

EXT. PARIZKA STREET, PRAGUE - DAY

JACOB LOWY (14) leans against a tree on the property of the Old New Synagogue. Pimplly and handsome, he sketches on a pad. Leaves blow about on this late fall afternoon.

SUPER: "1941, PRAGUE, CZECHOSLOVAKIA"

On the ground, a new satchel, colored pencils, and comic books: "Chicken Napipi," "Captain Muk," "Rychlé šípy."

Across the street, a MERCEDES-BENZ 770 pulls up at the forge where LOWY'S FATHER shapes horseshoes with anvil and fire. Sparks CRACKLE upwards. Lowy, lost in his sketching, is oblivious to this ominous arrival of..

The two SS men who get out of the car: KOMMANDANT RUDOLF, the quirky head of Terezin propaganda camp; and Terezin's sadistic, creepy, second-in-command, COLONEL VON RUMPF. Lowy's Father takes his hat off as they approach him.

LOWY'S POV: In comic book style, he skillfully sketches a beautiful woman in a long, flowing dress. She stands on the globe, at foot of a ladder that reaches into heaven.

DISSOLVE TO:

ANIMATION (COMIC BOOK STYLE) - LOWY'S IMAGINATION

Lowy's sketch becomes an animated daydream in his head.

SLOW MOTION: He's in the clouds at top of the ladder, laughing as he encourages the woman to climb it. With a brave smile, she climbs. Lowy applauds. As the woman reaches the top, Lowy extends his hand. She reaches for it, but loses her balance. She falls, down, down, down. Lowy cries out in terror. Out of nowhere, at the last minute, YOUSEF THE GOLEM OF PRAGUE, a ten-foot clay humanoid, appears below and catches her. The woman looks up at the word "EMET" carved into Yousef's forehead.

MATCH CUT TO:

LOWY'S POV: Decrepit hand in his satchel. He grabs satchel.

BACK TO SCENE

LOWY

GET OUT OF THERE! NO MONEY! GO ON!

ISAAC THE MUTE, a kind of Czech Yoda in human form, scurries away, hobbling with his knotty walking stick.

Lowy looks up at metal rungs on the facade of the Old New Synagogue that leads to a shuttered attic window. Isaac sticks head around the corner, spies on all of this.

A LOW HUMMING starts in Lowy's head. Then, CLACK. CLACK. He looks back up at attic window. Shutters are pulsing outwards, as if someone is trying to get out.

In Lowy's head, an inviting mantra* begins: "CHASHMAL, CHASHMAL, CHASHMAL..." Clacking, humming and mantra crescendo to a DEAFENING CACOPHONY, then suddenly stop.

[*MANTRA IS ISAAC'S VOICE, HEARD ONLY IN LOWY'S HEAD]

LOWY'S FATHER (O.S.)

JACOB!

Lowy looks over to the forge. Rudolf and Von Rumpf get in the car, nodding to Jacob as they do. Von Rumpf's nod is particularly friendly. Car takes off.

Lowy gathers up his things, puts his satchel on, and walks over to the forge. His father hands him three slips of paper. He reads them: CALL UP PAPERS TO TEREZIN.

When he looks up from the papers, he spots, in back of forge, a wooden ladder stretching up to a high loft. He SIGHS deeply. His father follows his sightline to loft.

LOWY'S FATHER (CONT'D)

Hey. It wasn't your fault.

LOWY

But I told her to --

LOWY'S FATHER

-- It. Wasn't. Your. Fault.

Lowy's Father hugs Lowy.

INT. FLAT ABOVE FORGE - LOWY/BABIČKA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lowy looks nostalgically at a small framed picture of his mother and him holding his gift for his last birthday - a satchel. Lowy places framed photo in satchel.

THUD. He turns around to find his grandmother BABIČKA looking with vacant, confused eyes at her suitcase on floor. Lowy gently sits her on bed. He repacks suitcase. They exchange the sweetest of smiles.

LATER

By the light of a desk gas lamp, Lowy colors his comic strip of Golem catching the woman. Babička gently SNORES.

CLACK. CLACK. Lowy leaps to window. Synagogue attic window shutters are pushing out again. HUMMING and the mantra starts anew: "CHASHMAL, CHASHMAL, CHASHMAL..." "

Lowy spots Isaac in the shadows of the street. Isaac scurries away. Humming and mantra fade to nothing.

Back at his desk, Lowy grabs a tiny memo book from his satchel and writes in it: "CHASHMAL ?"

EXT. PARIZKA STREET - DAY

The family of three exits the forge/flat wearing many layers of different kinds of clothing that do not match.

Lowy's Father locks the door, then walks with his suitcase in one arm and Babička on the other. Lowy walks behind them carrying his and Babička's suitcases.

Passing the Old New Synagogue, Lowy looks up at the rungs that lead to attic window. No clacking, humming, mantra.

EXT. OLD SQUARE

They pass STRIKING ASTRONOMICAL CLOCK. Lowy stops to watch the centuries-old show with the crowd: saints circling round. Medieval carousel music morphs into the saints HUMMING and reciting the mantra: "CHASHMAL."

Lowy spots Isaac in crowd. His father calls back to him:

LOWY'S FATHER (O.S.)

JACOB!

EXT. CITY HALL

As Lowy passes the statue of the Maharal (from dream) outside building, more HUMMING with a new mantra: "KÄRV."

EXT. CHARLES BRIDGE

With Prague Castle in background, Lowy stops to listen to the RUSH OF WATER OVER THE WEIR in Vltava River. Sound morphs into HUMMING and yet a third mantra: "SUF AH."

Lowy spots Isaac starting across the bridge towards him.

LOWY'S FATHER (O.S.)

JACOB LOWY!

INT. CONVENTION CENTER

The three Lowy's stand in line waiting to register.

Wall to wall, hundreds of Jews lie on urine-stained mattresses. Grating ECHOES of TALKING, CRYING, MOANING.

Lowy takes out his tiny memo book from satchel and writes "KÄRV ??," and "SUFAH ???"

SS OFFICER

(to everyone in line)

"ANYONE HIDING VALUABLES WILL BE SHOT."

ABSCESS (O.S.)

Like he's announcing bingo.

