicke.
I will bear your kind offer in
mind.

HERR EICKE

I'll leave my card.

Herr Eicke takes his personal card from his pocket and
hands it to Fleur.

HERR EICKE (CONT'D)

Again, Frau Richter, my
condolences.

Fleur smiles, and places his card in her black velvet purse
and proceeds to walk along the path while Otto salutes the
departing Herr Eicke.

KARL RICHTER

I hope you would turn to family
first.

FLEUR

Of course I would Karl. I have no
intention of contacting Herr
Eicke.

KARL RICHTER

Gerhard Eicke has a day job too.
I know who he is. I can tell a
Gestapo man a mile away.

FLEUR

But he's a training officer with
the Hitler Youth too! Karl, I
think you may have to speak to
Otto from time to time, for me.

Otto is indignant.

OTTO RICHTER

Mother, he's fun. We all know
he's in the Gestapo but why
should that bother us? We learn
lots of things with him. And we
get sweets too. Herr Eicke is
good to us , he's a good leader.

FLEUR

That may be so, Otto. But
remember you are the man of the
house now. You must study hard at
school and make your father proud
of you.

Otto nods. Renate Richter, Karl's wife, gives a side look at Fleur.

The family leave the cemetery and enter the car which awaits them. Fleur takes a white handkerchief and dries a tear from her eye. She turns to look back to the cemetery in the direction of the grave of her late husband.

FLEUR (CONT'D)
Precious in the sight of the Lord
is the death of one of His
Saints.

She smiles.

FLEUR (CONT'D)
The Psalmist, as always, said it
perfectly.

INT HAMBURG CITY FLAT MARCH 1939 DAY

Otto is reading a book at the dining room table. Fleur is seated by the fire.

FLEUR
Otto, please sit with me for a
moment.

Otto looks up from his book.

OTTO RICHTER
What's the matter mother?

FLEUR
Just come for a moment. I wish to
discuss some things with you.

Otto marks his page and closes his book then comes to sit opposite his mother by the fire. Fleur smiles at him.

FLEUR (CONT'D)
What a handsome young man you
have turned out to be.

Otto smiles.

FLEUR (CONT'D)
Your father has set aside an
amount of marks for you when you
are twenty-one. Spend it wisely
when the time comes. It is his
final gift to you.

OTTO RICHTER
Yes, I know about that.

FLEUR

Otto, I have also come to a decision. One which I have thought through for some time as you know. It requires you to make a decision too.

OTTO RICHTER

Mother, what are you talking about?

Fleur takes a deep breath. She stands up and goes to draw the heavy velvet curtains. She turns to face Otto.

FLEUR

Otto, I am not German. And you are only partly German. I will return to Scotland soon, to live with my mother. In due course, I can teach German and undertake translation work.

Otto nods. He is accepting of his mother's intentions.

FLEUR (CONT'D)

You have been on holiday to Scotland three times already now. You know the country and the people. Your English is good and you could make a good life there. I am sure you would easily make new friends.

Otto shakes his head.

OTTO RICHTER

Mother, I can not go with you. You must decide yourself. I am based with the motorized infantry regiment commanded by SS Standardenfuhrer Carl-Marie Demelhumer. Mother, I have taken my oath of allegiance to Hitler. My destiny lies with the Fatherland. There is no other way.

Fleur smiles and nods her head,

FLEUR

Be true to yourself. I will always be your Mother but Otto, it pains me to think I will be leaving you in such times of uncertainty.

Otto stands up. He embraces his mother. In the privacy of each other's arms they feel the forgiveness, the gratitude for the past and the necessary permission for each to go their separate ways.

INT HAMBURG CITY FLAT HALLWAY 7 MAY 1939 DAY

Boxes, suitcases and a trunk are piled high in the hallway. On top of this pile lies an open black box with purple velvet inlay indented to protect an oboe. The oboe is missing.

(CUT TO)

INT HAMBURG CITY FLAT LOUNGE DAY

In the Lounge with only a hearth rug and curtains remaining, a fire is lit. Fleur paces the floorboards awaiting the lorry to transport her goods to the Hamburg docks. Her fingers cover the keyholes of the oboe; her lips seize the double reed and she plays part of the Aria: Bist du bei mir. When she stops playing, she hears the front door bell. She leaves the lounge and enters the hall, placing the oboe on top of its case.

INT HAMBURG CITY FLAT HALLWAY DAY

Fleur is taken aback when she opens the front door. It is not the removal men.

FLEUR

Oh, Herr Eicke! I was not expecting you.

HERR EICKE

No, Frau Richter, but I have been standing for the last few minutes at your door listening to your harmonious music. You play the oboe very well. Johann Sebastian Bach. Beautiful music, cultured, German.

FLEUR

Only attributed to JS Bach, Herr Eicke. Originally composed by one of the first valve trumpeters, Heinrich Stölzel to be precise.

HERR EICKE

You know your music, Frau Richter.

Herr Eicke enters the apartment uninvited. Fleur stands aside to let him in.

HERR EICKE (CONT'D)

It was remiss of me, I agree, not to notify you that I intended to see you before you returned to Scotland.

FLEUR

You knew I was returning to Scotland?

HERR EICKE

Oh yes. Before Otto left the Hitler Youth he told me his next of kin would be Karl and Renate Richter and I naturally asked why not you. Then I learned you would be leaving Germany.

FLEUR

I see. But as Otto is now with the motorized infantry unit, I thought you would have said your farewells when he left the Hitler Youth.

HERR EICKE

Not left, Frau Richter, graduated from the Hitler Youth. Yes, we have said our good-byes but it is you I wish to speak to today. Can we retire to the lounge?

INT HAMBURG CITY FLAT LOUNGE DAY

Fleur leads him through to the fire lit room.

FLEUR

There are no seats, I am sorry. But at least it is warmer here.

HERR EICKE

I wish you a safe journey to Scotland.

Fleur is relieved to hear this remark. She relaxes and smiles.

FLEUR

Thank you Herr Eicke.

HERR EICKE

You will leave with fond memories of our land and of course your much respected late husband.

(MORE)

HERR EICKE (CONT'D)

But Karl and Renate, and especially Otto, you will miss them?

FLEUR

Herr Eicke, of course I will, but these are family matters which I have attended to. I do not require your assistance, thank you,

HERR EICKE

You are quite right. Of course I would not interfere in domestic arrangements.

Herr Eicke begins to pace up and down the room.

HERR EICKE (CONT'D)

But we are all insignificant as individuals. You can not help but realize that Germany is well on its way to recapture its prominent and rightful position in Europe once more, and that England is, how shall I say, sympathetic to our cause.

FLEUR

It always amuses me to hear that Germany has so much in common with England, or to be more correct, Britain.

HERR EICKE

Forgive me. Yes, Great Britain, you are right. The British Royal family have Hanovarian connections, the English are Saxons from central Europe like us and of course the Scots are pure bred Vikings, not so?

FLEUR

Well some are, while most are from the lowlands but what interest is this to you?

Herr Eicke takes a cigarette from his silver cigarette case marked with a white swastika on its cover. He lights up, takes a lung full of smoke and blows it out towards the ceiling. He then lowers his eyes to face Fleur.

HERR EICKE

Since 1912 you have been a German wife. You are the mother of a brave German soldier and so I expect you will retain a firm loyalty to the ideals of our Nationhood in all its aspects.

FLEUR

Yes, of course.

HERR EICKE

It would be good for you to keep in touch with me. Not on a personal basis of course, although I should always be favoured if you would value my friendship.

FLEUR

Herr Eicke, I have chosen to make a new life in Scotland. I can not see how I can possibly be of any assistance.

HERR EICKE

Forres, in the north of Scotland?

FLEUR

However did you know that?

HERR EICKE

Otto has only told me the truth. He told me you would be staying with your mother, in Forres. Not so?

FLEUR

Well, yes. I have to go somewhere when I arrive.

HERR EICKE

We have our contacts in that area.

FLEUR

I doubt that! What a claim! It's a remote part of northern Scotland. And you tell me you have agents there. Most unlikely!

Herr Eicke walks over to the window looks out into the street then slowly turns round, a shadowy figure surrounded by the window frame.

HERR EICKE

You know the airbase at
Lossiemouth? The garrison at Fort
George?

Fleur hesitates.

FLEUR

If you know all these things then
what use am I?

HERR EICKE

Frau Richter, our agents may not
have your ability to speak such
fluent English. They may need
some assistance some reassurance
perhaps, just a chance to speak
to someone who knows both
countries, both cultures.

FLEUR

I would have no hesitation in
helping any stranger if they
needed assistance whether they be
German or any other nationality.

HERR EICKE

Yes, but should there be a war,
would you help us too? Just where
would your loyalties lie?

FLEUR

Why would Britain be at war with
Germany?

HERR EICKE

Of course not! But should it come
to war, you realize the Gestapo
has to secure its borders.

FLEUR

Well of course. But Herr Eicke, I
think you have a lively mind. You
seem to enjoy playing mind games!

HERR EICKE

Then I'll make myself more clear.
Your sister-in-law Renate and her
husband Karl, Otto's guardians,
we don't want any weakness do we?

Fleur frowns. She clasps her hands together.

HERR EICKE (CONT'D)

Most loyal Germans are keen to
attend local rallies when the
opportunity arises.

(MORE)

HERR EICKE (CONT'D)

I think I can say quite confidently that neither Karl nor Renate attend such grand occasions. They may have to be given some encouragement.

Fleur is incensed. She raises her voice

FLEUR

And just what do you mean by that?

HERR EICKE

Calm down! Calm down. Times are changing, Frau Richter. If Karl and Renate don't want to change, then I must see to it that they do. Every one must, no exception. We must all serve and support the Fuhrer.

FLEUR

Karl and Renate do, as does Otto. They would not appreciate what you are saying.

HERR EICKE

It's my job to mend the cracks. Frau Richter, you don't see the cracks do you?

FLEUR

I only see what is right.

HERR EICKE

Exactly. We agree.

FLEUR

Then what are you really asking of me?

HERR EICKE

Nothing at present. We will contact you when we need to. Frau Richter, I am glad you see the need to remain loyal to the Fatherland. Rest assured that Renate and Karl will be fine. As I said, you will hear from me, or my agents, at the right time.

Fleur looks into the flames. She feels helpless to respond. The door bell rings. She looks up.

HERR EICKE (CONT'D)
 Your removal men. I musty be
 going.

Herr Eicke moves towards the fire, throws the remainder of his cigarette on to the fire, buttons up his long coat and offers his hand to Fleur.

HERR EICKE (CONT'D)
 It has been my pleasure knowing
 you. We will meet again, of that
 I am sure.
 In the meantime, I wish you a
 safe voyage.

They shake hands firmly. Herr Eicke replaces his felt hat on his head and strides through the lounge into the hall.

INT HALLWAY CITY FLAT DAY

Herr Eicke opens the front door, pushes aside two startled men in brown overalls, and departs.

(CUT TO)

EXT ABERDEEN HARBOUR DAY.

The Grampian Empress has docked in Aberdeen Port. The gangways are busy with passengers descending and streaming into the arrival customs lounge. Uniformed crew are around to assist.

V/O
 Aberdeen Press & Journal. Get
 your copy. 3 pence. Aberdeen
 Press and Journal"

INT CUSTOMS DESKS DAY

Passengers stream through the Customs area. Fleur is among them carrying a suitcase and her oboe case. A man in front of her is approached by an official and taken aside to a table with his bag. Fleur proceeds through customs and onto the open hall in which many friends and relatives are gathering to welcome passengers. Two men in overcoats, Trilby hats and gloves approach Fleur. They stand in her way.

MR. DYNES
 Mrs. Fleur Richter?

FLEUR
 Yes. I am.

MR. DYNES

My name is Mr. WILLIAM DYNES.
Security Services. Frau Richter I
am arresting you on suspicion of
being an agent of the German
government.

Fleur holds both hands to her cheeks. She gasps. She has an
expression of dismay.

FLEUR

This is nonsense. Utter nonsense.

MR. DYNES

Please step this way.

Mr. Dynes points to a door and they proceed towards it. Mr.
Shadbolt opens it. They enter and Fleur is pointed to a
chair. There is a table at which Mr. Dynes sits with Fleur
opposite. The walls are plain.

INT SMALL SQUARE ROOM IN PORT TERMINAL ABERDEEN DAY

MR. SHADBOLT

Were you expecting to be met by
family?

FLEUR

No. My mother is elderly. I was
going to take the train to
Forres.

Mr. Dynes takes off his gloves.

MR. DYNES

Mr. SHADBOLT and I have been
instructed by the security
service, MI5, to detain you from
this voyage to Aberdeen and to
ascertain your real purpose of
leaving Germany.

Fleur sits on the edge of her chair, looks up to Mr. Dynes
with a slight smile.

FLEUR

To think a homecoming would end
like this.

Fleur throws her hands in the air.

MR. DYNES

A German name, a son in the
German Army, and suddenly at a
time of tension, you decide to
return to Scotland. Well, these
things I can not overlook.

Fleur raises one hand and opens her palm.

FLEUR

On the other hand, I am Scottish and I have been under house arrest during the First World War in Germany. I have an aging mother in Scotland and I have no connection with political forces in either Germany or Britain. (Pause) I think your case must be weak.

Mr. Dynes pauses to consider her protestation before delivering his coup de grace.

MR. DYNES

A solid defense. But with a crack. You can not deny you are under instruction, if not at the mercy of Herr Gerhard Eicke.

Mr. Dynes affords himself a smile and awaits Fleur's response.

FLEUR

I do not deny knowing Herr Eicke. He was my son's Youth leader.

MR. DYNES

Come, come, Frau Richter. Herr Eicke is not a Youth leader. He's a senior Gestapo man in Hamburg and you know that! He's in the Secret Police.

FLEUR

Yes I do. I tell you I do not deny knowing him but to say I work for him would be outrageous.

MR. DYNES

Your son Otto. He must put you in a difficult position.

FLEUR

You are extremely well informed.

MR. DYNES

Our Consul in Hamburg is a busy office. But Otto, Frau Richter...

FLEUR

If he had been much younger I would have brought him home with me, perhaps I should have done so shortly after my husband died.

(MORE)

FLEUR (CONT'D)

But he is nineteen now. A man making his own way in life.

MR. DYNES

Indeed, making his own way in life. Choosing to serve the SS in the Hamburg motorized unit, I believe.

A tear wells up in Fleur's eyes. She takes her handkerchief from her sleeve. She wipes her eyes.

FLEUR

And I thought this was a new start to my life. Perhaps teaching in the local school. Returning to my roots. The only difficulty I foresaw was my name. Yet I am proud to have that name. Dr. Willy Richter was a fine man, a peace loving doctor.

Mr. Dynes sits back in his chair, lights a cigarette and offers one to Fleur who shakes her head. He then offers one to Mr. Shadbolt who accepts and lights up.

MR. DYNES

So, how did you get mixed up with Herr Eicke?

FLEUR

He came to Willy's funeral. Perhaps then it was when he recognized my value as an alien in his midst. I shunned him at first, as did my sister and brother in law.

MR. DYNES

Karl and Renate?

Fleur looks up at Mr. Dynes.

FLEUR

You know them too? You are thorough.

MR. DYNES nods.

FLEUR (CONT'D)

I did not see much of him after that. I heard about him through Otto but it was only when I was preparing to leave Germany that Herr Eicke took more interest in me, once more.

Fleur lifts her oboe case on to her lap. She lays her hand on the box and gently caresses it.

FLEUR (CONT'D)

He told me that there were German agents in Britain. Even in the north by Lossiemouth and Fort St George. That shook me. Then he said I could act as a resource for them, you know a confidant, someone to keep their spirits up.

MR. DYNES

Did he give you their names?

FLEUR

No. He said they would contact me.

MR. DYNES

So Eicke knows you will be staying at Forres?

FLEUR

Yes, Otto told him his next of kin were, Karl and Renate, and so that was why he found out I was returning home. That was my fault, my weakness, I suppose.

MR. DYNES

Why?

Fleur smiles.

FLEUR

Herr Eicke is using Karl and Renate's weakness in support of Hitler, to frighten me. It's funny though. Eicke threatens me because I might be a suspect German and you interrogate me because I'm suspected to be a fervent German. I think you and Herr Eicke should sit down and sort this whole thing out!