Lowy turns to find in line the portly, gregarious 16-year-old ERIC "ABSCESS" BLUM. Behind Abscess, whispering to each other, ABSCESS' FATHER and ABSCESS' MOTHER.

ABSCESS (CONT'D)

Think they'll feed us?

COMMOTION at the front of line. A gold necklace is thrown onto the registration table. A HUSBAND AND WIFE, begging for mercy, are escorted outside by SS.

TWO SHOTS RING OUT. The loud, echoey room goes completely SILENT and still. Lowy and Abscess look at each other.

ABSCESS (CONT'D)

Shit.

Room turns noisy again. Lowy sticks memo book back in satchel. To his surprise, he feels something. SLOW MOTION. He pulls out a small but brilliant, yellow sapphire, with a face suggesting the Star of David.

END SLOW MOTION

Lowy is white as a ghost. He and Abscess share the same panicked face. An SS soldier calls Lowy's family to the table. Lowy swallows the gem. GAG. HARD GULP.

ABSCESS (CONT'D)

Least you got something to eat.

INT. CATTLE CAR - LATER

Lowy's Father, Babička, Lowy, Abscess and his parents lean watch TRAIN DOOR SLAMS SHUT.

EIGENGRAU SCREEN WITH PHOSPHENES FLOATING AROUND*

[*what one sees when eyes are closed or in the dark]

ABSCCESS (V.O.)

Even murderers get a last meal.

LOWY (V.O.)

Not Jesus murderers.

BRAKES RELEASE. STEAM. TRAIN MOVES.

END *EIGENGRAU* SCREEN

LATER

EWEEPING and GROANING. It's dark, but eyes have adjusted. We hear someone URINATING and DEFECATING in a bucket.

LATER

TRAIN SLOWS, and cattle car falls SILENT. TRAIN BRAKES. JOLT. Everyone holds their breath in terror for what awaits them. Somebody VOMITS.

Doors open to gorgeous green countryside, blue skies, white clouds. Everyone adjusts their eyes. Lowy and Abscess look at each other in disbelief.

SUPER:

"TEREZIN PROPAGANDA CAMP, 30 MILES NORTH OF PRAGUE"

EXT. TEREZIN TRAIN STATION

Train passengers walk in twos, SS guards along side them. Lowy's father help Babička. Lowy and Abscess walk in pairs.

Lowy looks up at a NAZI RECON PLANE fly overhead.

AERIAL SHOT: Terezin's Small and Large Fortresses, with its 12 miles of monstrous walls and moat. Surreal.

EXT. TEREZIN'S LARGE FORTRESS

They approach a break in the wall, and pour through it.

INT./EXT. KOMMANDANT'S OFFICE - SAME

Rudolf reads a little book, "Black Magic in Prague." Von Rumpf quietly sticks head in, rolls eyes at the book.

VON RUMPF
(clears throat)
Kommandant.

RUDOLF
(not looking up)
Huh?

VON RUMPF
Blacksmith's arrived.

RUDOLF
Horseshoes!

Rudolf pops up, puts little book in jacket breast pocket.

OUTSIDE OFFICE - LATER

New arrivals stand in five orderly lines: men, women, elderly, girls, boys. Looking them over as they pass by, Jews going normally about their business. Strange place.

Rudolf converses with Lowy's Father, who points to the elderly line. Rudolf looks over at Babička and nods. Rudolf then spots, behind her, the Yoda-like Isaac. Immediately intrigued, Rudolf walks over to him.

From boys' line, Lowy stares at 15-year-old SAMANTHA (SAM) TAUSSIG, a very pretty tom boy. She, in turn, stares at sign above an office front: "PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES." Thru window, RABBI REGINA JONAS smiles at Sam.

Rudolf pulls Isaac from the Elderly line and summons an SS SOLDIER. He gives him instructions.

Boys' line moves out with Von Rumpf at the back of the line, directly behind Lowy and Abscess. Lowy makes worried eye contact with Lowy's Father in the men's line, and then Babička in the elderly line.

INT. CENTRAL BATH

Lowy, Abscess and the other boys undress. Von Rumpf eyes are glued to them. Lowy and Abscess observe this. Creepy. Boys stand naked under shower heads, shivering. Without notice, COLD WATER comes out. GASPS from boys.

EXT. MAIN SQUARE

A three-legged stray dog looks for food unsuccessfully.

Lowy tries to make sense of yet another surreal scene: hundreds of Jews sitting on benches, strolling, walking about. No shaved heads. No prison uniforms. Then...

He hears MUFFLED HUMMING and an UNINTELLIGIBLE MANTRA.

LOWY'S POV: Isaac up in Terezin's Church Bell Tower. Things just keep getting weirder. Lowy notices above gigantic doors of the Church, in Roman letters: "MDCCCV." He then notices all of the windows are boarded up.

EXT./INT. CHILDREN'S BARRACKS - TRACKING

The boys' line approaches the handsome yellow building.

HALLWAY OUTSIDE DORM ONE

VON RUMPF

"Lowy, Jacob." Dorm Number One.

ABSCESS

Abyssinia.

(gets a quizzical
look from Lowy)

I'll be seeing you? "Abyssinia."

It's a joke.

INSIDE DORM ONE

Forty teenage boys litter the room, rough housing, wrestling, playing indoor *futbol*. It's a circus.

VALTR "MAESTRO" EISENGER, Dorm One's leader, plays MOZART'S *SONATA IN G MAJOR* on violin, with 13-year-old prodigy EMANUEL MORGENSTERN on old, rickety spinet piano. Sharing piano bench, Maestro's fiancé VERA SOMMEROVÁ.

Lowy takes his satchel off. His eyes go to two boys: HANUS HACHENBURG writes poetry on his bed; TZADDIK "PAZ" COHEN, a Hasidic boy, wears *tzitzit* and *kippah*. Prayer book in hand, he bops up and down, PRAYING.

VERA (O.S.)

Welcome Jacob.

Lowy turns to find Vera wearing a warm, maternal smile.

LOWY

Hi. I go by Lowy.

VERA

Then welcome Lowy. I'm Vera, the
Maestro's fiancée.

Vera gestures to the top bed of a three level bunk.

VERA (CONT'D)

There's a shelf for your things.

Vera yells over the din of boys as she returns to piano.

VERA (CONT'D)

OTTO, HELP YOUR NEW BUNKMATE.

Lowy looks at the ladder anxiously.

FLASHBACK: Lowy's mother, nervous, at bottom of wooden
ladder in the forge we saw earlier back in Prague. Lowy
looks down from loft, gesturing her to climb up.

END FLASHBACK.

Lowy climbs the bunk ladder. At top, he drops satchel.
Everything falls out: pad, comic books, paper, colored
pencils, framed photo of him and his mother, flashlight.

OTTO, dorm bully, picks up one Lowy's pad.

OTTO

You believe this Golem shit?

LOWY

No.

Otto picks up framed photo of his mother.

OTTO

Who's this?

Lowy reaches for photo, but can't grab it. Otto taunts
him with it. Some boys LAUGH. Lowy climbs down, gets it.

INT. CANTEEN - LATER

Children stand in line, hand in meal vouchers, receive
dinner in mess kits. Abscess grimaces. He asks SERVER...

ABSCESS

Is this turnips? I hate turnips.

No one cares. Lowy asks the Server...

LOWY

Do you know where the Elderly
Barracks is?

No one cares to answer.

EXT. MAIN SQUARE - CONTINUOUS

Lowy, Abscess, Paz, Emanuel and Hanus look for a free bench. Lowy spots Sam on one. This time, she sees him and gives him a smile. Lowy smiles back, but it fades when he notices JIRI WINER, a strapping 16 year-old, with her.

SAM

We're done.

They get up. As Jiri passes Lowy, he whispers to him:

JIRI

You wouldn't know what to do with
'em.

LOWY'S POV: Sam's chest.

BACK TO SCENE

Lowy's face turns red. Boys sit on/around bench and eat. Lowy looks up at Church across the way. No sign of Isaac in Bell Tower. Hanus follows his sightline.

HANUS (O.S.)

Completely Abandoned.

LOWY

How do you know?

HANUS

I snuck in once looking for paper.
You can get in through the cellar.
I'm pretty sure it's haunted.

ABCESS

Whole town looks haunted.

EMANUEL

It was built as a military
fortress in Mozart's time.

HANUS

Now it's one big outdoor theatre.
The Red Cross will get front row
seats to "the hilarious new
farce... *Terezin, the town the
Führer gave the Jews.*"

WILD APPLAUSE, "BRAVISSIMO!", etc. Then, LAUGHTER.

LOWY

(still eyes Church)
Wanna start a secret club?

From satchel, Lowy takes *Rychlé šípy* (*Fast Arrows*) comic
book, with 5 boys and a dog on cover. One of the boys
shines a flashlight. He passes it around.

LOWY (CONT'D)

Just like *Fast Arrows*, but we'll
call it, "The Golem Club."

ABCESS

I love Yousef the Golem of Prague!

PAZ

I'm not joining a club that meets
in a church.

LOWY

Last place they'll look for us.

HANUS

(indicates cover)
We'll need a dog.

EMANUEL

There's that three-legged stray.

HANUS

And poetry readings, of course.

LOWY

Absolutely.

HANUS

In.

LOWY

But mostly, we'll create Golems.

CHUCKLES.

HANUS

Plot our revenge on the evil
Kommandant Rudolf, the creepy
Colonel Von Rumpf, and the
traitorous Chairman Murmelschwein.

BIG LAUGHS.

ABSCESS

When do we meet?

LOWY

Fridays at dusk.

PAZ

SHABBAT? What kind of Yid are you?

LOWY

You can start the meeting with a
prayer.

PAZ

In.

EMANUEL

(shakes his head)
Too much practicing.

HANUS

He's in.

INT. DORM NUMBER ONE - NIGHT (LATER)

Lowy wakes out of a sound sleep to quiet MOANING and HEAVY BREATHING: Otto masterbating with Lowy's framed photo in his hand. Lowy grabs it, heads for ladder.

OTTO (O.S.)

What's the big deal?

Lowy grabs his jacket, puts the framed photo in the satchel, and exits.

EXT. OUTSIDE CHILDREN'S BARRACKS

Lowy exits building into the silent walled town. He takes out flashlight from satchel, turns it on, and heads towards the Main Square. Three-legged dog follows him.

EXT. MAIN SQUARE

As he approaches Church, MUFFLED HUMMING and unintelligible MANTRA. He looks up at the Bell Tower and sees Isaac, lit by the moon. He hurries his pace.

CHURCH EXTERIOR

He finds the angled cellar door, opens it and descends. Dog, left behind, WHIMPERS.

CHURCH CELLAR

Cob webs, rats. He reads hand writing on a pipe leading up to the floor above: "BAPTISMAL FEED."

He climbs RICKETY STAIRS into the...

SANCTUARY

Religious statues stare at him. Pews are covered in a thick coat of dust. So is the altar and its gold cross.

He checks out the huge baptismal font. Dry as a desert.

HUMMING and MANTRA grow louder and louder, though still MUFFLED. It draws him to stairs that lead to the bell tower. He tries to open the iron gate in front of stairs. Locked.

Suddenly, he WRITHES with stomach pain. He exits.

INT. CHILDREN'S BARRACKS BATHROOM

In a stall, Lowy sits on toilet, painfully PUSHING. He stands, looks in bowl. He cringes, reaches in, pulls out stool, retrieves yellow sapphire.

He walks out of stall and jumps, finding Otto standing there. Otto looks at Lowy's browned hands and the gem, gives him a suspicious look, then heads into a stall.

FADE TO:

SUPER: "ONE MONTH LATER"

INT. TEREZIN FORGE - DAY

Lowy watches the SPARKS FLY UP. He and his father speak between a horseshoe being stoked in the fire and POUNDED.

LOWY

If you finished it, can I have it?

LOWY'S FATHER

Been visitin' your grandmother?

LOWY

It's so depressing. I swear some of them are dead. And *Babička* just sits there, not saying anything.

LOWY'S FATHER

Same as Prague. But she knows your there.

(beat)

I hear boys playin' *futbol* up on the wall.

LOWY

You know I hate *futbol*.