Mr. Dynes Stands up and sits on the side of the table.

MR. DYNES

I like your humour. Maybe I might meet Herr Eicke one day.

FLEUR

Look, you can search my bags if you wish. I assure you that you will not find any papers from Herr Eicke.

(MORE)

FLEUR (CONT'D)

I have no address for him although he promised to contact me. I have no equipment which could possibly make you think I was a spy.

MR. DYNES

We have already checked your goods in the hold of the Grampian Empress...and found nothing incriminating.

FLEUR

I am not surprised. Go on check my hand luggage. Be thorough! I have nothing to hide.

Mr. Shadbolt opens her luggage and looks into her bag. He turns to Mr. Dynes and shakes his head. Mr. Dynes points his stare to her oboe case. Mr. Shadbolt takes it from her lap. He opens it and peers through each of the three pieces of the instrument. He then feels the lining for any enclosures. He tears the lining of the oboe case, and feels for any incriminating matter. After a thorough search, he shakes his head towards Mr. Dynes.

MR. DYNES

Mr. Shadbolt, I think this is now one for MI6 don't you?

Mr. Anthony Shadbolt sits at the desk to address Fleur.

MR. SHADBOLT

Frau Richter. Your late father. He spent some time in the Gold Coast in Africa didn't he?

Fleur looks startled.

FLEUR

Why yes. But that was some time ago.

MR. SHADBOLT

Captain James Bruce. Kumasi Garrison. 1896-1902.

FLEUR

Yes, the Ashanti wars. I am impressed with your knowledge of my family but this is quite disconcerting. Whatever next?

MR. SHADBOLT

How would you like the opportunity to follow your father's footsteps and work for us in the Gold Coast?

Fleur is puzzled.

FLEUR

Are you serious? I really can't understand what's happening. First I am arrested. I then tell you about Herr Eicke and his interest in me. Now you offer me a job in Africa! It's very confusing.

Mr. Dynes opens the black oboe box. He finds the oboe packed away in three parts. He looks through each part, then hands the instrument parts over to Fleur.

MR. DYNES

I think if you played this a little, I would be satisfied that the oboe is just what it is. I mean, to carry an oboe is unusual. Your cover? Or you are indeed a musician?

Fleur assembles the oboe, and dampens the double reed. She thinks for a moment about what to play. Then she plays the tune 'Over The Seas To Skye'.

MR. DYNES (CONT'D)

Delightful. And somewhat appropriate too. Mr. Shadbolt, sorry, I interrupted you.

Fleur lays the oboe on its closed box.

MR. SHADBOLT

Yes Africa. The Dark Continent. Opened up my missionaries and traders. It's the missionaries we are interested in.

FLEUR

I can't see what use I'd be to missionaries. My faith is not as strong as it once was.

MR. SHADBOLT

Orders, not Holy Orders. And I think you could sort the wheat from the sheaves.

FLEUR

Could you be less vague and tell me what you have on your mind?

MR. SHADBOLT

The Missionaries Frau Richter. In the Gold Coast, they are the Basel Missionaries.

(MORE)

MR. SHADBOLT (CONT'D)
Presbyterian Swiss but not all.
Some come from Germany.

He stubs out his cigarette.

MR. SHADBOLT (CONT'D)
Our difficulty is in
understanding if we have a
hostile presence in a British
Colony. We need a person who is
seen to be neither wholly British
nor wholly German. There are few
available to me, as you can
imagine.

FLEUR
So it's not just about
recognizing a clerical collar, an
accent and then ... presumably
repatriation?

MR. SHADBOLT
No. Some Swiss missionaries may
or may not sympathise with
Hitler. Others are German. And
not all the Missionaries are
ordained.

Fleur stands up.

FLEUR
Really? So what do the others do?

MR. SHADBOLT
Some are teachers, doctors and
others are agriculturalists. We
are concerned about the
propaganda they might be
spreading.

FLEUR
I see. It's all making some sense
to me now. You are looking for a
fluent German speaker but whose
loyalty to Britain is
unquestionable.

MR. SHADBOLT
Exactly.

FLEUR
Ummmm. That's my problem. But
that's the risk you must take....
with a double agent. Isn't it Mr.
Shadbolt?

Mr. Shadbolt goes over to the oboe case and lifts up the instrument. He turns to Fleur holding it pretending to play it with his fingers dancing over the note holes.

MR. SHADBOLT
It's how you play it, Frau
Richter,..... how you play it.

Fleur realises she is no longer under arrest and smiles at his remark.

(CUT TO)

EXT FORRES SCOTLAND DAY

Rolling heather hills of summer surround the town of Forres. The Moray Firth lies to the north and in an aerial view the countryside is seen at its best. From the panoramic view, the eye focusses on the town of FORRES and to a residential street, at Park Mount Cottage, home of MRS. MARGERY BRUCE, Fleur's 88 year old mother. Fleur approaches the door. She rings the bell and straightens her attire. As the door opens she spreads wide her arms.

FLEUR
Mother dear. I'm home!

MARGERY BRUCE
Fleur ma dear.

They embrace.

MARGERY BRUCE (CONT'D)
Did you have a good voyage?

FLEUR
The voyage was fine but my arrival has left me confused. Anyway, will you still have me?

MARGERY BRUCE
Thir wis niver a doubt in ma mind. Come awa' in. Yir hame at last. Bring yer things in. Yiv made yer auld mither sae happy.

Fleur enters the house.

(Cut to)

INT FRONT ROOM PARK MOUNT COTTAGE FORRES DAY

Fleur sits at a table writing a letter. Her mother sits by the fire. She looks up to her daughter and speaks to her in her broad highland accent.

MARGERY BRUCE

Fleur dear, writing to Otto?

FLEUR

Yes and Herr Eicke. Just to let them know I have arrived safely.

MARGERY BRUCE

Eicke? A friend?

FLEUR

Hmm. Not a friend. One of two bosses I have attracted. One in Germany and one in Scotland. I suppose I really should not be telling you this.

Margery Bruce laughs at the thought.

MARGERY BRUCE

An' who am I going to be telling? Mind you I thought ye'd be droppin' yer German friends at this time.

FLEUR

You know I think they both need each other. Sort of a cat and mouse game.

MARGERY BRUCE

Aye, an you're the cheese in the middle if ye ask me.

Fleur laughs at her mother's humour.

FLEUR

You are wise, you know.

MARGERY BRUCE

Aye, and am pickin' up that yer going to be workin' somewhere.

Fleur rises from the table and approaches a photo of her father in military uniform on the mantelpiece. She picks it up and looks at it.

FLEUR

Following daddy's footsteps perhaps.

MARGERY BRUCE
What, in Africa? The Gold Coast?

Fleur bites her lip and nods then puts her finger to her lips.

FLEUR
Not a word to anyone now.

MARGERY BRUCE
But why the secrecy?

FLEUR
Well I suppose the question is obvious. Am I a Scot or am I German? It seems that if it comes to war, I might be useful to both sides!

MARGERY BRUCE
Oh. Well I thought you an' I would sit oot this war if it comes, and... hope Otto gets through it too.

Fleur stands up, looks out of the window. The sun is shining.

FLEUR
The war will come, Mother. Of that I have no doubts. I ...may never see Otto again.

MARGERY BRUCE
Och, don't be thinkin' like that. You need a wee walk an' put yir mind tae ease.

Fleur turns to her mother and smiles. She strokes her shoulders.

FLEUR
You are quite right. I'll finish these letters and also let them know I'll be heading for Africa. That should get me off Eicke's mind. Yes, a walk, to the post box.

Fleur leaves the room and puts on a coat to walk outside.

EXT FRONT GATE MRS. BRUCE'S COTTAGE EXT

Fleur walks down the path to the gate. She opens it and leaves the garden. A postman approaches. As Fleur closes the gate behind her the postman slows down reading his bundle of letters.

POSTMAN

Good morning. You'll be Mrs. Bruce's daughter, then. I heard you had arrived. That explains the letter from Germany. (He hands two letters to Fleur) The other letter is for your mother.

FLEUR

Good Morning. Yes, I'm staying with my mother at present. Thank you.

POSTMAN

Er...I hope you don't mind me asking.

Fleur looks up to him expecting a difficult question.

POSTMAN (CONT'D)

It's my daughter, Morag. She collects foreign stamps.

Fleur laughs.

FLEUR

Oh I see. She wants the German stamps? Of course. I'll save them for you.

The Postman smiles.

POSTMAN

That's very good of you Miss. Have a good day now.

FLEUR

Thank you. I will.

Fleur sets off along the road. She looks at both letters while the postman crosses the road, out of sight. Fleur looks up, carries the letters with her and walks away from her mother's house. She posts her two letters to Germany. She takes a country lane and approaches a public seat. She dusts the seat down with her handkerchief and opens her letter from Germany. She has a furrowed brow as she reads from Gerhardt Eicke.

V/O GERHARDT EICKE

I trust you have arrived safely in Scotland and this letter finds you in good health. Otto is doing well. I saw him yesterday. He send his greetings too and will be writing to you soon. And now to business.

(MORE)

V/O GERHARDT EICKE (CONT'D)

I suspect you are of great interest to your authorities. They will have plans for you too, I have no doubt. Don't worry. We have access to many German sympathizers in Great Britain especially in the Fascist Movement. I will put you in touch with one before too long.

Meantime, some visitors may arrive before the summer is over. They will re-invigorate your German language. Afford them your kind hospitality. Follow any instruction they might give, as if they were acting on my behalf. Fleur Richter, be strong. Heil Hitler. Gerhardt Eicke.

Fleur folds the letter. She stands up, she looks to the hills then returns to her mother's house.

INT FRONT ROOM FORRES DAY

Fleur arrives home. Her mother is still seated in front of the fire. She hands her mother her letter. She reads her letter. The telephone rings.

FLEUR
I'll get it mother.

Fleur lifts up the telephone. She turns her back towards her mother.

FLEUR (CONT'D)
Hello? Yes, speaking. Ah, Mr. Shadbolt.Yes. When?... I see. ...You will send the ticket? Fine.

Mrs. Bruce looks up at Fleur. She takes an interest in what she is saying.

FLEUR (CONT'D)
Next week? ...Yes, I think that gives me enough time...Eicke? ..yes...a letter, nothing specific ...Yes. Fine. From Glasgow.....Oh, that is very kind of you. Yes...I will. Thank you. Good bye.

Fleur replaces the telephone. She turns towards her mother.

FLEUR (CONT'D)
 Mother, after I have gone, if any
 German speaking people come
 looking for me, promise not to
 tell them where I have gone. Do
 you understand? tell them you do
 not know.

Margery Bruce looks over at Fleur in astonishment but nods
 her agreement.

MARGERY BRUCE
 Are you really leaving?

FLEUR
 Yes, quite soon. But Mother you
 promise?

MARGERY BRUCE
 Well of course dear. I don't want
 any foreigners following you.
 (pause)

Margery smiles at Fleur

MARGERY BRUCE (CONT'D)
 You'll like the Gold Coast
 natives. Your father did. They
 are very friendly.

Fleur approaches her mother and gives her a hug. When they
 separate, she looks her straight in the eyes.

FLEUR
 Not a word about Africa Mum. Not
 a word.

MARGERY BRUCE
 No darling. Not a word.

They smile at each other. Fleur then looks up at her
 father's picture on the mantelpiece.

MARGERY BRUCE (CONT'D)
 Take it, if you want. I don't
 mind.

FLEUR
 That's kind of you Mum but I
 can't. He belongs to you here on
 the mantelpiece. And he remains
 in my heart. I have a photo of
 you both in my handbag anyway.

MARGERY BRUCE
 And you'll be taking your oboe,
 I'm sure.

FLEUR
But of course.

MARGERY BRUCE
That'll entertain the natives.

FLEUR
Perhaps they'll provide the
drums!

They laugh.

(CUT TO)

EXT THE FIRTH OF CLYDE DAY

A panoramic view of the Forth Of Clyde. There are yachts in full sail. The hills and islands are seen and the ROYAL PALM is seen leaving the Firth sailing south.

ON BOARD THE ROYAL PALM CARGO SHIP DAY.

Mr. ANDREW BARR leans over the rail looking at the Ayrshire farmland passing by. He holds a glass of whisky in his hand. He raises the amber fluid.

MR. ANDREW BARR
Tae Balkissock an' Glen Tig'

He drinks with slow precision unaware of the arrival of CAPTAIN ALASTAIR CAMERON.

CAPTAIN CAMERON
The sun's beneath the main sail
then!

Mr. Barr turns round mystified by his oration.

CAPTAIN CAMERON (CONT'D)
A Naval term. When the sun sinks
beneath the main sail, work is
over as it were. You are indeed
entitled to it sir. Toasting the
old country then?

MR. ANDREW BARR
Naw. Ma farm at Balkissock, o'er
there. (points) A've a nephew
lookin' aefter eet while a'm awa.
Nae sayin' how he'll cope.
Onyway, I've niver seen it fae
this view a'fore. It makes me
hameseek already!

CAPTAIN CAMERON

I know the feeling, Mr. Barr.
I've already passed my home
village at Bishopton. But it's
always there when I come back and
that will be the same for you.
(Pause) I'll see you at dinner.

**INT FLEUR'S CABIN ON BOARD THE ROYAL PALM AUGUST 6TH 1939
AFTERNOON.**

Fleur sees a shaft of sunlight through her port hole,
lighting up her bed. She approaches the black oboe box on
her bed, assembles the three pieces, dampens the double
reed and plays *Dolly Berceuse by Faure*. As she finishes
playing, a voice in the corridor announces "afternoon
tea".

V/O

Afternoon tea. Served in the
dining room 4pm.

Fleur sees four o'clock on her bedside travel clock. She
puts her oboe away and leaves her cabin.

(CUT TO)

INT DINING ROOM ON BOARD DAY

A WAITER in a white jacket sees Fleur arrive and announces:

WAITER

Darjeeling, Assam Earl Grey or
Lipton's Madam?

FLEUR

Darjeeling please.

WAITER

I shall bring it to your table in
a moment.

FLEUR

Thank you very much.

Fleur notices twelve passengers sitting in groups of two or
three. She selects an empty table, sits down and pours milk
into her cup and with silver liveried sugar tongs delivers
one lump into her cup. The waiter arrives with tea.

WAITER

Rangdoo Darjeeling Madam. Ready
for pouring.

FLEUR

Thank you.

As Fleur pours tea into her cup, MADGE HALL a flaxen haired woman of a similar age approaches Fleur.

MADGE HALL

Good Afternoon. May I ask if you occupy cabin number 6?

Fleur is anxious. She expects to be reprimanded for disturbing her with her oboe.

FLEUR

Yes, I do.

MADGE HALL

Then would I be right to conclude that it was you playing the oboe so beautifully?

FLEUR

Thank you. I hope I did not disturb you.

MADGE HALL

Disturb us! Not at all, I assure you. You could not have disturbed us even if you were playing in the middle of the night! We, my daughter, JOAN and I are next door as it were, in cabin number 8.

Fleur relaxes and warms to this excitable woman.

MADGE HALL (CONT'D)

We listened to every note and when you finished we waited to hear more. (Pause) Would you care to join us at our table for tea?

As Fleur gathers her hand bag, the waiter sees what is happening and takes her cup and saucer over to the table where Mrs Hall's daughter is already seated.

MADGE HALL (CONT'D)

I'm Madge Hall and this is my daughter Joan.

Joan stands up and extends her hand to Fleur. Fleur gives her a friendly hand shake.

FLEUR

Fleur Richter

MADGE HALL

We are sailing to the Gold Coast to join my husband at Kumasi.
(MORE)

MADGE HALL (CONT'D)

He's the Manager of the Ashanti Timber Company. Are you joining your husband?

FLEUR

No. I am a widow. I am taking up a post as an anthropologist but first I will be staying in Accra at the Governor's residence.

MADGE HALL

Ah! With Sir Ronald?

FLEUR

Indeed, ..you know him?

MADGE HALL

Sir Ronald travels around the country sometimes and when he comes to Kumasi, he usually stays with my husband David. Oh Yes, Sir Ronald is a delightful man indeed.

FLEUR

He does a lot of travel?

MADGE HALL

Not often. He's a bachelor you know. A great reader, very knowledgeable and I think quite sporty for his years. A good chap anyway. You will enjoy his company.

FLEUR

That's good to hear. This is my first overseas posting.