LOWY'S FATHER

How else you suppos'ta make friends?

LOWY

I have friends. In Friedl's art class. Did you finish it yet?

His father reaches into his pocket, hands Lowy a pendant with the yellow sapphire in it.

LOWY'S FATHER

You get caught with this...

LOWY

Thanks.

LOWY'S FATHER

I'm tellin' you. Your mother left it for you to find.

LOWY

Where would she have gotten a yellow sapphire?

LOWY'S FATHER

There was a lot of mystery about that woman. And love.

Lowy smiles, but there's profound sadness in it.

INT. RUDOLF'S OFFICE - SAME

Feet on desk, Rudolf reads his little book "Black Magic in Prague." REINHARD HEYDRICH enters, the severe, utterly humorless Protector of Czechoslovakia. Rudolf jumps up.

RUDOLF

Protector Heydrich, *Guten Morgen*.

HEYDRICH

I am heading to Berlin tomorrow for a meeting with the *Führer*. Apparently, President Beneš is spending his exile in London planning my assassination.

Rudolf turns his back to put book in Jacket pocket.

RUDOLF

(tittilated)

Oh no.

HEYDRICH

He'll want an update on Terezin.

RUDOLF

Running like the trains.

The well-fed BENJAMIN MURMELSTEIN enters.

MURMELSTEIN

Kommandant, we have a tip regarding the revolt rumors.
(notices Heydrich)
Entschuldigung.

RUDOLF

Herr Murrelstein, Protector Heydrich.

Murrelstein offers his hand. Heydrich declines.

RUDOLF (CONT'D)

Herr Murrelstein is Terezin's Chairman of the Jewish Council of Elders. He does excellent work.
(to Murrelstein)
Inform Colonel Von Rumpf.

Murrelstein bows, exits. Heydrich checks for dust.

HEYDRICH

In Prague, they call me "The Hangman," "The Butcher," "The Man with the Iron Heart", and my favorite, "The Young Evil God of Death." Like you, they detest me.

(cuts off a protest)

You want my job. I respect that. I want Himmler's. But if you're ever to rise above camp leader, you'll have to... harden.

RUDOLF

Harden?

HEYDRICH

Yes, and marry. The Reichstag is full of nasty rumors about you and... Colonel Von Rumpf.

(cuts off protest)

Moving on. The Red Cross could visit as early as the New Year. Transport a thousand Jews east. Thin the place out a bit.

RUDOLF

Yes, sir.

HEYDRICH

Can I assure the *Führer* that the Red Cross will find a Terezin full of happy, active, productive Jews?

RUDOLF

Playing *futbol*. Performing music. Verdi's *Requiem*.

HEYDRICH

Jews singing a Christian mass for the dead. Silly race, aren't they?

RUDOLF

Oh, and children painting. Rainbows, butterflies...

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. ART CLASS - SAME

Lowy sits at his station, full of Golem comic strips. Sam working next to him, looks with surprise at his nearly-completed sketch: AN SS OFFICER HANGING FROM A GALLOW.

Lowy peeks at Sam's watercolor: A BRAIN WITH BUBBLES
AROUND IT, FILLED WITH FREUDIAN WORDS.

FRIEDL (O.S.)
(to Lowy)
Moved on from comic strips, I see.

FRIEDA DICKER, art teacher, picks up Lowy's sketch.

LOWY
It just sort of came to me.

Friedl rips it up.

FRIEDL
I'm vehemently opposed to
censoring creative expression.
Unless it puts the artist's life
in danger... Stick to Golems.
(to class)
FINISH UP!
(whisper)
And make sure you sign your work.
There are those who want the world
to believe you never existed. Your
art will prove otherwise.

INT. MEN'S BARRACKS - CONTINUOUS

Abscess' Father watches as Von Rumpf and Murrelstein
oversee SS soldiers KNIFING open his mattress. They find
revolt plan entitled: "OPERATION GOLEM."

VON RUMPF
(indicates Abscess'
Father)
Small Fortress.

SS Soldiers take Abscess' Father away.

EXT. MAIN SQUARE - SAME

Lowy and Sam walk from art class.

SAM
If your invitation still stands,
I'd like to come to one of those
Golem meetings.

LOWY
GREAT! There's one tonight. But...
how's Jiri gonna feel about it?

SAM
Who's gonna tell him?

LOWY
Meet me behind the Church after
dinner.

Sam turns off the square. Lowy smiles broadly.

Then, he hears HUMMING and the mantra "KÄRV" starts up.
It's back, unmuffled, crystal clear.

LOWY (CONT'D)
Oh geez. Here we go.

He looks to the Church.

LOWY'S POV: He sees Isaac for a split second, and then he
disappears. Lowy notes again "MDCCCV" above Church doors.

INT. SMALL FORTRESS - PRISON CELL IN BLOCK A - SAME

Small slivers of sunlight sneaks into the dank cell.
Abscess' Father sits across from Rudolf and Von Rumpf.
The "Operation Golem" plan sits on the table.

RUDOLF
Archduke Ferdinand's assassin was
kept in this cell. One man caused
a worldwide war. Though, a
revolutionary always has help.

ABSCCESS' FATHER
I drafted the plan alone.

RUDOLF
But obviously you were recruiting
foot soldiers to carry it out. The
Golem of Prague, perhaps?

ABSCCESS' FATHER
I took the name from my son's
Golem Club.

RUDOLF
My camp has a "Golem Club?"

ABSCCESS' FATHER
You know boys. There's always
gotta be a club.

RUDOLF

Colonel Von Rumpf here tells me
the Golem was created by the 16th
century "Maharal" of Prague?

ABSCESS' FATHER

He was a sort of rabbi-mystic.

VON RUMPF

Made Yousef with soil from the
White Mountains and spring water
from the Vltava.

ABSCESS' FATHER

(to Von Rumpf)

You know the legend of Yousef?

VON RUMPF

My best friend growing up was a
Jew.

(to Rudolf)

The Golem can make himself
invisible.

ABSCESS' FATHER

Control the weather.

VON RUMPF

Raise people from the dead.

RUDOLF

My, my. Where does Yousef live?

ABSCESS' FATHER

He's a pile of dirt up in the
attic of the Old New Synagogue.

VON RUMPF

Waiting for the next *Tzaddik* to
bring him back to life.

RUDOLF

Tzaddik?

ABSCESS' FATHER

A man of moral goodness who
possesses the power to re-
commission the Golem when the Jews
need protecting again.

SCREAM from a distant cell block.

RUDOLF

Now seems like a good time.

LAUGHTER.

SMALL FORTRESS COURTYARD - LATER

Rudolf and Von Rumpf walk, speaking discreetly.

VON RUMPF

Of course we'll need to hang him.

RUDOLF

Seems like a decent fellow.

VON RUMPF

You said you needed to "harden."

RUDOLF

Ja.

VON RUMPF

I love a good hanging.

RUDOLF

(gestures to his car)

Shall we?

(clarifies)

The Old New Synagogue!

Eye roll from Von Rumpf. SS OFFICERS open car doors for them.

MONTAGE - GOLEM CLUB MEMBERS - LATE AFTERNOON

-- SOCCER FIELD -- During a game, Jiri steals the ball from Abscess.

JIRI

Come get it, Fatso.

Abscess pursues Jiri but Otto trips him. He writhes in pain, holding his butt and his ankle. Boys crowd around. FREDDIE HIRSCH, Terezin athletic director, runs over.

HIRSCH

Jiri, Otto, take him to the
Infirmary. EVERYONE ELSE, WASH FOR
DINNER.

Jiri and Otto help him off the field. Once Hirsch's back is turned, they drop Abscess to the ground.

-- CHILDREN'S BARRACKS ATTIC -- Hanus writes: "What good is the beauty of boys?" He smiles, but then erases "boys." Replaces it with "girls?"

-- TOWNE HALL -- Emanuel practices Beethoven's *Moonlight Sonata*. Vera coaches him. Maestro observes, pleased.

-- SECRET SCHUL -- REBE SOLOMON, with pointer, guides Paz in reading the Torah.

-- BEHIND THE FORGE -- Jiri and Sam make out. Jiri starts to head up Sam's shirt.

SAM

We're gonna miss dinner.

JIRI

Worth it to me...

She smiles, slaps his hand, holds it. They head off to dinner.

EXT. RUDOLF'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Rudolf reads his little book *Black Magic in Prague*.

VON RUMPF'S POV: A foot playing with his.

BACK TO SCENE

Von Rumpf smiles at Rudolf, who winks at him. Von Rumpf forces a wink back.

RUDOLF

(reads)

Listen to this. "The Golem has no soul, no free will. But with the guidance of the righteous *Tzaddik*, he is more powerful than any weapon of war." Can you just imagine Heydrich's face if I were to present to the *Führer*... the gift of the Golem?

Von Rumpf, looking out the window, crosses his eyes.

INT. CANTEEN - LATER

Lowy turns in a bunch of vouchers and gets a bunch of food in return: buns, sugar, radishes, etc...

EXT./INT. CHURCH

Lowy holds the angled cellar door open, and Sam disappears down the steps.

LOWY
Go ahead, Bubble.

The three-legged dog, Club mascot, goes down steps. Lowy follows, closes the angled door on top of him.

SANCTUARY

Paz, Hanus, Emanuel place their food on the altar. Lowy enters with Sam. Paz does a double take.

PAZ
What's a *meydl* doing here?

LOWY
She's joining the club.

PAZ
She's a GIRL.

SAM
I AM?

LAUGHTER at Paz' expense. Lowy puts his food contributions on the altar, explains to Sam.

LOWY
Tonight is our first "BROCOFEA."
Brotherhood of Communal Feasting.

PAZ
Emphasis on brotherhood.

LOWY
We go hungry all week, then cash
in our vouchers at once.

EMANUEL
Where's Abscess?

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. INFIRMARY - SAME

Abscess bends over a table. NURSE punctures his abscess.

ABCESS'S POV: His mother forces a smile.

ABCESS' MOTHER
I have some bad news, Eric, dear.

ABSCESS

Besides a sprained ankle and an
anorectal abscess?

EXT./INT. OLD NEW SYNAGOGUE (PRAGUE) - SAME - TRACKING

Rudolf and Von Rumpf stand outside the car looking up at
the metal rungs that lead to the shuttered attic window.
SHUTTERS PULSE more intensely than before.

Rudolf KNOCKS on the door. SYNAGOGUE RABBI answers.

RUDOLF

Guten Abend. We would like to
inspect the attic.
(indicates attic)
At-tic.

Synagogue Rabbi's eyes fill with fear. He shakes his head
profusely and ad libs in Hebrew.

VON RUMPF

Harden...

Rudolf strikes the Rabbi to the ground.

VON RUMPF (CONT'D)

Sehr gut.

RUDOLF

(sincere)
Entschuldigung.

Rudolf and Von Rumpf begin making their way up the many
medieval stairs that leads to the attic.

RUDOLF (CONT'D)

This is great fun.

A spooked Von Rumpf stops. Rudolf turns around.

VON RUMPF

One of us should guard the stairs.

INT. CHURCH SANCTUARY (TEREZIN) - NIGHT (LATER)

The Golem Club members stand around an altar full of
candles. On the organ in the choir loft, Emanuel plays on
organ: "*TOCCATA AND FUGUE IN D MINOR.*"

PAZ

Someone's gonna hear him.

HANUS

Walls are thicker than the
fortress walls.

Emanuel finishes.

LOWY

I hearby call the fifth meeting of
the Golem Club to order.

PAZ

(covers right eye)
"Shema Yisrael Adonai eloheinu
Adonai ehad. Barukh shem kvod
malkhuto l'olam va-ed -- "

LOWY

-- Not the whole thing.

PAZ

What kind of Yid are you? "Adonai
eloheichem emet. Amein."

EMANUEL

What's "emet" mean again?

PAZ

Truth.

LOWY

I've asked Sam to impart some
Torah wisdom, as it relates to one
of her heroes, Sigmund Freud.

PAZ

What?

(beat)

Meydl's can't give sermons.

SAM

Rabbi Regina said there's nothing
in Torah that says women can't.

PAZ

She's not a rebe.

SAM

(ignores him)

It might appear that the teachings
of Judaism and the teachings of
Freud are incompatible. But
actually, there are many
references to sex in the bible.
Take incest, for example.