Madge pauses to drink her tea. She turns towards her daughter, JOAN.

MADGE HALL

Wouldn't it be good if you and your violin joined the oboe. Perhaps a concert even?

Joan looks embarrassed.

FLEUR

Yes, I am sure we could practise a few tunes, Joan. I remember being asked to play when I was your age. I can sympathise. But I am sure we can have some fun.

JOAN HALL

Yes, then we can meet sometime.

MADGE HALL

After breakfast tomorrow is as good a time as any.

Fleur makes a face to Joan who smiles at her for understanding her rather forward mother.

FLEUR

Have you met the other passengers yet?

They look around the lounge at the occupied tables. Madge lowers her voice.

MADGE HALL

Not all. The vicar is Reverend Simon Fisher and his wife, Lillian. Heading for Port Harcourt in Nigeria I believe. I think they are in Cabin 4. He'll probably take the service if we have one on Sunday.

JOAN HALL

Probably not unless you ask him to preach Mum!

FLEUR

Oh dear. They are next door to me. I had better be careful over my selection of music. You know, one of my favorite pieces is that raucous piece The Stripper!

They all laugh.

MADGE HALL

I suspect Captain Cameron will announce us all at dinner this evening. It's a bit of a tradition on the first night. But I am interested to know who the two men are in cabin 5 and 7, or if I might say, in 5 or 7!

Madge raises her eyebrows at this inference.

FLEUR

Oh I see. (Short pause) In Germany, homosexuality used to be well established in Berlin and Hamburg but Hitler has crushed such activity now. The lucky ones have already gone to Amsterdam or Paris. That's the way of it. If you are not to the party's liking, then there is no place for you.

MADGE HALL

You know a lot about Germany and Hitler then?

FLEUR

Yes, I lived in Germany for twenty-seven years. It is not the place for me to live now. There will be war soon. I am sure of that. Germany is fully armed. Hitler will not stop at anything.

Madge has a worried look as she listens to Fleur.

FLEUR (CONT'D)

He wants a pure Germanic identity established. That has caused many disappearances over the last few years. Yet the people are fanatically behind him, the Saviour of the German people, they call him. But, if you do not fit in, then you are expendable.

MADGE HALL

It must be awful. I mean to have no freedom.

Fleur nods in agreement.

FLEUR

When my husband, Dr. Willy Richter died, I thought of coming home but my son Otto was too young. So I left in January with a heavy heart. Otto is still there.

MADGE HALL

You are Scottish though, aren't you?

Fleur smiles.

FLEUR

Only six months ago, I would say I was German. But I must be British now, otherwise the Foreign Office would not have appointed me. Yes, I'm Scottish from Forres. And you?

MADGE HALL

Cardonald near Glasgow. I never lived far from the sea. I knew all the shipping companies by their funnels. Yellow with red rings for China;
(MORE)

MADGE HALL (CONT'D)
 Green Palm Tree for the Elder
 Dempster Line. Hmm.... but I
 married a forester!

Madge laughs.

FLEUR
 Life throws surprises at us
 doesn't it?

MADGE HALL
 David was in the Forestry
 Commission but after so many cold
 winters he got the chance to
 manage the hard woods of West
 Africa. This will be David's
 third tour in Kumasi. Can you
 blame us for moving?

FLEUR
 Certainly not.

They finish the tea in their cups.

INT CORRIDOR ON BOARD

Madge Hall leaves her room making no noise. She sees Mr. Barr bending down trying to look into the keyhole of Fleur's cabin. Then he places his ear at the lock. Madge then closes her door audibly. Mr. Barr immediately bends down to tie his shoelace outside Fleur's door. Madge walks past Mr. Barr eyeing him but says nothing.

INT DINING ROOM ROYAL PALM 8 P.M.

Twelve passengers are seated at two dining tables. Captain Cameron and the Chief Engineer are in uniform.

CAPTAIN CAMERON
 Mr. Fisher?

Rev Mr. Fisher, wearing his clerical collar, stands up and heads are bowed.

REVEREND MR. FISHER
 Gracious Father, we thank you for
 bringing us together in
 fellowship aboard this ship. We
 give thanks for the food we are
 about to receive and gratitude to
 those who have prepared it. May
 it strengthen us in mind, body
 and spirit. Amen.

'Amen' is repeated by the majority of diners. Waiters begin to serve soup at the two tables and a general hubbub of chatter starts. At Table 1 Fleur is joined by TED MATHERS, HUGH PATTERSON, Andrew Barr, The Captain and Mrs. Phillips.

INT TABLE 1 ON BOARD THE SAME EVENING

Soup is served by a waiter from a terrene.

FLEUR

What takes you to Nigeria Mr. Patterson?

Hugh Patterson speaks animatedly and in a camp voice.

HUGH PATTERSON

Well, MR. MATHERS, TED, and I own a hairdressers shop in Manchester. Don't we Ted? With a few Carribean and African customers, we felt we could master the art of cutting their hair with confidence, if we had some experience, didn't we Ted?

Ted Mathers speaks in a similar camp manner as Ted.

TED MATHERS

That's right Hugh. So we got an invitation from one of our Nigerian customers to visit his family who run a barber's shop in Lagos and we just jumped at the chance! Isn't it wonderful?

FLEUR

A chance in a lifetime I'm sure.

TED MATHERS

Oh no Frau Richter. Next year we fancy sailing to Japan to try some straight black hair too.

FLEUR

But.... can't you find black straight hair in Manchester.

TED MATHERS

Black yes, straight, yes. But not Black, Straight and Thick! Quite different Japanese hair you know,... is in't it Hugh?

Hugh hunches up his shoulders and looks at Fleur.

HUGH PATTERSON
 Then we can call ourselves
 International Barbers!

The two men find this very funny and laugh. Mr. Barr sneers from the other side of the table. He looks glassy eyed.

HUGH PATTERSON (CONT'D)
 You are not trying to put us off going to Japan are you now, Frau Richter?

FLEUR
 Oh no. I think you know what you are doing. So, have you brought your tools of the trade with you on board?

HUGH PATTERSON
 Ah! My customer, Ted. But if I may say, I would not touch your hair just now.

FLEUR
 Why?

HUGH PATTERSON
 Let the sea spray get to it and the sun's rising temperatures. Perhaps the day before you disembark, come and see me, and I'll freshen you up.

Hugh rubs his hands with glee.

FLEUR
 That would be much appreciated.

Mr. Barr's spoon sits in his soup bowl. He has not finished his soup. His head is sunk into his chest. The Captain raises his arm to attract a waiter to him. The waiter arrives and the Captain whispers in his ear. The waiter nods and waves another waiter over. They approach Mr. Barr, pull him away from the table and with Mr. Barr's arms over both waiters' necks, he is led away to his cabin, the apparent worse of alcoholic drink.

EXT LIT DECK AT NIGHT

Fleur wears a shawl round her shoulders. She takes a stroll round the ship. She approaches a covered lifeboat. Mr. Barr steps out from behind it and confronts her. He is wearing his herring bone jacket.

MR. ANDREW BARR
 Guten Abend Mine Frau.

Fleur lets out a gasp of fright.

FLEUR

Oh....Mr. Barr.Guten Abend.

MR. ANDREW BARR

Ah don't speak much German but a wish a could. Thought a wis drunk at the table did yi?

FLEUR

I am not sure what I thought, Mr. Barr.

MR. ANDREW BARR

Well, a' felt disgusted at they twa you wir chatting to. And you should be ashamed of yoursel' too. No true German would entertain the likes o' them homosexuals.

FLEUR

You speak knowledgeably about German affairs Mr.Barr.

MR. ANDREW BARR

A've niver been there, not yet onyway. Heard o' the Black Shirts? Sir Oswald Mosely?

FLEUR

Yes. Vaguely.

MR. ANDREW BARR

Well I'm one. A British Fascist. Proud to be one. A' support Hitler, like you. Order and progress...that's what we need in the wurld the day.

FLEUR

Then be careful who you talk to on board.

MR. ANDREW BARR

Dinae worry. It's jist the twa o' us. I ken you are going tae the British West African Colony tae spy.

FLEUR

To spy?

MR. ANDREW BARR

Weel, that's what I wis telt. But ye hav' ma support.

FLEUR

Is it obvious? I mean, do I look like a spy?

MR. ANDREW BARR

Tae me onyway. An I'm in the know.

FLEUR

I think you must be mistaken. I am an anthropologist, Mr Barr, not a spy.

MR. ANDREW BARR

So that's yer cover?

FLEUR

Cover?

MR ANREW BARR

I wis telt ye'd say yir daen somethin' else. So that's whit it is?

FLEUR

Who's been telling you this?

Mr. Barr looks over his shoulder to ensure no-one is around.

MR ANREW BARR

Am a wee fish in a' this. Someone at the shipping company had the passengers name list o' this ship and yer name wrang bells fur um.

FLEUR

Mr. Barr, who are these people?

MR. ANDREW BARR

They didnae matter, jist like me, bit they a' dance tae the tune Ike plays.

FLEUR

Eicke? Gerhardt Eicke?

MR. ANDREW BARR

Gerhardt Eicke, Franz Eike, Gunter Eicke, Adolf Eicke, how should I know. Wi jist know he's Ike, fae Germany.

FLEUR

So how did Eicke get a message to you?

Mr Barr takes out a long brown pencil from his inside pocket and runs it through his hair as if to scratch his head. He returns the pencil slowly into his outside breast pocket of his herring bone jacket.

MR ANREW BARR

Weel, it wis like this. A wis at a Fascist meetin' in Glasgow. Thir wis about twenty o' us there. The leader wis lookin' fur a volunteer tae dae some travellin' and a thought, a could do wi a break fae the farm. So I pit ma hund up.

Fleur looked around to see if anyone was watching them.

FLEUR

I see. So what orders did they give you.

MR ANREW BARR

I wis tae see whit ye wir up tae. See why yi were goan tae Africa. Tha's a'.

FLEUR

And report back to Eicke?

MR ANREW BARR

Aye, weel, his man in Glasgow, Moseley's top man in Glasgow. He's let Ike knaw.

FLEUR

So now you know.

MR ANREW BARR

Aye an Anrthapist in Africa!

FLEUR

That's right, an anthropologist Mr Barr, not a spy.

MR ANREW BARR

Aye, bit a German anthrapologeest?

FLEUR

If you prefer. Well that seems to have clarified everything. Then I bid you good night Herr Barr.

MR. ANDREW BARR

Aye, Schlaf gut Frau Richter, Schlaf gut. An Heil Hitler tae.

Mr. Barr raises his arm in a Nazi salute. Fleur responds half hearted by raising her right arm level with her shoulder and in a hushed voice speaks.

FLEUR
Heil Hitler.

BREAKFAST NEXT MORNING DINING ROOM ON BOARD DAY

Passengers are arriving for breakfast. There is no sign of Hugh. Fleur sees Ted arrive alone. As he passes her, she enquires.

FLEUR
Hugh not coming for breakfast? Is he having a long lie?

Ted looks at Fleur blankly and turns away. He sits at table number 1, his head down. Fleur goes to Table 2 to sit with Madge and Joan.

FLEUR (CONT'D)
What's come over Ted?

Madge smiles mischievously.

MADGE HALL
Lovers tiff!

FLEUR
Oh really Madge! They were such good company last night. Perhaps Hugh is under the weather and Ted has had a bad night. No more than that.

A waiter arrives bringing a selection of plates bearing scrambled eggs, bacon and eggs, and toast.

MADGE HALL
I think Joan could practise a few melodies with you this morning and I can enquire if there is more musical talent aboard.

FLEUR
Do you think the Captain will agree to a concert?

MADGE HALL
I don't see why not. He may be a fine baritone himself or perhaps an amateur magician.

They laugh at the thought.

JOAN HALL

And what about the McLeods? I could see him playing a fiddle.

MADGE HALL

Oh yes, I think we can organise something to make the voyage more enjoyable.

Ted leaves Table 1 in a hurry. He causes a commotion as he does so, his chair is knocked over. There is silence as he runs out of the dining room.

FLEUR

I don't think this is a matter for us. Best leave it to the Captain.

They continue to eat breakfast. After a few moments a continuous bell is sounded. A shout is heard.

V/O

Man Overboard.

FLEUR

I think it must be Ted! What an accident! Do you think he lost his balance?

Madge turns to Fleur with an anxious look on her face.

MADGE HALL

Fleur, he was not himself this morning, was he? You asked if he had seen Hugh and he did not reply. I suspect something is not right. Let's go to Hugh's cabin and check he's up.

Fleur, Madge and Joan leave the table and the dining room. They set off along to Hugh's cabin.

INT. CABIN CORRIDOR ON BOARD DAY

MADGE HALL

Which cabin is he in?

JOAN HALL

Number 5. Opposite Frau Richter's room.

Madge knocks on the door of Cabin 5 twice.

MADGE HALL

Hugh, are you coming to breakf....

Her eyes are lowered to focus on the door handle. It is smeared with blood.

MADGE HALL (CONT'D)
My goodness! Blood. Quick let's
inform the Captain.

As they leave the cabin door and walk smartly down the corridor, the Captain suddenly appears in front of them.

CAPTAIN CAMERON
It's all right ladies. The
lifeboat has picked up Mr.
Mathers. The crises is over.

FLEUR
I think you should come to cabin
5 first, Captain. Hugh, Ted's
friend has not appeared at
breakfast and there is blood on
the door handle.

The Captain stops in his tracks.

CAPTAIN CAMERON
Blood? Right, please return to
the lounge and keep everyone
there.

The Captain takes out a master key on a chain from his pocket and enters Cabin No. 5.

INT CABIN NUMBER 5 ROYAL PALM MORNING

Captain Cameron enters slowly. The porthole window is open with the covering small curtain flying outside. Hugh Patterson is in bed motionless. Captain Cameron sees a long brown pencil lying on the floor. He picks it up and places it on the table. Captain approaches Hugh and hovers over him for a moment. He then rolls back the covering sheet which reveals heavy blood stains. He observes six stab wounds on Hugh Patterson's naked back.

CAPTAIN CAMERON
My God. He's dead.

The Chief Engineer arrives at cabin 5

CHIEF ENGINEER
The ladies told me you were here.

CAPTAIN CAMERON
But they didn't tell you that we
have a murder on our hands.

CHIEF ENGINEER
What? Sure he's dead?

CAPTAIN CAMERON

Yes. Have Ted Mathers arrested as soon as he's back on board. We've got our man!

CHIEF ENGINEER

Aye, aye Captain. Will do.

The lifeboat is hoisted back to the ship. Ted has his hands tied behind his back. He is shivering. He descends onto the deck. A towel is wrapped round him. He is led from the open deck, along a corridor into the ship's secure room.

INT SECURE ROOM ON BORAD ROYAL PALM MORNING.

Ted Mathers sits with a dry blanket over his shoulders. His wet clothes lie on a pile on the floor. His head is bowed and he cries, sobbing to himself. A seaman stands outside with the key. He lets the captain enter.

CAPTAIN CAMERON

Mr. Mathers, you are being detained pending the investigation of the death of Mr. Hugh Patterson. Do you understand?

Ted Mathers struggles to speak. His voice tails off as he speaks.

TED MATHERS

Why did you save me? Why...why,
...why did you ...save me?

Captain Cameron sees his wet clothes. He picks up his tie and his belt. Then he collects all his wet clothes and leaves the secure room.

INT OUTSIDE SECURE ROOM ROYAL PALM MORNING

Captain Cameron opens a telephone box.

CAPTAIN CAMERON

Bridge? Captain calling. Stand her off St. David's Head. Telegraph the Carmarthenshire Constabulary at Milford Haven. Murder on board reported, suspect detained. Over.

Reverend Mr. Fisher walks along the corridor wearing his clerical collar and holding a bible. The seaman lets him enter the secure room. From her nearby cabin, Fleur arrives with her oboe. She stands outside the secure room. She plays *The Lord is My Shepherd*. The music fades after 24 bars.

EXT. PILOT BOAT APPROACHES ROYAL PALM -EARLY MORNING

The boat comes alongside the Royal Palm and two burly Welsh policemen climb aboard. INSPECTOR GLYNN ROBERTS (52) and SERGEANT GARRETH EVANS(40) are introduced to Captain Cameron as they step on board.

CAPTAIN CAMERON
Gentlemen, Good morning. Welcome aboard.

They shake each others hands and greet eachother.

CAPTAIN CAMERON (CONT'D)
We have a body with stab wounds. The victim's travelling companion jumped ship but we have him in security. Since his detention, he's been inconsolable. Open and shut case for you.

INSPECTOR ROBERTS
Nevertheless, we need statements to back the facts. A man's life is at stake.

CAPTAIN CAMERON
Very well. But the sooner this is finished the better, and we can be on our way.

INSPECTOR ROBERTS
All in good time, captain. We Welsh may be slow but we're thorough.

INT LOUNGE ROYAL PALM DAY

Each policemen is seated at a different table. One by one, the passengers are interviewed. Mr. and Mrs. Rae are first followed by Madge then Mr. Barr is seated before the police Inspector.

INSPECTOR ROBERTS (CONT'D)
So Mr. Barr, would it be fair to say you had drunk a considerable amount if you were carried away from the dining table last night?

MR. ANDREW BARR
Aye, a' had more than enough.

INSPECTOR ROBERTS
And when you were taken to your cabin, were you prepared for bed?

MR. ANDREW BARR

Naw, I slept in these claethes fur an hour or so. Bit a' wisnae sae drunk. I had a wee walk before a went tae bed.

INSPECTOR ROBERTS

And what time did you retire to bed?

MR. ANDREW BARR

It mist hive been jist before 11 pm. A slept like a log.

INSPECTOR ROBERTS

Do you hear any commotion, a fracas, any untoward sound?

MR. ANDREW BARR

A said I slept like a log, Inspector.

Inspector Roberts looks up at Mr. Barr who is looking defiant.

INSPECTOR ROBERTS

Have you seen Mr. Patterson's body?

MR. ANDREW BARR

I certainly hiv nut. I jist heard he's been killed by Ted.

INSPECTOR ROBERTS

On another matter Mr. Barr. What do you think of homosexual men?

MR. ANDREW BARR

Nae much. Why?

INSPECTOR ROBERTS

I think we'll close the interview now . If you can think of anything else, just let me know.

MR. ANDREW BARR

I'm free tae go?

INSPECTOR ROBERTS

For the time being.

Inspector Roberts approaches the other table where Sergeant Evans is writing.

INSPECTOR ROBERTS (CONT'D)

Sergeant Evans, It's time to interview Ted Mathers.

INT. SECURE ROOM ROYAL PALM DAY

Ted Mathers is lying down in dry trousers and a blue pullover. He wears socks but no shoes. He looks dejected but is not crying. He has not touched the mug of tea and toast by his seat. He sits up when Inspector Roberts enters and wrings his hands together.

INSPECTOR ROBERTS

Mr. Mathers, tell me what happened last night? Take your time.

Ted looks up while caressing a warm blanket. She sees both officers poised with pens and paper. He sees a mug of tea and two slices of buttered toast beside him. He eats one slice of toast, cups his hands around the warm tea mug and begins to talk.

TED MATHERS

It was a pleasant dinner last night. We retired at 10.30pm. I had had a couple of glasses of wine, but I was sober.

He looks up to ensure they had recorded he was sober.

SEARGEANT EVANS

Go on Mr. Mathers. You're doing fine.

TED MATHERS

I went to Hugh's cabin. We often have a nightcap together.

SEARGEANT EVANS

What did you have?

TED MATHERS

Just a small whisky and soda each. At 11.20pm Hugh was ready for bed so I got up to go. He followed me to the door and as I left, ...we gave each other.... a good night.... kiss.

INSPECTOR ROBERTS

We are not interested in your relationship Mr. Mathers.

TED MATHERS

I know, I know.

INSPECTOR ROBERTS

It's a murder we are investigating. You said 11.20? How did you know the time?

TED MATHERS

I looked at my watch it was definitely 11.20. I remember. Then I finished my drink.

INSPECTOR ROBERTS

What happened then?

TED MATHERS

Well after we separated, I heard a noise in the corridor. It was definitely Mr. Barr, I saw his checked jacket.

SEARGEANT EVANS

Are you sure?

TED MATHERS

Oh yes. I was sure. I though he had seen me kiss Hugh and he might report what he's seen.

INSPECTOR ROBERTS

Then what happened?

TED MATHERS

Nothing. I went to bed, worried but I slept. When I got dressed in the morning I went to see if Hugh was ready for breakfast. That's when.....that's when....I saw the...blood.

SEARGEANT EVANS

Where was the blood?

TED MATHERS

On the door handle. I feared the worse. I went off to breakfast but my mind was going round in circles. I knew if I reported Hugh was missing then I'd be the first suspect. I had difficulty putting thoughts together.

INSPECTOR ROBERTS

So what did you do, Ted?

Ted begins to cry.

TED MATHERS

I knew by then something dreadful had happened. There was blood on my hand! I would be found guilty for kissing Hugh so I ran out of the lounge. The water looked inviting. It looked near, it wanted me. I jumped in.

(MORE)

TED MATHERS (CONT'D)

The water was cold, almost
knocked me unconscious. If only
it had.... If only it had.

Ted's face was crushed with tension. Tears welled up and trickled down his face. The Inspector looked him straight in his watery eyes.

INSPECTOR ROBERTS

Ted, now this is an important
question. Did YOU kill Hugh
Patterson?

Ted straightened himself. And focussed on the face of his questioner.

TED MATHERS

No, officer. I DID NOT KILL Hugh.

SEARGEANT EVANS

One final question Mr. Mathers.

Ted looked over to the sergeant anxious to cooperate.

SEARGEANT EVANS (CONT'D)

What do you think of Mr. Barr?

Ted sat back, drank from his mug of tea then replied.

TED MATHERS

Officer, were you ever a Scout or
a team player? You know, the
feeling you get with friendship
and trust?

Ted stood up with his mug of tea.

Well that's how it was with me
and Hugh. We ran a business
together. I couldn't have done it
without him. That relationship
can become a source of envy. I
think it was for Mr. Barr. He did
not like us. That was obvious.
What he saw of us together would
have disgusted him.

The two police officers nodded in unison.

INSPECTOR ROBERTS

It's time to speak to Mr. Barr
again.

INT LOUNGE TABLE ROYAL PALM DAY

Both officers are seated at the same table. Mr. Barr is brought to the seat before them. Mr. Barr is sober, bitter and unforgiving.

SEARGEANT EVANS

You don't mind me making some notes Mr Barr.

MR ANREW BARR

Why should I? A've nothin' tae hide and you hive a job ti dae.

SEARGEANT EVANS

Exactly. Just a few more questions if you don't mind.

MR ANREW BARR

Not at all. You've git yur man and you need full statements. I unerstan' .

SEARGEANT EVANS

For clarification Mr Barr, what time did you retire to bed on the night of the murder.

MR ANREW BARR

As a said, jist before 11pm.

SEARGEANT EVANS

And could you be mistaken, could it have been half an hour later?

MR ANREW BARR

Nae way.

Seargeant Evans writes in his notebook. Then he puts his pen down.

SEARGEANT EVANS

Don't happen to have a pencil I could borrow Mr. Barr. I've come without one.

MR ANREW BARR

A pencil? Aye I've got wan here.

Mr Barr searches his jacket inside pocket, then his side pockets. He can not find his pencil

MR ANREW BARR (CONT'D)

Thought a hud it wi me. Must be in ma cabin. Sorry.

Sergeant Evans pauses for a moment, then he produces a long brown pencil from his inside pocket. Written on the side of the pencil is the wording BALKISSOCK FARM.

MR ANREW BARR (CONT'D)

Ah yiv got it. Ye had it a' the time!

SEARGEANT EVANS

This is yours?

MR ANREW BARR

Aye, see Balkissock Farm. That's mine. Where did you find it?

SEARGEANT EVANS

Beside the body, Mr Barr.

MR ANREW BARR

So yi think a murdered him wi my pencil. Is that whit yir sayin?

SEARGEANT EVANS

No, no. You did not murder Hugh Patterson with your pencil. You murdered him with a knife which you got rid of and in the struggle to silence him, your pencil fell out of your jacket.

MR ANREW BARR

Am sayin nuthin.

SEARGEANT EVANS

You don't need to. Judging by the state of Hugh Patterson's feet, I suggest the intruder caught them under the door. To silence the scream of pain the intruder initially covered his mouth, forced him on to the bed where he stabbed him several times.

Inspector Roberts approaches with handcuffs in his hands.

SEARGEANT EVANS (CONT'D)

In this frantic assault, your pencil dropped out Mr Barr.

MR ANREW BARR

Nae motif tae kill him, wis nae me.

SEARGEANT EVANS

A homophobic murder Mr Barr.
After all the ship is a small
community, I can't see an
alternative motif or killer can
you?

INSPECTOR ROBERTS

Mr Andrew Barr I arrest you for
the Murder of Mr. Hugh Patterson
on board the Royal Palm. You need
not say anything but if you do,
it may be recorded and used as
evidence in a forthcoming trial.

Mr. Andrew Barr remains silent. He has a bitter twisted
look about him. He catches Fleur's eye as he stands. He
shouts defiantly.

MR. ANDREW BARR

Heil Hitler

Fleur remains silent.

Inspector Roberts takes out his handcuffs and places them
on Andrew Barr's wrists. As they clink together, (CUT TO) a
couple of glasses clink, the Royal Palm Concert has begun.

INT LOUNGE TABLE ROYAL PALM TWO DAYS LATER NIGHT

Passengers and crew are gathered for this impromptu
concert. The captain hosts the programme. General chit chat
between vignettes of items as follows: *Nocturne by Borodin*
by Fleur on her oboe accompanied by Joan on her violin. Rev
Simon Fisher *sings Jeannie with The light Brown Hair*; Ed
Phillips plays the mouthorgan - *The Arrival of the Queen of
Sheeba*. During the interval the Captain brings a drink to
Fleur. In one hand is orange juice while holding a glass of
wine in the other.

CAPTAIN CAMERON

A marvellous antidote to our
crisis. Here have some wine. I'm
on duty so this is mine.

The Captain sips his orange juice.

FLEUR

How kind.

CAPTAIN CAMERON

That was very thoughtful of you
playing your oboe for Ted when he
was in the secure room.

FLEUR

Yes, it was a shame he had to leave but in the circumstances, I can see why.

CAPTAIN CAMERON

They'll look after him in hospital. He's been through a lot.

FLEUR

That must have been a messy cabin to clean up.

CAPTAIN CAMERON

It certainly was.....But it did not take the crew long, once the Police gave us permission. Do you mind if we go out on deck for a few moments?... I want a quiet word with you.

FLEUR

Just as well we're heading for the Portuguese coast. It's not too cold outside.

CAPTAIN CAMERON

I won't keep you long.

EXT. DECK AREA ROYAL PALM NIGHT

FLEUR

Look at the stars. How clear they are.

CAPTAIN CAMERON

What does the future hold?

FLEUR

Mmmma good question. If only we knew.

Captain Cameron sips his orange juice. He then turns to Fleur.

CAPTAIN CAMERON

There is something troubling me.

FLEUR

About me?

CAPTAIN CAMERON

Well, yes and no. When we were cleaning out Mr. Barr's room, the police and I made some investigations. It seems Mr. Barr was a Fascist. Did you know that?

Fleur sips her wine.

FLEUR

My statement to the police made mention of my thoughts about Mr. Barr.

CAPTAIN CAMERON

Yes, I was made privy to your statement after his arrest. You said you met him out here the night of the murder when I thought he was drunk and in bed!

FLEUR

Yes. He had been drinking but he had certainly recovered by the time I came across him. He thought I was a German sympathizer.

CAPTAIN CAMERON

And...are you?

FLEUR

Captain, I assure you I work for the British Foreign Office now!

Captain Cameron finished his orange juice.

CAPTAIN CAMERON

So I believe. But in his diary was a note from a Glasgow Fascist asking Andrew Barr to keep an eye on Frau Fleur Richter..... for Herr Eicke. Does that make any sense?

Fleur (pause).

A nodding then a wry smile.

FLEUR

Cessante causa cessat et effectus

Captain Cameron speaks slowly as he translates.

CAPTAIN CAMERON

When thecauseis removed.... the effect ...disappears?

FLEUR

Exactly.

They smile. Captain raises his arm to show Fleur the way back into the ship.

**EXT ACCRA CANTONMENTS BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONERS DRIVE
3rd SEPTEMBER 1939 DAY**

The lorry bringing Fleur and her baggage sweeps round the driveway to the Ambassador's front steps in Accra, Gold Coast. Two natives arrive to off load the baggage while a smartly dressed native SETH escorts Fleur up the stairway.

FLEUR (CONT'D)

Ye fre me Fleur . Me fri
Scotland.

The native laughs.

SETH

Oh Well done. You are speaking
Akan Twi.

FLEUR

Not yet, but I learned some
phrases on my way here from
Takoradi.

SETH

You will speak Twi soon, Madam. I
know you will.

The High Commissioner SIR RONALD MURRAY is at the top of the steps to greet Fleur.

FLEUR

Me ma wo Machii. Wo hun te sen?

SIR RONALD MURRAY

Yoooo, Yenua. Onyame Adum me
hoye.

He laughs.

SIR RONALD MURRAY (CONT'D)

What a start you are making! You
know the greetings and you asked
how I am. By the Grace of God, I
am well. And so I am.

FLEUR

I'm not too old to learn after all!

SIR RONALD MURRAY

That's good. For there is much to learn. (pause) You have heard the news?

FLEUR

What news?

SIR RONALD MURRAY

Britain is at war with Germany.

FLEUR

What? When did this happen?

SIR RONALD MURRAY

Neville Chamberlain announced that we are at war with Germany this morning.

Fleur gasps.

SIR RONALD MURRAY (CONT'D)

Frau Richter, I trust you have enjoyed your time at home with your mother in the Highlands.

FLEUR

Indeed I have. Although it was not as I planned it to be.

SIR RONALD MURRAY

No. A bit disruptive, I agree. But you can imagine your status has caused us to follow you closely.

FLEUR

Not as closely as Gerhardt Eicke it seems.

SIR RONALD MURRAY

Ah yes. Nasty affair on board with that man Barr wasn't it?

FLEUR

It certainly was. Not like Eicke to send a ...well...just such a feckless, bitter agent.

SIR RONALD MURRAY

Barr an agent? I ask you! I really doubt it.

(MORE)

SIR RONALD MURRAY (CONT'D)

If you ask me, Eicke was lucky to get anyone to trace you. Did you tell Barr where you were going?

FLEUR

No. I don't think so. But he seemed convinced I was an anthropologist. But you have had checks on me too. That's what confuses me. You offer me a job yet you always seem to be checking on me.

Sir Ronald looks severe.

SIR RONALD MURRAY

Vital. We can't afford to make a mistake. But I value you greatly. I think you could make a significant difference. Unfortunately, so do the Germans. That's why they wanted to trace you here.

Sir Ronald stands up and walks round his desk to sit on a seat in the bay window.

SIR RONALD MURRAY (CONT'D)

Come join me, Frau Richter, Fleur.

Fleur moves to the bay window and sits opposite Sir Anthony.

SIR RONALD MURRAY (CONT'D)

Right. Let's see how well you have studied your homework.

Sir Ronald opens a file lying on the seat from which he fires questions at Fleur.

SIR RONALD MURRAY (CONT'D)

Name?

FLEUR

Frau Fleur Richter.

SIR RONALD MURRAY

What are you doing in Kwahu?

FLEUR

I am an anthropologist. I'll be working at Swedru in a few months. I have come to learn the Akan Twi language.

SIR RONALD MURRAY

Where are you staying?

FLEUR

I'm staying at the Ramseyer Basel Mission Centre at Abetifi in Kwahu district. My Twi teacher is Mr... Douglas Asoman.

SIR RONALD MURRAY

Are you English or German.

FLEUR

I am Scottish. A Scottish Presbyterian and the widow of a German doctor. But of course on that I can stress one more than the other when the occasion arises.

SIR RONALD MURRAY

Indeed. And that will be a challenge. (pause) Why have you come to Africa?

FLEUR

My father loved West Africa and I enjoyed hearing his stories as a child. I felt drawn to the Gold Coast as an anthropologist, where there are opportunities to learn from different cultures.

SIR RONALD MURRAY

Good, you know your role. I presume you can explain what an anthropologist does?