PAZ

A shande!

SAM

The story of Lot, Genesis 19.
 What's most troubling from a
 female point of view --

PAZ

-- Oy.

SAM

Lot's daughters are the guilty
 party, not their father.

PAZ

Mishegas!

INT. OLD NEW SYNAGOGUE (PRAGUE) - OUTSIDE ATTIC DOOR

Rudolf, titillated, listens to the WINDOW SHUTTERS
 CLACKING. With his shoulder, he POUNDS against the door.
 It doesn't budge. He POUNDS again and again.

OLD NEW SYNAGOGUE SANCTUARY

Synagogue Rabbi hears POUNDING from up in the attic.
 Sweating profusely, he grips his prayerbook and PRAYS.

INT. CHURCH BELL TOWER (TEREZIN)

Isaac writes out on the wall, with lightening speed, the
 family tree of Prague's *Tzaddiks*. At the top, "THE
 MAHARAL, RABBI JUDAH LOEW, b. 1526 d. 1601" Suddenly, his
 writing turns messy. Psychic tremors.

CUT THROUGH FLOOR:

CHURCH SANCTUARY

Below, Hanus recites his poem. Psychic tremors cause the
 candles to flicker.

HANUS

"Will the Tzaddik shed his guise?
 For only he, righteous and wise.
 Can make the ancient Golem rise.
 To answer Adolf Hitler's lies."

INT. OLD NEW SYNAGOGUE (PRAGUE) - OUTSIDE ATTIC DOOR

With Rudolf's violent POUND, the door flies opens.

ATTIC

It's anticlimactic. The room is still. No clacking.

Rudolf spots the pile of soil. He walks over and runs the dirt through his hands, and day dreams.

Coming towards Rudolf, unawares: Soul of Yousef, as a yellowish, translucent, terrible presence. Then, a throbbing shudder in Rudolf's body. Rudolf feels something, but it passes quickly. He shrugs it off.

Von Rumpf taps Rudolf on the shoulder. He SHRIEKS, causing Rudolf to SHRIEK.

RUDOLF
(indicates soil)
We're taking this back to Terezin.

VON RUMPF
Five hundred year-old dirt?

CAR - LATER

A pleased Rudolf looks at a car trunk full of soil.

INT. CHURCH SANCTUARY (TEREZIN)

LOWY
And now, Paz, with our weekly Golem story "The Maharal de-commissions Yousef."

PAZ
Yousef did many *mitzvahs* for the Jews of Prague. No task was too big or too small.

Lowy holds up illustration from his pad.

DISSOLVE TO:

ANIMATION. Everything Paz talks about, we see play out in the kids' collective imagination.

PAZ (V.O.)
He cleaned the synagogue and swept the ghetto streets.

He chased off Christian boys who came to the ghetto gate to throw rocks at the Jewish boys. He roamed the Christian cemeteries to stop men who would come to dig up the corpses of Christian children so they could falsely claim that Jews had killed them for blood to make Matzah. *Goyim!*

(beat)

Now, every Friday before sunset, the Maharal had to remove the "E" of "EMET" that he had carved into Yousef's keppie in order to bring him to life. For 24 hours, Yousef's forehead read "MET," the Hebrew word for "dead." Until Saturday at sunset, the Golem had to remain decommissioned. The Maharal didn't know why this was so. But that's what the mystic book *Zohar* commanded.

(beat)

Then, one Friday, the Maharal decided not to decommission Yousef. The high holidays were coming and there was too much for the Golem to do, so the "E" remained. What the Maharal didn't know, was that every Shabbis, there was a magnetic energy field in the universe. That's why the Golem had to be asleep. Otherwise, a electro-magnetic surge could race through Yousef's body, making him too powerful for the Maharal to control. And that's exactly what happened. The Golem grew larger and larger, and began killing people indiscriminately, even his fellow Jews.

END ANIMATION

EMANUEL

Wait. The Golem is Jewish?

Paz rolls his eyes at Emanuel. What else would he be?

Abscess enters, hobbling. Everyone looks at his ankle.

HANUS

What happened?

ABSCESS

-- Eat. Isn't tonight our first
BROCOFEA?

EMANUEL

Where are your contributions?

ABSCESS

I ate them. Anxiety.

Abscess digs in to food on altar. Others join him.

EXT. ROAD TO TEREZIN

Rudolf reads book. Von Rumpf sleeps. Suddenly, car begins
to ACCELERATE, barely navigates road. SKIDDING. BRAKES.

INT. CHURCH SANCTUARY (TEREZIN)

As the Golem Club feasts and chatters away about the
latest development, Lowy's pendant starts to glow yellow
through his shirt.

HANUS

What in the hell is that?

Lowy turns himself in, takes the pendant off of his neck.

ABSCESS

I thought you... ? You... Ew...

EMANUEL

Where'd you get it from?

ABSCESS

His shit.

Psychic tremors turns to turbulence. Room shakes.

CUT THROUGH FLOOR
TO:

CHURCH BELL TOWER ABOVE SANCTUARY

A flask falls off a table and breaks. Isaac looks.

ISAAC'S POV: The book *Zohar* falls from a shelf.

EXT. OUTSIDE RUDOLF'S OFFICE

Car pulls up at an alarming speed, SCREECHES to a stop.

VON RUMPF

Mein Gott!

Rudolf and Von Rumpf get out. Rudolf staggers, presumably car sick from the rocky ride. His body goes into convulsions. He VOMITS all over Von Rumpf's shoes.

The yellow, translucent, terrible presence - the Soul of Yousef - flies away towards the Church.

It begins to STORM. CHURCH BELLS RING.

INT./EXT. CHURCH SANCTUARY - TRACKING

Kids hear WIND WHIPPING, RAIN ON ROOF. CHURCH BELLS.

HANUS

They've never rung before. Ever.

CUT THROUGH FLOOR

TO:

BELL TOWER

Room shakes violently. More FLASKS BREAK. A second book, *Sefer Yetzirah*, falls off the shelf.