FLEUR

Yes. I have been reading about how they can integrate rural migrants to developing towns. That would be the plan for the town for Swedru.

SIR RONALD MURRAY

Excellent.

Sir Ronald places the folder down. Fills his pipe with tobacco and lights up.

FLEUR

I can't wait to serve my country.

Sir Ronald draws on his pipe.

SIR RONALD MURRAY
Your country?

FLEUR
Yes, my country. My country of
birth, Sir Ronald.

EXT BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONERS RESIDENCE ACCRA DAY

They leave by the rear door down steps into the garden of
the High Commissioners Residence. They walk on the lawn.

FLEUR
Being here in Africa, I have much
to be grateful.

SIR RONALD MURRAY
Grateful yes. You are out of
Germany. But that means there is
much work ahead for you in Kwahu.

FLEUR
Yes.

Fleur turns away and a tear falls from her eye. Sir Ronald
takes a step to the side to confirm she is crying. He
approaches her and offers her his handkerchief.

SIR RONALD MURRAY
You are thinking about Otto?

Fleur takes his handkerchief and wipes her eye.

FLEUR
Our Fates oppose. That is an
unhappy situation. One which I
can not change. Nor will I.

Fleur looks defiantly at Sir Ronald.

FLEUR (CONT'D)
What do I need to know?

Sir Ronald moves towards a garden table and places a brown
folder down. He opens it. As he reads out each
personality's name, the camera shows each individual in
their routine duties at Abetifi in the Kwahu district.

SIR RONALD MURRAY
Reverend Emmanuel Okine,
the Basel Mission Centre's
Bursar.

Reverend Okine (55) is seen in a clerical collar and white
jacket. He is at a desk running his finger down a column of
statistics and with his pen ticking names.

SIR RONALD MURRAY (CONT'D)
Mr.... Daniel Tetteh, native lay
preacher and catechist.

Mr... Daniel Tetteh (45) wears a colorful Jeromi shirt and is standing before a class teaching young native men seated on a bench in the Basel Mission grounds.

SIR RONALD MURRAY (CONT'D)

Mercy Appiah, the Matron.

Mercy Appiah (38) wears traditional colorful cloth. She crosses the compound carrying white sheets on a board on her head.

FLEUR

So far all are natives. Any with
suspect loyalties?

SIR ANTHONY PITT-STEVENSON

Not sure. Depends on the
influence of the Europeans. The
Reverend Jurg Fendler and his
wife Martha, Basel Missionaries
since 1910.

Reverend Jurg Fendler (68) sits outside in the shade in a wicker chair reading a leather bound book. Martha Fendler sits beside him darning a sock.

SIR RONALD MURRAY

The Reverend Andreas Schmidt, is
a rural missionary working with
his wife Gisela.

Reverend Andreas Schmidt is seen in the bush under a tree speaking to a group of farm workers during their lunch break. His wife Gisela is pouring water from a barrel into cups for the workers.

SIR RONALD MURRAY (CONT'D)

And Herr Hans Winkler, an
agricultural adviser.

Herr Hans Winkler is in a clearing with a group of farm labourers. One has offended him. He pulls him up from the ground, makes him stand to attention and places a can on his head. Winkler retreats ten paces, raises his rifle and shoots the can off the farm workers head. The native is terrified. The farm workers look on with open eyes and fear.

SIR RONALD MURRAY (CONT'D)

Oh and an old boy Dr. Dieter
Hoch, grey haired bearded man.
The ideals of the Basel Mission
are carved into his soul.

Rev. Dr.Hoch (90) long grey beard and walking stick. Black hat on his head. He shuffles slowly along the Basel Mission wooden balcony with a stick.

FLEUR (V/0)

In what way?

SIR RONALD MURRAY (V/0)

Internationalist, pacifist, humanitarian, very much the respected local doctor.

FLEUR

Not a fifth columnist then.

SIR RONALD MURRAY

Very hard to know. They can hide behind two screens. Immunity or Swiss.

FLEUR

Or both?

SIR RONALD MURRAY

Exactly. We need to know who to arrest. And that is your work. Of course I could round them up but that would cause a native backlash. I must be seen to encourage the good work of the Basel Mission. But route out Nazi sympathizers.

FLEUR

When will I see them?

SIR RONALD MURRAY

Fit to travel tomorrow?

FLEUR

At the crack of dawn.

SIR RONALD MURRAY

But first, your work needs a code name. (pause) That black box of yours, I believe its an oboe. Bereft of an orchestra.

FLEUR

Indeed it is.

SIR RONALD MURRAY

Then Operation Oboe it is.

**EXT. ABETIFI KWAHU DISTRICT GOLD COAST ROAD LEADING TO THE
BASEL MISSION CENTRE DAY**

A traditional lorry winds up the road and into the Basel Mission Compound. It parks outside the Bursar's office and Fleur descends while her baggage is off-loaded. REV. EMMANUEL OKINE extends a wide-armed welcome to Fleur.

REVERENED EMMANUAL OKINE
Akwaaba, Akwaaba, Frau Richter.
You are welcome.

FLEUR
Osofo Okine thank you. Wo ho te
sen?

Rev Okine smiles and laughs

REVERENED EMMANUAL OKINE
Onyame Adum, me ho ye. By the
Grace of God I am well. Oh fine,
fine, you are learning TWI very
nicely. Let me take you to your
quarters.

Rev Okine orders two boys to carry Frau Richter's baggage to her room situated on the second floor of the Basel Mission Swiss House. Fleur and Rev. Okine walk along the ground floor to the wooden steps leading to the second floor of the wooden building.

EXT BASEL MISSION HOUSE ABETFI KWAHU GOLD COAST DAY.

FLEUR
What a beautiful Swiss building.

REVERENED EMMANUAL OKINE
A covered balcony to stroll round
and if you are quiet, you will
see the beautiful humming birds
feed at the hibiscus flowers.

FLEUR
I had no idea this would be such
a beautiful place.

They climb the last step and proceed along the wooden floor to a room at the corner. Rev Okine fiddles with a set of keys, to take one from the ring and open the door.

EXT GUEST ROOM IN BASEL MISSION HOUSE ABETIFI DAY

REVERENED EMMANUAL OKINE

The Missionaries situated their stations high on the hills to get cooler air and these traditional Swiss buildings are both airy and nostalgic for many of the white staff. Does it remind you of home?

The door is now open and Fleur enters. A four posted bed is covered by a mosquito net. In the corner is a door leading to a washroom containing an enamel basin and a shower base above which is suspended a bucket with sprinkled wholes on its base. On a bedside table lies two letters, one is larger and fatter than the other. Fleur Turns to Rev Okine.

FLEUR

Home was Hamburg. In northern Germany. This is very much a Swiss or Bavarian edifice.

REVERENED EMMANUAL OKINE

Lunch will be in half an hour. You will hear the bell. Come across the lawn to the dining room and eat with us. I'll leave you now to unpack. Yooo, me co. I'm leaving.

FLEUR

Medaoase Osofo, Thank you.

Fleur picks up her case and places it on her bed. She unlocks it and opens the lid. She looks at the chest of drawers, opens the drawer and runs her hand over the surface. She is pleased it is clean. She looks back at her letters. She picks them up and sits on her bed to read them. The first bears a German stamp. She does not recognise the handwriting. She looks at the second. It has a local stamp. It is from Kumasi and the writer's name is on the rear of the envelope.

FLEUR (CONT'D)

Madge Hall! Oh good.

Fleur carefully opens the envelope and reads excitedly. Her eyebrows rise...

FLEUR (CONT'D)

A dinner! Next weekend in Kumasi. Old friends...I wonder.....ah...Sir Ronald will be there.

She retains a warm smile and folds the letter back into its envelope. She then lifts the second letter. The date is August 28th 1939 Hamburg. She opens this letter carefully.

FLEUR (CONT'D)
Oh darling Otto.

As she reads Otto's letter, she smiles then she looks concerned and finally smiles again. When finished reading she clings the letter to her bosom then turns to the envelope again and she shakes out a smaller envelope. She opens this one and her forehead is a grooved with anxiety.

FLEUR (CONT'D)
Gerhard Eicke! God, he's everywhere.

She reads line by line then looks up to the roof of her room.

FLEUR (CONT'D)
Trust... Hans Winkler?.....the agriculturalist.

Fleur unpacks her case. A bell is heard. She takes her key, locks her room and sets off across the compound to lunch. The dining room is a long ground floor room in the compound.

EXT DINING ROOM BASEL MISSION ABETIFI DAY

Frau Geisla Schmidt welcomes Fleur and invites her to sit with her. Soup is served after Rev. Andreas Schmidt says Grace in German.

GEISLA SCHMIDT
Rev. Dr. Dieter Hoch is at the table top. (quietly) He has dementia now, best leave him to his own world. My husband Andreas said Grace, Frau Martha Fendler and Rev. Jurg Fendler are opposite us. Now, perhaps you would like to introduce yourself.

Fleur takes a spoonful of soup then places it down to address the table. As she does so HANS WINKLER enters and sits down as she talks while he is served soup.

FLEUR
I am Frau Fleur Richter, a widow from Hamburg. My husband Dr. Richter died three and a half years ago. I am an anthropologist and I have come to Abetifi to learn the Akan Twi language.

HANS WINKLER

And how is Hamburg?

FLEUR

Busy but beautiful. You know the city?

HANS WINKLER

Forgive me. My name is Hans Winkler, I am an agriculturalist. I was trained in Hamburg.

FLEUR

Then we must find time to talk about our city.

HANS WINKLER

Ah, if it only was my city. I'm from the countryside as you might expect.

GEISLA SCHMIDT

Yes, the countryside in Switzerland, not so Hans?

HANS WINKLER

Geisla I need not remind you that German is our language and culture in Basel. (pause) Frau Richter, you have family?

FLEUR

One son, Otto Richter.

HANS WINKLER

How old is he?

FLEUR

He is a soldier in a motorized SS unit.

Hans looks up at Fleur to catch her eye, he smiles appreciatively.

HANS WINKLER

Marvellous.

EXT FARMLANDS BEYOND THE BASEL CENTRE DAY.

Fleur is with her Twi teacher Douglas Asoman. They are practising Twi and strolling out of the grounds into cultivated plots where young natives are at work weeding and tending onions and tomatoes. Bordering the field are orange trees and sprawling groundnut crops. Hans Winkler is supervising the boys. He looks up to see them approach.

DOUGLAS ASOMAN
Anka, oranges, anka. I want to
buy some oranges. Now you.

FLEUR
Anka Me pese me taw anka.

DOUGLAS ASOMAN
Mo. Good. You are doing well.

HANS WINKLER
Guten morgen Frau Richter.

FLEUR
Guten morgen Herr Finkler.

DOUGLAS ASOMAN
Then I will see you tomorrow Frau
Richter.

FLEUR
I'll study some more Twi this
evening. Thank you Douglas.

Douglas returns to the Mission compound while Hans
approaches Fleur.

HANS WINKLER
You must be proud of your son
Otto.

FLEUR
Of course I am. He's my only son.
But you are Swiss I thought. Why
are you interested in my son?

HANS WINKLER
Don't be offended Fleur. When I
was in Hamburg, I tried to get
enlisted.

FLEUR
But you are Swiss! They would not
take you.

HANS WINKLER
No, but the Gestapo were
interested in me.

Hans aims his rifle at an orange tree. He fires at it
bringing an orange to the ground.

FLEUR
A fine shot. Ah, a marksman. So
that's how you know Gerhardt
Eicke?

HANS WINKLER
Gerhardt? You know him?

FLEUR
Yes, I received a letter from him
on my arrival here.

HANS WINKLER
Then you know what I have to do
for him?

Fleur realized Hans Winkler was in Eick's hands, as she was.

FLEUR
He's keeping you busy too?

Hans smiles recognizing a comrade. He looks around. You know I've to go to Dakar soon, to set up the show there?

FLEUR (CONT'D)
Won't you be missed here?

HANS WINKLER
No, I'll tell them I'm on leave.
Do you want to come with me? It
will be a good cover?

FLEUR
I'm meant to be learning Twi
Hans. But maybe I can find time.
I'll think about it. I'm heading
for Kumasi this weekend.

HANS WINKLER
Under cover?

FLEUR
Once a spy, always a spy Hans,
you should know that.

**EXT KUMASI GOLD COAST RESIDENCE OF DAVID HALL, FORRESTRY
COMMISSIONER EVENING.**

The hum of crickets is heard. A long driveway leads to a detached house within a large garden. Fleur in traditional African attire climbs the steps holding some cut flowers. She is met by the hostess, Madge Hall.

MADGE HALL
Fleur my dear. How wonderful. You
are looking well.

FLEUR
Madge. Thank you so much for
inviting me.

Fleur presents a bouquet of flowers.

FLEUR (CONT'D)
From Kwahu, from the Basel
Mission grounds.

MADGE HALL
How kind. They are beautiful.

Madge hands the flowers to a native servant.

FLEUR
What an amazing place you have
and so many guests.

MADGE HALL
We do this about three times a
year. Come in and meet them.

Madge leads Fleur into the hall where she is invited to a glass of orange juice. There is a mixture of Colonial officials and Army personnel as well as several Africans in their Kente clothes with their wives similarly attired. The local Police Band strikes up to provide background dance music. Fleur sees Sir Ronald.

FLEUR
Madge, do excuse me I must have a
word with my boss.

MADGE HALL
Sir Ronald, a moment please.

Sir Ronald turns from his conversation with an Army Officer and greets Fleur.

SIR RONALD MURRAY
My dear, how are you.

FLEUR
Well, but with much to tell you.
Can we talk somewhere safely?

SIR RONALD MURRAY
Of course, just come this way
with me.

Sir Ronald leads Fleur out into the garden where the band is playing.

SIR RONALD MURRAY (CONT'D)
Just admire the band and tell me
what's on your mind.

FLEUR
I've had a letter from Eicke. He
tells me to trust Finkler, the
Swiss, agriculturalist.

SIR RONALD MURRAY
Ah yes the agriculturalist.

FLEUR
Finkler thinks I'm a Nazi supporter and has invited me to go with him on a mission to Dakar.

SIR RONALD MURRAY
Can you handle him?

FLEUR
Yes. I think I can but a camera, preferably a small camera would come in handy.

SIR RONALD MURRAY
Where are you staying in Kumasi?

FLEUR
At the Presbyterian Rest House.

SIR RONALD MURRAY
I'll have a camera delivered to you tomorrow morning. Good work. Keep it up. And by the way, Fleur, would you care to dance?

FLEUR
Oh Sir Ronald, it's been a long time. It's an opportunity I can't decline.

They dance to the music among others on the lawn. Sir Ronald bends to whisper in Fleur's ear twice. Fleur replies to his ear once. When the music finishes, Fleur approaches Madge who is speaking to the Superintendent of Police, a native with light colored skin.

MADGE HALL
Chief Superintendent, let me introduce you to Frau Richter. Joan, see to the drinks.

Madge, the dutiful hostess, follows Joan leaving the Superintendent to Fleur. They shake hands.

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT BRUCE
Good evening, Chief Superintendent Bruce. I hope you are enjoying the Police band. They are much in demand. I am always turning down worthy events but I never miss the Mr.... and Mrs. Hall's functions.

FLEUR

And are you a musician yourself?

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT

It depend what you call music. The Police also have a Pipe band and that's where I play, the bagpipes. My father was Scottish.

FLEUR

Forgive me , Superintendent, I did not catch your name.

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT

Not many people do catch it first time round Frau Richter. It's Bruce, a Scottish name. As you can see my skin is much lighter. I'm half Ashanti and half Scottish.

Fleur takes a closer interest in his facial features.

FLEUR

Your father, he was in Kumasi?

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT

He was the fort commandant here in Kumasi, in the Scots Guards. He met my mother a seamstress.

FLEUR

Is she still alive?

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT

No, she died in 1931.

Fleur is speechless, she realizes she has just met her half brother, Superintendent Kwame Bruce!

MADGE HALL

You two look so serious. I hope I am not intruding on an arrest!

Madge and Superintendent Bruce enjoy the joke. Fleur is dumbfounded. At this moment David Hall calls everyone to attention.

DAVID HALL

Everyone, come into the body of the Kirk. (pause) Governor General, Chief Superintendent Bruce, Ladies and Gentlemen. I need not remind you that we are now at war in troubled times. A time for us to know who our friends are and who are not. And to give eachother support.

(MORE)

DAVID HALL (CONT'D)
I have pleasure in inviting Sir
Ronald to address you.

Sir Ronald steps forward.

SIR RONALD MURRAY
David and Madge firstly may I
thank you for providing such
wonderful hospitality and a
delightful meal. I am sure we all
appreciated that. (Applause.)
What perfect hosts. (more
applause) The war in Europe may
feel a long way away, but I
assure you it will be a World War
and West Africa will play her
part in due course.

As Sir Ronald continues to speak, Fleur moves to a position
to observe Chief Superintendent Kwame Bruce more closely.
He is oblivious to her interest in him. The camera pulls
back and we no longer hear Sir Ronald's words. (Close up)
Fleur's face is held quizzically with her eyes looking up
in a slanted head.

**EXT PRESBYTERIAN REST HOUSE COMPOUND KUMASI NEXT DAY
MORNING.**

A view of the grounds. Fleur is seen approaching the
general office.

INT GENERAL OFFICE PRESBYTERIAN COMPOUND KUMASI DAY

Fleur enters the general office in the compound. The
BURSAR greets her.

BURSAR
Good Morning madam.

FLEUR
Wo ho te sen?

The Bursar breaks into a broad grin.

BURSAR
Onyame Adum me ho ye. Fine. What
can I do for you today Madam?

Fleur smiles awkwardly.

FLEUR
I wish to make a telephone call,
an important, personal telephone
call.

The Bursar points to the telephone on his table and to his chair.

BURSAR

I shall leave you in peace Madam.

FLEUR

Thank you very much I won't be long.

Fleur leaves her hand on the telephone for a moment as she composes herself. She takes a deep breath. She lifts the telephone.

FLEUR (CONT'D)

Local.... Police HQ please. Thank you.

She waits to be connected.

FLEUR (CONT'D)

Good morning. Can you please put me through to Chief Superintendent Kwame Bruce please.

Fleur takes an audible deep breath as she waits to be connected. Chief Superintendent answers the phone.

FLEUR (CONT'D)

Good morning this is Mrs. Fleur Richter speaking. I had the pleasure of meeting you at last night's reception for the Governor. (pause)

FLEUR (CONT'D)

Well, firstly this is not a Police matter. A delicate matter describes it best. One which I have slept on all night and am coming to appreciate very much indeed. I would rather speak to you in person about it. Are you able to come to the Rest House some time today?

(pause)

Fleur nods excitedly.

FLEUR (CONT'D)

Morning coffee at 11am then?
(pause) Thank you. Good bye.

EXT COMPOUND DAY

Fleur is seen walking smartly from then office to her room. She gathers pace and breaks into a skip.

INT GUEST ROOM DAY

Fleur makes herself busy fidgeting to make things perfect. She takes two wicker chairs from her room on to the balcony outside. She sets a table with blue gingham material on its surface , places two cups and saucers and a plate of custard cream biscuits. She frequently consults her watch. She retires to her room awaiting her visitor. She opens her purse and takes out a picture of her parents. She places them in the drawer of the table outside. As she does so a black car sweeps into the compound. The car comes to a halt in the centre of the compound. The driver opens the back door, awaits the Chief Superintendent to descend then salutes him. Fleur descends the steps to the laterite compound and stretches out her hand to greet Chief Constable Kwame Bruce.

FLEUR

Akwabaa

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT BRUCE

Wo hote sen?

FLEUR

Onyame Adum me ho ye.

Fleur shows him to his seat at the table on the balcony.

FLEUR (CONT'D)

Tea or coffee?

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT BRUCE

Morning coffee and afternoon tea.
Very traditional I know. But it
reminds me what part of the day
it is!

They both laugh nervously.

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT BRUCE (CONT'D)

Are you comfortable here?

FLEUR

Oh yes very comfortable but on
Monday I must return home, to the
Kwahu ridge, to Abetifi.

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT BRUCE

Abetifi. Good climate for you
Europeans.

FLEUR

You know the area well?

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT BRUCE

I have been there many times. Obo is where the wealthy natives live. Nkwatia has the White Fathers mission and Abetifi, the Basel Mission. And Frau Richter, that will be where you are? Right?

Fleur pours two coffees with a nervous smile. She gestures to him to pour his milk and take sugar which he does.

FLEUR

Yes. Well detected. My beautiful Abetifi. But all is not what it seems. You see I must explain that I am a widow. Of a German doctor. The fact that I am not German at all is why I wanted to meet you privately.

Fleur offers the plate of biscuits to the Chief Superintendent.

FLEUR (CONT'D)

A biscuit?

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT BRUCE

Thank you.

Chief Superintendent Bruce crunches into his custard cream biscuit.

FLEUR

No. I am not German. I am Scottish. My father came to Kumasi as part of the British Army when the Ashanti wars took place.

Fleur has a tremble in her voice, a tear in her eye and she stands up taking a step nearer the Chief Superintendent.

FLEUR (CONT'D)

Kwame....my Father was....Colonel James Bruce. I am Fleur Bruce....Your Sister.

Kwame stands up, he looks fleur in the yes.

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT BRUCE

Yes...it must be true...how....how WONDERFUL.

Kwame holds both of Fleur's hands.

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT BRUCE (CONT'D)
Fleur, let me hug you.

They embrace. Fleur crushes herself against his metal buttoned tunic. Tears of happiness mingle as the driver looks up and smiles then across to the office where the bursar is smiling. They separate still holding each others hands.

FLEUR
I am so relieved. I had no idea how you might react. I thought you might be angry.

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT BRUCE
Why angry? These were dangerous times, like today. Times when trust had to be built up. Your...I mean ...our father was a very popular man in Kumasi, I was told. He did a lot to harmonize the Ashantis with the colonial administrators.

FLEUR
A little too much harmonizing perhaps?

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT BRUCE
No. Not at all. I am proud to have his blood in my veins. He was a good man. He left money for my mother to ensure a good education. I thought of joining the colonial army but in the end decided to police the Ashanti capital, just as my father had done in his own way. Tell me is our father alive?

FLEUR
No. He died in 1933. But my mother is still alive and I am sure she does not know about you!

Fleur smiles then laughs.

FLEUR (CONT'D)
Do you have family?

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT BRUCE
My mother had no more children. She always felt married to your father. But I am married.
(MORE)

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT BRUCE (CONT'D)
 To Abena Bruce a school teacher
 and we have a daughter Alice
 who's nine years of age.

Fleur opens the table drawer and hands the photo of her
 parents to Kwame.

FLEUR
 Do have this.

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT BRUCE
 To keep?

FLEUR
 Most certainly.

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT BRUCE
 Thank you so very much. (pause) I
 must be going soon. But this
 evening, come and meet my family,
 eat with us.

FLEUR
 I would love to meet them. Are
 you sure?

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT BRUCE
 Fleur, I will come for you at six
 this evening. You need some
 traditional Ashanti hospitality.

FLEUR
 Do tell Abena not to go to any
 trouble.

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT BRUCE
 No trouble at all. We'll make it
 a Scottish night. Sister Fleur.

They give a final hug.

Fleur smiles as Kwame Bruce leaves clearly ecstatic about
 her discovery of a brother. She skips back to her room and
 the Bursar smiles from the doorway of his office to see her
 so happy.

INT DINING ROOM OF KWAME BRUCE'S HOME IN KUMASI NIGHT

Fresh pawpaw dribbled in lime juice sits on the table.
 Abena Bruce is dressed in her best Kente cloth while little
 Alice wears a red dress and Kwame is in a lounge suit.
 Traditional Ashanti Music is playing from a record player.
 Shots of family trees on white paper are on the floor and
 groundnut soup and fufu is brought to the table. Alice is
 transfixed by having a white aunt and bonds to her easily.
 As the clock approaches 9pm Fleur opens her oboe case.

She plays some Scottish airs: Ye Banks and Ye Braes: Scotland the Brave: the Northern Lights of Old Aberdeen; I belong to Glasgow. Alice sits by Fleur's feet gazing at the oboe.

EXT KUMASI LORRY PARK DAY

The lorry park is a wet quagmire of red laterite mud. The rain is lashing down. A police car arrives and Chief Superintendent Bruce sees his sister off on the Abetifi bound lorry.

EXT MAIN KUMASI TO ABETIFI ROAD DAY

The lorry proceeds slowly on its way in driving rain in the monsoon season. Three more view of the lorry's progress brings the lorry to the Basel Mission Compound.

EXT ABETIFI RAMSEYER MISSION CENTRE DAY

The lorry drops Fleur off by the mission office. Geisla is there to welcome her back.

GEISLA SCHMIDT
Akwabaaa, Awabaaa Fleur. You are
drenched.

Fleur has to shout to be heard in the rain.

FLEUR
Drenched but very happy.

Geisla replies by shouting.

GEISLA SCHMIDT
Then tell me all about it later.
I'm hoping the rain will be off
for tomorrow's Durbar.

FLEUR
A Durbar here in Abetifi?

GEISLA SCHMIDT
Yes, you'll love it and ...I want
you to meet a very special
friend.

EXT NEXT DAY AT FLEUR'S ROOM. MORNING.

The sky is blue, the sun is rising. From the town comes a wailing sound in mourning. Geisla approaches.

GEISLA SCHMIDT
Guten Morgen Fleur. Can I come
in?

FLEUR
Guten Morgen Geisla. Of course.
Why so much grieving in town?

GEISLA SCHMIDT
Last night in the storm, a farm
worker was shot.

FLEUR
Shot?

GEISLA SCHMIDT
An accident apparently. According
to Hans Winkler. The gun went off
in the storm. Hans thought he had
killed a wild boar rampaging over
his seedlings. It was after the
storm that Kofi's body was found
with a shot to his head.

FLEUR
To his head? How is Hans taking
it?

GEISLA SCHMIDT
Keeping low. Preparing for a trip
north tomorrow. He said you were
going with him.

FLEUR
I had almost forgotten. Yes,
that's right.

GEISLA SCHMIDT
Well, you must be busy. I hope
you can still come to the Durbar
this afternoon. I assure you it's
worth it.

EXT ABETIFI DURBAR DAY

In the town playing field, a crowd encircles the area, The Village Chief accepts the greetings of all the clans folk as they march by: Abetifi Seamstresses; Abetifi Lorry Drivers; Abetifi Dance Group; Abetifi Farmers. The Fetish Priest is dressed in white with white head dress. He pours libation from a bottle of Schnapps amid prayers in front of the Abetifi Chief. Geisla and Fleur are sitting on a raised bench. AMADOU walks along the front of the covered stand.

GEISLA SCHMIDT
Amadou.....Amadou....Over Here!

A Muslim in a flowing blue gown smiles from a distance and approaches the women.

FLEUR

Who is Amadou? How do you know him?

GEISLA SCHMIDT

Fleur, he is my life-line and he'll be yours too.

Amadou holds his right hand by his left hand, bows his head and greets Geisla. Geisla placed her hand in her bag and produces a letter.

AMADOU

Bismillah ar-Rahman ar-Rahim

GEISLA SCHMIDT

Amadou, this is my friend Fleur Richter. She will soon be giving you letters to post. Here's mine. When will you be travelling?

AMADOU

After dark this evening Madam.

GEISLA SCHMIDT

Then next time for my friend.

Amadou smiles. He bows his head, throws his shawl over his shoulder and departs.

FLEUR

You trust this man Geisla?

GEISLA SCHMIDT

You want to hear from Otto? Wouldn't Otto be pleased to hear from you?

FLEUR

Of course but how is this possible?

GEISLA SCHMIDT

Amadou is nomadic. He travels freely through French West Africa and Vichy France. He knows the trade routes to Marseille. From there, you can rely on the lines.

FLEUR

How did you discover this line?

Geisla turns to face Fleur eye-to-eye

GEISLA SCHMIDT
Hans Winkler of course.

INT FLEUR'S ROOM NIGHT

A wicker light sits on a table by a clock at which Fleur is writing. She has already addressed the letters. They sit propped up against the lamp. One is for Otto B Richter c/o Hamburg Motorized Unit 5 Ellystrasse HAMBURG. Another envelope is address to Sir Ronald Murray British High Commissioner, Cantonments, Accra, Gold Coast. The last letter is addressed to Superintendent Bruce Police HQ Kumasi. She folds Sir Ronald's letter and seals it in his envelope. She places this in her bag as well as the letter to Superintendent Bruce but leaves the letter to Otto on the table. The clock is showing 11.25 p.m. The light is extinguished.

EXT BASEL MISSION COMPOUND DAY

Hans Winkler drives a saloon car out of the compound. Fleur is sitting in the front with him. Geisla waves to them wishing the car to stop.

FLEUR

Oh I nearly forgot. I have a letter for Geisla to post.

HANS WINKLER

So have I. Same destination?

FLEUR

Mine's to Hamburg.

HANS WINKLER

For Herr Eicke?

FLEUR

No. My son, Otto.

HANS WINKLER

Of course.

The car slows down and Geisla approaches.

GEISLA SCHMIDT

Good luck you two. Sorry I can't come. You have a letter for me Hans?

Hans takes a letter from his jacket and gives it to Geisla.

GEISLA SCHMIDT (CONT'D)

When will Amadou return?

HANS WINKLER
 In a few days...if we don't see
 him in Dakar!

Hans smiles. He drives off.

GEISLA SCHMIDT
 Aufeidersehn

HANS WINKLER
 Aufederesehn

The car disappears out of the compound.

EXT CAR EN ROUTE NORTH TO KUMASI DAY

Fleur is seated alongside Hans Winkler as they drive north.

HANS WINKLER
 Amadou is a good agent.

FLEUR
 Yes. Geisla tells me it's a two
 way communication.

HANS WINKLER
 How else can I get my
 instructions?

FLEUR
 Of course. And how else can I
 hear from my son?

EXT CAR ENTERS KUMASI DAY

The car reaches the centre of town and the Presbyterian
 Guest House approaches.

FLEUR (CONT'D)
 Hans. I'd appreciate a stop at
 the Guest House.

HANS WINKLER
 Know anyone there?

FLEUR
 A stop of convenience, if you
 don't mind.

HANS WINKLER
 Aha!

The car drives into the compound. Fleur alights with her handbag and goes to the Bursar's Office. She closes the door behind her. The Bursar recognizes her from her recent stay at the Rest House.

BURSAR

Akwaaba Miss Fleur. You are very welcome.

Fleur takes two letters from her handbag.

FLEUR

Good morning Bursar. I do not have much time to waste. These letters, can you post them for me? They are important, very urgent.

The Bursar takes the letters, looks at them, raises his eyebrows and purses his lips.

BURSAR

Superintendent Bruce and Sir Ronald Murray. You have important friends!

FLEUR

Yes. But I am with a driver who must not see these letters. You understand?

The Bursar nods and smiles, pleased to be helping Fleur.

FLEUR (CONT'D)

Now I must visit your bathroom.

BURSAR

Of course, you know where it is.

Fleur goes to the bathroom and closes the door. Hans Winkler enters the Bursar's office. He looks around.

BURSAR (CONT'D)

Can I help you, sir?

The Bursar places a newspaper over the letters.

HANS WINKLER

Frau Richer. Where is she?

BURSAR

She will be with you shortly. She asked to use our facilities.

Hans walks around the room. He notices the newspaper. He lifts it up to read the headlines.

He sees the letters but cannot read the addresses. He strains his neck. The bathroom door unlocks. Fleur enters the room.

FLEUR

Hans! The Gentlemens' bathroom is next door.

Hans looks straight at the Bursar.

BURSAR

Yes, a busy office today. Excuse me, as then lady says, next door, for the Gentlemans'.

Hans leaves the room and visits the toilet next door. Fleur winks to the Bursar and smiles at him. The Bursar tries to wink; he finds he can only wink by opening his mouth. He smiles too.

(CUT TO)

EXT ON ROAD NORTH GHANA - DRY HOT DAY

Car is now in the African countryside. It passes a man on a cycle and there are many women with kindling sticks balanced on their heads. They walk elegantly, ignoring the car.

FLEUR

The war will pass many of the natives by. What can we do for the war effort Hans?

Hans sucks his cheeks in. He looks very serious.

HANS WINKLER

I have orders to carry out.

FLEUR

And they involve me?

HANS WINKLER

Yes. Very important. You can help me.