Soul of Yousef rushes through a bell tower window, SHATTERING PANES. He whips around the room, as if looking for someone. He envelopes Isaac for a moment, and then disappears through the trap door, down a

WOODEN LADDER AND STEPS

to the

CHURCH SANCTUARY

Soul of Yousef moves around room, visiting each Golem Club member, leaving them in a yellow afterglow. He visits Lowy last, envelopes him, causing Lowy to drop the pendant. The gem glows, pulses.

DEAFENING LIGHTENING, THUNDER, BELL RINGING. Golem Club members hold their ears as they vacate room. Dog too!

Paz turns back, grabs pendant, but it's too hot to hold onto. He lets go, exits.

OUTSIDE THE CHURCH

Paz finds a soaked Lowy waiting for him. He shouts above the EAR-PIERCING THUNDER, LIGHTENING.

PAZ

THE GEM!

Lowy runs to the back of the Church and opens the angled cellar door. He slips and falls down the steps. Reaching for an old wooden banister, his hand snags a rusty nail. It rips his palm open. He bleeds profusely.

CHURCH SANCTUARY

Blood drips as Lowy makes his way to the pendant. He grabs the gem, it glows, and his wound instantly heals. Whoa. He puts the pendant around his neck. STORM CALMS.

HUMMING and the mantra "SUF AH" start up.

Lowy walks to the stairs leading to the Bell Tower. The iron gate unbolts and opens itself.

BELL TOWER STAIRS AND LADDER

He makes his way up many steps and then comes face to face with a wooden ladder.

FLASHBACK: (SLOW MOTION) Lowy's mother climbing ladder in Prague forge. Lowy, in loft, smiles, applauds for her.

END FLASHBACK

Lowy works up courage to climb the Bell Tower ladder. At the top, he reaches a trap door. He throws it open...

BELL TOWER

He looks around in awe. It's the first time we're seeing the room in its entirety: an alchemy lab full of crucibles, flasks, and alembics. We see the broken flasks, two books on the floor.

Every inch of wall space is covered in hundreds of fantastic, mystical diagrams, charts, maps. Some in Hebrew, some in English. Lots of formulas, numbers, equations. It's dense, impressive, overwhelming.

Lowy turns around and finds Isaac adding the last name to the Prague *Tzaddik* family tree: "JACOB LOWY. b. 1927 - "

Isaac picks up off the floor the book *Zohar*. He chucks it in the fire in the middle of the room. In the flames, the word: "CHASHMAL" appears.

LOWY

I know that word!

Isaac smacks him on the lips. Hard.

LOWY (CONT'D)

OW!

Lowy looks at the fire. "CHASHMAL" melts into "SILENT SPEECH." Then, from outside on the street below...

OUTSIDE CHURCH

MAESTRO

LOWY!

VERA

JACOB!

BELL TOWER

Lowy freezes in fear. Isaac picks up second book, *Sefer Zetzirah*, and hands it to Lowy. Lowy then flees.

INT. DORM NUMBER ONE - LOWY'S BUNK - NIGHT

Lowy, in a fitful sleep.

DREAM - SERIES OF SHOTS - GOLEM CHASES LOWY*

A) AERIAL SHOT of Lowy running for his life thru Prague's crowded, 16th-century walled Jewish ghetto. He bumps into men wearing yellow arm bands, women wearing yellow kerchiefs. They notice his 1941 attire and yellow star.

LOWY

YOUSEF'S GONE MAD!

B) People SCREAM when they see Yousef in pursuit of Lowy.

C) JEWISH GHETTO GUARDS attempt to stop Yousef. He swats them away like flies. He hurls one against ghetto wall.

D) Lowy spots metal rungs on facade of Old New Synagogue. He hesitates, steels himself, then climbs. At top, he climbs through attic window, closes shutters behind him.

E) Lowy barricades the attic door, then hides.

HUGE FOOTSTEPS. Yousef breaks down door, busts through barricade. He finds Lowy, grabs him by throat and raises him off the ground. SCREAM OF TERROR.

Out of nowhere, the MAHARAL, the bearded, robed Rabbi of Prague, uses his staff to wipe the letter "E" from Yousef's clay forehead, leaving remaining letters "MET." Disoriented, Yousef drops Lowy, and staggers a bit.

The Maharal uses his staff to remove the tiny scroll out of the creature's mouth. Yousef promptly disintegrates into a pile of clay on the attic floor.

Lowy picks up the tiny scroll and reads what's on it while Maharal kneels, picks up some clay, and WEEPS.

INT./EXT. CHILDREN'S BARRACKS - DORM NUMBER ONE - DAY

Lowy wakes up in a sweat. Otto's staring at him.

OTTO

I had a bad dream too. Your mom was in it. It was really bad.

MAESTRO (O.S.)

Last one out of bed, latrine duty.

All the boys jump out of bed.

BATHROOM

OTTO'S POV: At a sink, he watches Lowy wash his face. The pendant is hanging down outside of his shirt, exposed.

BACK TO SCENE

Lowy turns, sees Otto staring. He throws pendant behind his back.

DORM NUMBER ONE

Boys stand in line. Maestro checks fingernails for dirt.

MAESTRO (CONT'D)

Some reminders, gentlemen. Weekdays, you're either in school up in the attic or you're on a work detail, unless you have permission to be elsewhere: Friedl's art room, up on the wall playing *futbol*, taking a music lesson. Free time is after dinner until curfew. FOR VISITING YOUR PARENTS! Not wondering around. But today, a special treat. Freddie Hirsch is running an all-day *futbol* tournament.

Boys CHEER, except Lowy, Emanuel, and Hanus.

MAESTRO (CONT'D)

Emanuel, you're excused to
rehearse for today's recital for
the Kommandant.

LOWY

He asked me to turn pages for him.

EMANUEL

I did?

MAESTRO

And Abscess, you are to report to
the Kommandant's Office.

This gets the boys' attention. The Kommandant's Office!

OUTSIDE CHILDREN'S BARRACKS

Tons of boys stream out of the building.

Abscess approaches Lowy and Paz.

ABSCESS

Can you guys come with me?

PAZ

The Kommandant's Office? No way.

ABSCESS

Just wait outside.

EXT./INT. RUDOLF'S OFFICE - LATER

Abscess heads in. He turns back to Lowy and Paz.