FLEUR

And why Dakar?

HANS WINKLER

Dakar. French West Africa.

FLEUR

By the sea!

HANS WINKLER

Exactly, but there is much
propaganda required.

FLEUR

Why?

HANS WINKLER

Dakar is a major port and we can
not let the Allies get hold of
it. If we hold Dakar, we can
track all naval activities from
South Africa. So we have
propaganda leaflets to
distribute. It's our opportunity
to get the natives behind
Germany.

Hans smiles and turns to Fleur. She gives a nervous but
sincere smile in return.

DAKAR CITY DAY

Hans brings the car to a standstill in the centre of Dakar.
He takes a poster from the boot of his car and nails it to
a telegraph post. The poster reads:

ONLY GERMANY CAN WIN THE WAR. FOR
PEACE AND FOR AN INDEPENDENT AFRICA,
SUPPORT THE REICH. HEIL HITLER.

Fleur is given leaflets with the same message. She
reluctantly distributes them among the gathered crowd but
starts to head off away from Hans and is not enthusiastic
about her distribution. The crowd gather round to see what
she is distributing. She stops distributing and speaks to
the throng.

FLEUR

Hello. I have come from the Gold
Coast. Does anyone speak Akan Twi
here? ...No.

She sees some very young children and sings to them in Twi.

FLEUR (CONT'D)

Kwaku ananse, me anu co a
Tamale. me anwo co Tamale, Kwaku
ananse Me an wo co Tamale, me an
wo co Tamale.

The children are not sure of her and start to disperse.

After a moment, with the sun behind her and Hans's back
facing her, Fleur takes out her box camera from her bag and
takes a photo of Hans distributing the propaganda. She puts
the camera back in her bag without being seen by Hans.

Fleur then goes round the corner of a house and bins her flyers. She emerges and approaches Hans.

FLEUR (CONT'D)

Hans, can I see if I can purchase some water to drink?

HANS WINKLER

Yes, fine. How's the distribution going.

FLEUR

Very well indeed. I spoke to a young lad and he agreed to deliver the flyers I gave him to the houses.

HANS WINKLER

A great idea. See if you can do more that way.

FLEUR

Certainly. After I get some water. I'm very thirsty.

Fleur walks to a kiosk serving chilled boiled water. She purchases two bottles. Hans meets her. They drink to quench their thirsts.

HANS WINKLER

A good start. But I could not get anyone to deliver my posters.

FLEUR

I suspect you have not the female charm!

They laugh for a moment.

HANS WINKLER

Gerhardt Eicke will be pleased.

FLEUR

I hope so.

HANS WINKLER

Let's get some more leaflets from the car.

They walk back towards the car. Just as they are approaching it, Amadou arrives at pace.

AMADOU

Frau Richter, Herr Winkler,
Salaam Alaikum.

FLEUR

Amadou! Well I never. How good to see you but what are you doing here?

AMADOU

Returning from the north with some letters. I have one for you, Herr Winkler and one for you madam.

FLEUR

Really? Already?

Amadou takes several letters from his bag around his shoulder. He looks at the addresses and gives one to Hans. He then selects another and holds it up to his eyes. Then he holds it out for Fleur.

AMADOU

Frau Fleur Richter. Look, its from From Karl and Renate Richter in Hamburg in Germany. Your family.

Amadou presents Fleur with the letter and she retires to the side of the car to read it. Hans enthusiastically opens his letter, reads it and folds it away inside his shirt. He goes to the car and sorts out the leaflet distribution while Fleur is reading her letter. Fleur opens the letter with a smile and starts to read. Then her smile fades. She reads on with tears in her eyes. Then a sob which Hans hears. She clutches the letter to her bosom, bows her head and then supports it on the roof of the car with her arm. Hans sees her distress and comes over to her.

HANS WINKLER

Bad news?

(CUT TO)

EXT THE POLISH CAMPAIGN SEPTEMBER 1939. DAY

North of Lodz, the German invasion of Poland progresses. A Polish sniper is perched in a leafy tree observing the approach of the German blitzkrieg. He takes aim and shoots at an advance pillion motor biker. The passenger slumps forward dropping his rifle. The rider jumps from his bike and runs for cover. This is Otto. Before he reaches cover, he is shot in the back of his head. He falls to the ground instantly dead.

(CUT BACK)

EXT DAKAR SUBURB AT THE CAR. DAY

Fleur speaks through a strained voice in deep pain.

FLEUR

My only son, Otto, killed.

Hans comes forward to rest his arm on her shoulder.

HANS WINKLER

I am very sorry for you. Be brave Fleur. He died a hero. A hero of the Fatherland. You must be proud of him.

FLEUR

A posthumous Iron Cross 2nd class. A medal, that's all that is left.

HANS WINKLER

A medal of honour. A medal of distinction, I tell you.

Fleur takes a white handkerchief to her eyes. Hans moves away. She opens the rear door of the car, takes out her oboe and holds it for a moment while she breaks into a soliloquy.

FLEUR

"A grateful, warm adieu
I with a much-indebted tear
Shall aye remember you."

Fleur lifts the oboe to her lips and plays the hymn '*Be still my soul, the Lord is on thy side.*' (Tune Finlandia by Jean Sibelius) After the first verse the camera points to the sky and the music fades.

EXT ABETIFI RAMSEYER MISSION CENTRE DAY

Four days later a Police car enters the Mission Compound. Two native policemen leave the car and go to Hans Winkler's room. They enter it and take out of it, a rifle and a bag.

EXT ABETIFI RAMSEYER MISSION CENTRE EVE

At the table, the Ramseyer staff are eating an evening meal. At 6.30pm un the dark, the lights of a car are seen approaching.

REVERENED EMMANUAL OKINE

I'm not expecting guests. I hope they have eaten!

Three policemen enter the dining room Inspector ETU steps forward.

INSPECTOR ETU
 Good evening. I am sorry to interrupt your meal. Which one of you is Hans Winkler?

Hans Winkler rises to his feet.

HANS WINKLER
 I am.

INSPECTOR ETU
 Hans Winkler. I am charging you with the murder of Kwame Amissah on 12th September 1939 at the farm lands on the Nkwatia road. You are not required to say anything but if you chose to, then what you say will be recorded and may be used in evidence at your trial.

Hans opens his mouth but says nothing. His eyes search around the room for support but none is forthcoming. He is handcuffed and led away by the police officers into the car outside. The car drives off at some speed and in silence, the car fades from ears.

EXT RAMSEYER ABETIFI GROUNDS MORNING

Fleur and Geisla are seated on a wooden bench drinking from coconuts in the shade of a building in the Ramseyer grounds.

GEISLA SCHMIDT
 I hear its the Crown Court at Kumasi for Hans.

FLEUR
 Yes. It is not looking good for him.

GEISLA SCHMIDT
 For us either. Without Hans we can not count on regular letters from Germany.

FLEUR
 I won't get many now. You heard that Otto was killed?

GEISLA SCHMIDT
 No! Oh my dear Fleur. How awful.

Geisla holds Fleur's hand.

GEISLA SCHMIDT (CONT'D)

Otto has truly served the
Fatherland. Of that you must be
proud.

Fleur puts down her coconut and dries a tear from her eye.

FLEUR

I suppose so. It was what he
always wanted to do. (pause) Why
fear death? After all, it is the
most beautiful adventure in
life. (pause) Geisla, your
husband is Swiss. Does that not
give you neutrality in this war?

GEISLA SCHMIDT

I'm like you Fleur. Of mixed
status. I'm half Swiss and you
are half Scottish but our German
roots are stronger. We must
support the Reich. Germany needs
to be strong again.

FLEUR

Of course.

EXT HAMBURG CITY BUILDING DAY

A Swastika flag on a red background is seen flying from the
first floor bay window of an impressive stone building.
There are two armed guards at either side of the entrance
to the building.

INT HAMBURG CITY GESTAPO HQ DAY

Gerhardt Eicke is looking pleased with himself. He is
studying a map of Africa on his wall. There is a knock on
his door.

GERHARDT EICKE

Enter.

Luftwaffe General KURT WITT in the uniform of the airforce
enters. Gerhardt Eicke smartens himself up and salutes.

GERHARDT EICKE (CONT'D)

My General! Heil Hitler!

The general raises his arm to his shoulder. Eicke shows his
a chair in front of his large table.

GENERAL KURT WITT

Good day. I hear you have
information for me about West
Africa.

GERHARDT EICKE

I have indeed my General. Good news too, from Hans Winkler.

GENERAL KURT WITT

Tell me.

GERHARDT EICKE

Winkler and Richter have been busy in Dakar bringing the natives round. A good job they are doing.

GENERAL KURT WITT

Richter?

GERHARDT EICKE

A very natural pairing. Richter and Winkler. Two of my best agents. Fleur Richter is in her early 50's. Mature woman with a son in the SS. Fluent in English. Early days, but I'm proud of my first double agent.

GENERAL KURT WITT

Does Winkler know she's a double agent?

GERHARDT EICKE

No, I've kept that from him. He had his hands full with the propaganda programme. She helps him. But I tell you, they are doing a good job.

General Witt goes over to the map of Africa on the wall and with his staff stick, hits West Africa.

GENERAL KURT WITT

Time is pressing. I need to know about airfields in West Africa.

GERHARDT EICKE

Opening another front?

GENERAL KURT WITT

General Rommel will secure oil fields in North Africa. They will be our base to go south and carve up British Colonial Africa. I need to know where we can land. That's all you need to know. Put Winkler and Richter on to it.

GERHARDT EICKE

Certainly Herr General.

The General takes his leave. Gerhardt Eicke sees him to the door. Eicke salutes him with a raised arm then closes the door behind him. Eicke turns and punches his fist into the palm of his other hand and grits his teeth.

GERHARDT EICKE (CONT'D)
Richter und Winkler Ja. A
beautiful team for sure.

EXT RAMSEYER ABETIFI GROUNDS MORNING

A native postman enters the compound and delivers mail at the Bursar's office. The Bursar receives the letters and notices Fleur as she crosses the lawn.

BURSAR
Frau Richter. A letter. An
official letter for you.

FLEUR
An official one?

Fleur receives the letter and looks at the OHMS mark on the brown letter.

FLEUR (CONT'D)
Thank you.

She opens it. It contains one page. It is a citation to attend Kumasi Crown Court on 25th January 1940.

FLEUR (CONT'D)
I'm a witness in Hans Winkler's
trial!

During the second week of January the harmattan descended on the countryside bringing dust from the Sahara.

EXT KUMASI CROWN COURTHOUSE DAY

General view of the impressive courthouse.

INT KUMASI CROWN COURT DAY

The witness room contains Fleur, Osofo Emmanuel Okine, Martha Fendler and two farm workers, Seth Budu and Martin Sackey. As the clock struck 10 am Osofo Okine was called to the witness stand. His Honour Judge Robert Danquah sat while SAM TODZRO leads the evidence.

SAM TODZRO
 Osofo Okine, you are the Bursar
 at the Ramseyer centre at
 Abetifi, not so?

OSOFO OKINE
 I am indeed.

SAM TODZRO
 And how long have you been
 employed there?

OSOFO OKINE
 This is my seventh year there.

SAM TODZRO
 And at the centre there are
 several European staff?

OSOFO OKINE
 Yes, there are a few.

SAM TODZRO
 Do you know one by the name of
 Hans Winkler?

Osofo looks over at Hans.

OSOFO OKINE
 Yes. Of course. He is our
 agriculturalist.

SAM TODZRO
 And can you point him out in this
 court today?

Osofo extends a shaking arm but his extended finger points
 directly at Hans.

SAM TODZRO (CONT'D)
 On the 12th September 1939 can
 you describe that day?

OSOFO OKINE
 It was very wet and windy. Not a
 day to be working at the
 farmlands.

SAM TODZRO
 Where was Hans Winkler on that
 day?

OSOFO OKINE
 The rains came mid-afternoon.
 Before that Hans would have been
 with his farm workers.

SAM TODZRO

Did you know what they were doing
in the fields?

OSOFO OKINE

I knew they were planting seeds.

SAM TODZRO

How do you know this?

OSOFO OKINE

Because we eat communally and
speak of each others work. I knew
seedlings were being planted.

SAM TODZRO

Thank you, Osofo I have no
further questions.

Martha Fendler takes the stand. She is a sweet smiling
woman showing great piety. No need to show the oath being
taken.

MARTHA FENDLER

I have been with the Basel
mission since 1920. In all that
time I have enjoyed the company
of the Scottish and Basel Mission
staff. Hans however was not quite
the same somehow.

SAM TODZRO

What do you mean?

MARTHA FENDLER

These are troubled times. In my
discussions with Hans I detected
his regret being born on the
wrong side of the Swiss- German
border. He told me life would
have been so different if he had
been born on the German side.

SAM TODZRO

What do you mean Frau Fendler?

MARTHA FENDLER

I just feel he would have been
happier being German. He seemed
deprived of serving the German
Army by being Swiss.

SETH BUADU was next to give his evidence.

SAM TODZRO

You work for Hans Winkler, not
so, as an agricultural worker?

SETH BUADU

Yes. I have been with him for a year.

SAM TODZRO

And is he a good employer?

SETH BUADU

Yes. He does not suffer fools gladly but he teaches us much. If you please him he is good to you.

SAM TODZRO

And if you are not good?

SETH BUADU

Then you get the William Tell treatment.

SAM TODZRO

The William Tell treatment?

SETH BUADU

Mr... Winkler is a good shot with his rifle but if you do not work hard or if you steal any fruit then he makes you stand and he places a tin or an orange or something nearby on your head. Then he walks ten paces away and aims at the object.

SAM TODZRO

Have you ever had this treatment

SETH BUADU

Only once but it is terrifying.

SAM TODZRO

What had you done to deserve this punishment?

SETH BUADU

I spilled some water.

There is an audible gasp in the court.

SAM TODZRO

Has he ever injured anyone?

Seth looks around the court before replying.

SAM TODZRO (CONT'D)

I asked you if anyone ever got hurt?

SETH BUADU

No. I never saw anyone get hurt.

The Court usher then summons MARTIN SACKEY to the stand.

SAM TODZRO

Martin Sackey. You work with the agriculturalist Hans Winkler. Is that correct?

MARTIN SACKEY

Yes I do. You were at the farm the day your friend was killed?

MARTIN SACKEY (CONT'D)

Yes.

SAM TODZRO

Describe the conditions that day.

MARTIN SACKEY

It was very wet and very windy.

SAM TODZRO

How many of you were there?

MARTIN SACKEY

All seven of us turned up that day. But when the sky went dark and the rain came down in torrents, we scattered.

SAM TODZRO

All of you?

MARTIN SACKEY

Not all of us left. Kwame Amissah and I stayed behind.

SAM TODZRO

What happened next?

MARTIN SACKEY

We stayed back so that we could protect the new seedlings. That was when Kwame brought out the tarpaulin to cover them from the storm. He placed a heavy stone on one corner of the sheet but when he tried to place the second stone on the next corner, a gust of wind lifted the tarpaulin. He dived on it to bring it down. That crushed many of the seedlings. This made Mr. Winkler very angry.

SAM TODZRO

What did he say?

MARTIN SACKEY

I don't know what he was saying
in German but he was very angry.

SAM TODZRO

What happened next?

Martin's eyes grew large as he recalled the moment of
terror.

MARTIN SACKEY

He got his gun out and I saw him
raise it up to his eyes. His arm
was outstretched and he fired
twice.

SAM TODZRO

Where did his shots land?

MARTIN SACKEY

I can not be sure, but I heard a
cry from Kwame. Then he was
quiet. I was terrified so I ran
away.

SAM TODZRO

Away where?

MARTIN SACKEY

Away from his gun. To the Police
Station. To tell them Kwame had
been shot.

SAM TODZRO

Was Kwame in the William Tell
position before he was shot?

MARTIN SACKEY

NO. There was no time. Hans was
so angry. He did not ask Kwame to
stand.

SAM TODZRO

Did he look for an orange or a
tin or something else to put on
his head?

MARTIN SACKEY

No. He just fired the gun as soon
as he got hold of it.

Gasps were heard in the court house.

HANS WINKLER

Lies! All lies. Don't believe
him.

The Court Usher then calls out Frau Fleur Richter's name to the stand. Fleur enters the court, looks around her then takes the stand. She takes the oath.

COURT OFFICIAL

Place your hand on the Bible.
Read the card.

A card is presented to Fleur as she holds the Bible in one hand and reads from the card.

FLEUR

I swear by Almighty God to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

SAM TODZRO

Your name, age nationality and profession please?

FLEUR

Mrs. Fleur Richter. Aged 50, I am Scottish, and a language student.

Hans looks up to Fleur who avoids his eye contact.

SAM TODZRO

Do you recognise Hans Winkler in the court today?

FLEUR

Yes I do.

SAM TODZRO

How do you know him?

FLEUR

I live at the Basel Mission Compound in Abetifi. I know all who live there and I know Hans Winkler is the agriculturalist.

Hans affords himself a smile.

SAM TODZRO

Shortly after Kwame Amissah was found dead, was it not true that Hans Winkler travelled north?

FLEUR

I believe that is correct. A few days later.

SAM TODZRO

You believe that is correct! I put it to you that it is not only correct but you accompanied Hans Winkler to the north.

Fleur realises that it is time to betray Hans Winkler.

FLEUR
Yes we travelled together to
Dakar.

SAM TODZRO
And what did you do there?

FLEUR
We distributed leaflets.

Fleur lifts up her handbag and opens it. She brings out a photo of Hans distributing propaganda and one of the leaflets.

SAM TODZRO
Applications to join the Basel
Mission perhaps?

FLEUR
No. Propaganda. Nazi propaganda.

Fleur hands the photo and leaflet to Sam Todzro

SAM TODZRO
My Lord, I submit Exhibit A a
propaganda leaflet and Exhibit B
a photo of Hans Winkler
distributing leaflets.

He lays them down on the table for the defense agents to see.

SAM TODZRO (CONT'D)
And who was privy to your
actions?

Fleur hesitates to answer.

SAM TODZRO (CONT'D)
Mrs. or Frau Richter, I am
speaking your language. I asked
who knew what you were up to?

FLEUR
Sir Ronald Murray, the High
Commissioner in Accra.

Hans lets out a gasp.

HANS WINKLER
You traitor!

SAM TODZRO
Let me be clear Mrs. Richter. You
think Hans Winkler is a traitor?

FLEUR

A misguided Swiss national but
yes...(pause)...a traitor to the
Allied cause.

There is uproar in the Court. Hans is shouting abuse at
Fleur. The Court ushers shout ORDER, ORDER.

JUDGE DANQUAH

Have you many more witnesses Mr.
Todzro?

SAM TODZRO

Forensic evidence and medical
evidence will complete the case
for the Crown.

JUDGE DANQUAH

Then I adjourn the case till
tomorrow morning at 10 am.

COURT OFFICIAL

Court Rise.

Everyone stands as the Judge leaves the bench. Hans Winkler
is led away in handcuffs to the cells beneath. He shouts
and swears in German.

INT KWAME BRUCE'S HOME KUMASI NIGHT

The table is set for a meal. Kwame, Abena and Alice are
seated with Fleur.

KWAME BRUCE

This evening is very special for
all Scottish people. It's Burns
Night, 25th January.

Abena Bruce brings in a large plate with yam around its
edge, orange mashed squash and haggis in the middle. The
plate was brought before Kwame. He addresses the haggis in
a loud commanding voice.

KWAME BRUCE (CONT'D)

Fair fa yer honest sosnie face,
Great Chieftan o' the puddin race
Aboon them a' ye tak yir place
Painch, tripe or thairm: Weel are
ye worthy o' a grace As lang's
ma arm..... Ye Powers, wha mak
mankind yer care, And dish them
oot their bill o' fare Auld
Scotland wants nae skinkin ware
That jumps in luggies. But, if ye
wish, gie her a greatful
prayer.....

A resounding last line said by all four present:

GIE HER A HAGGIS!

Fleur applauds. They all applaud.

FLEUR

Well done indeed. I can hardly believe what my eyes are seeing. How could you possibly have created a Burns Night here in Kumasi?

KWAME BRUCE

Well I did get some help. Madge Hall got the haggis for us and told us how to cook it without the stomach bursting. She even gave me lessons so I could recite the Address to the haggis!

FLEUR

You are a natural scholar Kwame.

KWAME BRUCE

You mean a natural Scot!

The meal progresses amid chatter and laughter. The meal is finished and the plates are cleared. Fleur opens her oboe case and plays *My love is Like a Red Red Rose* and then *The Northern Lights of Auld Aberdeen*. Alice sits beside Fleur as she plays enjoying the music.

FLEUR

Well, I'm glad my evidence is over and I trust my time in Dakar will be seen as unmasking Hans's activities. But it was a frightening moment in the witness box. Some must of thought I really was a German spy! How do you think the defense will go.

KWAME BRUCE

There is not much to defend.

FLEUR

No. That's true but I want to see the trial go to its conclusion.

KWAME BRUCE

Of course. But even if he was not to be found guilty, we will have to detain him for his allegiances to Germany.

INT KUMASI COURT HOUSE DAY

It is already ten minutes past 10 am. There is general unrest in the courthouse and the accused has not arrived. The Judge enters.

COURT OFFICIAL

Court Rise.

Everyone stands as the Judge takes his seat.

COURT OFFICIAL (CONT'D)

Please be seated.

JUDGE DANQUAH

Good morning. It is with regret that I have to inform you that one hour ago, Hans Winkler, the accused, was found dead in his cell.

There is a loud audible gasp in the court.

JUDGE DANQUAH (CONT'D)

It would appear that he took his own life after breakfast this morning and I have been informed of a suicide note which he has left. This is now a matter for the police and a Fatal Accident Inquiry will now be held in respect of the late Kwame Amissah.

A general audible noise increases.

COURT OFFICIAL

Silence in court!

JUDGE DANQUAH

I thank all of you who came to the court to give evidence or sit as jurors. You are now discharged and free to leave. Thank you.

COURT OFFICIAL

Court Rise.

Fleur and Osofo Okine are together and shake their heads in disbelief.

OSOFO OKINE

What a sad end.

The Court Official approaches.

COURT OFFICIAL
Osofo Okine? The suicide note. It
was addressed to you.

OSOFO OKINE
Really?

The Court Official takes a letter from his inside pocket.

COURT OFFICIAL
Yes. Here it is. Please read it
but I ask that you return it to
me to be given to the Police.
They will be making a report on
his suicide.

Osofo Okine stands beside Fleur and reads the letter.

OSOFO OKINE
It's marked Kumasi Prison 26th
January 1940. Dear Osofo Okine.

I have let you down. I have let
the Basel Mission down but above
all I have let myself down. I was
hot-headed and angry but I should
not have shot Kwame Amissah. I
have always been an angry man. I
am a loner who preferred the
country life, not the town. I had
a painful past in Switzerland
which I am not wishing to share
in detail in this final letter
but it caused me to leave
Switzerland and I was pleased
that my farming knowledge could
be put to good use in Africa. I
am sorry that it was the Basel
Mission which made this possible
for me. They must take no blame.
But of one thing I am certain.
The war now taking place in
Europe will bring victory for
Germany. A new era will bring our
people back to Africa where
national Socialism will prosper.
Africa can look forward
positively to a sympathetic
German colonial power, for at
least one thousand years. This
will lead all Africans into
National Socialism proudly and
they will resist Communism and
fruitless independence.

(MORE)

OSOFO OKINE (CONT'D)

With that prospect in mind I end my life, betrayed by Frau Richter, but knowing I played my part for the Axis powers in West Africa. Heil Hitler Hans Winkler 1912 -1940.

FLEUR

How sad. Can he be buried in a churchyard?

OSOFO OKINE

But of course Fleur. By law, he died an innocent man! I will have him buried. But not at Abetifi. Here in the cemetery in Kumasi instead. The part reserved for foreigners.

EXT KUMASI LORRY PARK DAY

Chief Superintendent Kwame Bruce is seeing Fleur off on a lorry to Accra.

FLEUR

Kwame, thank you once again for your hospitality. I am so glad the Court case is over.

KWAME BRUCE

Don't you worry. You have done a good job. I hope they will take it in good faith at Abetifi.

FLEUR

I hope so. But I am not going there today?

KWAME BRUCE

Really?

FLEUR

Yes, I am going to Accra to report to Sir Ronald. I have more than Hans to report.

KWAME BRUCE

In your letter to me, you said you had already identified the one disloyal to the Crown.

FLEUR

That's right so I did. But I feel I should also tell him about Dakar and why Hans had been asked to go there.

KWAME BRUCE

You are right, he will be glad to see you.

And my hands here, will be full too. We are making arrangements to take into custody the German Music teacher at Wesley School. We will have to mop up all the German nationals in Ashanti.

FLEUR

It's looking like we will both be busy.

KWAME BRUCE

Yes, but you know there will always be a home for you in Kumasi, Fleur. Do come back soon. As you say 'haste ye back'

They embrace. Then Fleur kisses Kwame on his cheek and boards the Accra bound lorry. Kwame helps her with her baggage and oboe case. The lorry sets off out of the lorry park.

EXT MAIN ROAD TO ACCRA SLIGHTLY NORTH OF THE VILLAGE OF JUASO. DAY

The lorry proceeds south and Fleur enjoys the breeze created by the open sided lorry transport. She lets her hair blow in the wind and she exudes a feeling of wellbeing and happiness.

As the lorry rounds a bend on the road, the driver sees a goat straying into the middle of the road. The lorry swerves to avoid it taking it into the path of an approaching lorry. The driver over compensates and the lorry starts to swing violently from side to side. Then the lorry tips over off the road and descends into the bush landing on its side. Then it slides through dense vegetation until it comes to a sudden halt in a ditch by a fallen tree.

There is a moment of absolute silence. Then whimpers of pain, disorientated movements and the growing noise of villagers running towards the accident from the nearby village at Juaso.

Walking wounded emerge from the wreck unsteady on their feet. All are in shock. Seventeen emerge with relatively minor injuries. Three dead bodies lie on the grass covered by cloths. Four require hospitalization. Fleur is taken on a stretcher unconscious to a waiting ambulance. A white blood soaked arm dangles from the stretcher until it is re-positioned on the stretcher. The ambulance sets off at pace with siren wailing.

INT ACCRA MILITARY HOSPITAL DAY

Sir Ronald arrives at the Military Hospital and enters the front door. He approaches a door marked Hospital Director Mr.. Wisdom Ayivor. He knocks on the door. WISDOM AYIVOR opens the door.

WISDOM AYIVOR

Sir Ronald. Yes, I was expecting you. Please come in.

SIR RONALD MURRAY

Thank you. What news is there of Fleur Richter?

WISDOM AYIVOR

Well, Sir Ronald. She is a very lucky woman. Her injuries were traumatic and many a woman of her age would have died through shock alone. She is a fighting woman.

SIR RONALD MURRAY

Indeed I know that.

WISDOM AYIVOR

However she will not come through this accident without some permanent injury.

SIR RONALD MURRAY

What do you mean?

WISDOM AYIVOR

Her collarbone will soon heal, and of course the bruising too. But we were luck to be able to save her left hand.

Sir Ronald's eyebrows rise as he shows concern.

WISDOM AYIVOR (CONT'D)

At one point I thought we might have to amputate it at the wrist. Fortunately there was a less drastic solution. We had to amputate her middle and fourth finger but we did manage to save the rest of her hand. It really could have been much worse.

SIR RONALD MURRAY

I don't know about that. This means she will not be able to play again.

WISDOM AYIVOR

Play again?

SIR RONALD MURRAY

She played the oboe. This will be a major blow to her. Does she know the extent of her injuries?

WISDOM AYIVOR

When your secretary informed me that you would visit her this afternoon, I went to see Mrs. Richter.

SIR RONALD MURRAY

How was she?

WISDOM AYIVOR

I was a little taken aback. Firstly she spoke in Twi then she gave me an Akan proverb!

SIR RONALD MURRAY

That sounds like Fleur.

WISDOM AYIVOR

She said " Se ahoma tsew na eto a, nna paw aba mu" which means 'there is bound to be a knot when two pieces of string are joined together.'

SIR RONALD MURRAY

Was this making sense to you?

WISDOM AYIVOR

She told me she had a niece, Alice, in Kumasi. Now that she had lost two fingers she would no longer be able to play the oboe but the instrument will now find a perfect home in her niece's hands. Her misfortune was the knot. The new longer and stronger piece of string was the new life the oboe was about to start.

SIR RONALD MURRAY

What a profound sentiment. By the way, did her oboe survive the crash?

WISDOM AYIVOR

It's in a sturdy black box - under her bed. She asked the nurse to inspect it and she was pleased to see it in perfect condition.

SIR RONALD MURRAY
That's great news. Oboes are hard
to come by in war time. Am I able
to see her now?

They rise and leave the office and proceed down the
corridor into a ward.

INT WARD 4 ACCRA MILITARY HOSPITAL DAY

Fleur is sitting up in bed with a bandage on her head, her
left hand completely bandaged and she has a cardboard
collar to support her neck. Her face is bruised and yellow
in parts.

FLEUR
Sir Ronald. I know I look pretty
grim but I should be back in
some sort of action before long.

SIR RONALD MURRAY
I'll have you back at the Embassy
as soon as the doctors let you
go. You need to recuperate, my
dear. (pause)

FLEUR
But I have so much to tell you.

SIR RONALD MURRAY
Take it easy Fleur. We've got
things very much under control.
We are deporting all German
nationals to the Isle of Man as
well as German sympathizers. You
did a great job in Kwahu.

FLEUR
Have they all gone?

SIR RONALD MURRAY
No. Not all. Jurg and Martha
Fendler will stay in Abetifi,
albeit under a watchful eye, but
Andreas and Geisla Schmidt are in
custody. As for Hans Winkler,
that was a good result.

FLEUR
And.... Gerhardt Eicke?

SIR ANTHONY PITT-STEVENSON
Hmmm...Winkler was his contact.
His source has gone dry.

FLEUR

Lets hope so. That leaves me then.

SIR RONALD MURRAY

No rush. Operation Oboe is over for you and for me. But you may be interested to know that there is a vacancy in Kumasi for a Music teacher at the Wesley School.

Fleur smiles. She tilts her head quizzically.

FLEUR

Really? A vacancy?

SIR RONALD MURRAY

Mmmmm. Jutta Myers is among the detained.

FLEUR

Do you think I'd find teaching in Kumasi rewarding?

SIR RONALD MURRAY

Fleur, I am sure you would. In fact, I would go so far as saying,relatively... rewarding! Wouldn't you?

Fleur appreciates the pun, smiles and nods her head.

INT. HOME OF KWAME BRUCE KUMASI DAY

Some weeks later Alice is learning to play the oboe as Fleur, still with a bandage on her right arm, gives her instruction. A proud Native father and mother look on. Also looking on appreciatively is Sir Ronald Murray who has driven Fleur to Kumasi. Kwame takes Sir Ronald aside

KWAME BRUCE

My sister has taken well to her misfortune.

SIR RONALD MURRAY

She has indeed. She's a remarkable woman.

KWAME BRUCE

But do you think she will be able to teach at the Wesley School?

Sir Ronald has a smile.

SIR RONALD MURRAY
Kwame, I'm afraid not.

KWAME BRUCE
But the staff have been informed
of her imminent arrival. They are
very much looking forward to her
teaching there.

SIR RONALD MURRAY
I am afraid that can not happen
any longer Kwame. You
see....Fleur, a moment please.

Sir Ronald gestures for Fleur to join him.

SIR RONALD MURRAY (CONT'D)
Fleur will now be in Accra.

KWAME BRUCE
Ah, working for you there.

Fleur stands next to Sir Ronald. He places his arm on her
shoulder. They stare into each others' eyes. Then Sir
Ronald announces to the family:

SIR RONALD MURRAY
Kwame, Fleur, your sister, is now
my fiancee.

There is much delight and cheering from the family. Alice
is wide eyed. They all cheer.

Sir Ronald returns his gaze to Fleur and kisses her
lovingly. They disengage.

SIR RONALD MURRAY (CONT'D)
I think a quiet wedding in Accra,
for family and friends.

FLEUR
And the Kumasi Police Pipe Band?

Kwame and his family smile broadly as he confirms loudly
and slowly:

KWAME BRUCE
The Kumasi Police Pipe Band.

There is a group hug.

(Music)

(FADE OUT)

THE END.

(CONT'D)