LOWY

Good luck.

RUDOLF'S OFFICE

Abscess sits. Rudolf paces.

RUDOLF

So, I understand you are part of a
"Golem" club.

ABSCESS

I was, sir. I got kicked out.

RUDOLF
For heaven's sake, why?

ABSCESS
Bad breath.

RUDOLF
Where does this club meet?

ABSCESS
In the fortress wall.

RUDOLF
That's lot of wall. Which section?

ABSCESS
It moves around. Like a traveling
poker game.

RUDOLF
I see.

ABSCESS
Is my father okay?

RUDOLF
He's fine. I can arrange for you
to see for yourself.
(hands him paper/pen)
As soon as you provide me a list
of club members.

OUTSIDE BUILDING

LOWY
Is there anything in the Torah
about getting smacked on the lips?

PAZ
Yes, as a matter of fact. "The
Unworthy One" has to hit the
Tzaddik on the lips to fill him
with all the knowledge he needs to
bring the Golem to life.

LOWY
"The Unworthy One?"

PAZ
Unworthy compared to the *Tzaddik*.
But everyone is. Can I tell you
something?

LOWY

Sure.

PAZ

It's something really, really big,
so don't laugh. I think...

LOWY

I'm not gonna laugh.

PAZ

I think I might be... the *Tzaddik*.

LOWY

Really?

PAZ

First of all, my name is *Tzaddik*.

LOWY

Where'd "Paz" come from?

PAZ

(indicates *payos*)

And then there was last night.

LOWY

That was crazy.

PAZ

Mishegoss for sure. Something's
definitely... happening. It makes
sense. The Jews are in big shit.
Which is exactly when God is
supposed to appoint a *Tzaddik*. So
he can bring Youssef back to life.

(beat)

Why did you ask about being *shlogn*
on the lips?

Abscess appears. They walk onto the...

EXT. MAIN SQUARE

LOWY

Well?

ABSCESS

He made me give him a list of
Golem Club members.

(beat)

Otto, Jiri, and every other jerk
who lives to torture me.

LAUGHTER.

ABSCESS (CONT'D)

I get to see my Dad tomorrow.
Rudolf said I can bring a friend.

PAZ

The Small Fortress? No way.

Sam approaches. Abscess stares at her.

ABSCESS

My mom's chest is waiting. Eh. I
mean, my mom is waiting.

LOWY

Spread the word, emergency meeting
tonight.

SAM

(indicates gallows)
Look.

They look to center of square at partially built gallows.

LOWY

A stage for the Red Cross visit?

ABSCESS

Abyssinia.

Abscess exits.

PAZ

Let's go see Rebe Solomon.
(to Sam)
Not you.

SAM

I could care less about your
secret shul. I have my own shul.

PAZ

She's not a real *rebe*.

SAM

And you're not a real *putz*.

EXT./INT. SECRET SHUL - SAME

Paz leads Lowy down an alley way, to an obscure door. He
KNOCKS SIX TIMES in succession, then adds a SEVENTH
KNOCK. REBE SOLOMON opens the door slightly.

EXT./INT. PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

Sam approaches the building on the Main Square.

OFFICE

Regina counsels an ANXIOUS MAN. Sam appears.

REGINA

Sam, good. Intake, please.

LATER

A filled out form lies on a table. A JEWISH HUSBAND,
JEWISH WOMAN, Sam get up, shake hand.

SAM

Rabbi Regina is available every
day if you need to talk.

JEWISH HUSBAND

Rabbi?

SAM

First woman ever.

A broad smile from the Jewish Wife. They exit.

Regina brings a TRAUMATIZED JEWISH WOMAN over.

SAM (CONT'D)

Next.

Sam fills out a new intake form.

SAM (CONT'D)

Hello, please, sit. I just need to
take down some information. First
name. Rebecca. Family name.
Bornstein. Born: Brno, September
5th, 1875.

Regina and Traumatized Jewish Woman are dumbfounded.

TRAUMATIZED JEWISH WOMAN

How did she know all that?

SAM

All what?

OLD JEWISH WOMAN

My name. My birthdate.

Sam realizes that she read the woman's mind. Weirdness.

INT. CHILDREN'S BARRACKS ATTIC

Hanus finishes a poem.

Jiri appears. Hanus presents him with it.

HANUS

Perfect timing. Just finished.

JIRI

Took long enough.

HANUS

A poem can take weeks. Months.

JIRI

We'll know it's good when she lets
me up her shirt.

Jiri turns and exits. Hanus follows Jiri with his eyes,
longingly. Hanus then starts writing like a bat out of
hell. We watch him start and finish a complete poem in
one fell swoop. Hanus can't believe his eyes. Weirdness.

INT. SECRET SHUL - SAME

On the ceiling, painted maroon stars and several Stars of
David. Hebrew phrases on the walls.

Rebe Solomon reads from the book *Zohar*. Head shaking.

REBE SOLOMON

Impossible.

PAZ

But my name is Tzaddik.

REBE SOLOMON

You and a hundred thousand other
Jewish boys in the world. It
doesn't mean you're the Tzaddik.

PAZ

The church shaking? The weird
yellow light.

REBE SOLOMON

It's called weather.

PAZ

What about the gem glowing?

REBE SOLOMON
 (stops in his tracks)
What gem?

Lowy takes off the pendant and offers it to Rebe Solomon. The Rebe backs away from it, and drops the book, turns away. Paz picks up the book and slips it under his coat.

REBE SOLOMON (CONT'D)
 Where did you get it from?

PAZ
 His shit. It was so cold, it was hot.
 (clarifies)
 The pendant, not his shit.

Rebe keeps his back to the boys.

REBE SOLOMON
 (torn with this info)
 A *Tzaddik* does not learn he's the *Tzaddik* before the age forty.

PAZ
 Maybe God's making an exception given the... shit we're in.

REBE SOLOMON
 The *Tzaddik* is more than a mensch capable of bringing a Golem to life. The reason God sends one to every generation is... if the Jewish people at that moment in history warrant it, the *Tzaddik* is... the Messiah.

Rebe Solomon turns, looks deeply into Lowy's eyes.

LOWY
 I've gotta turn pages for Emanuel.

PAZ
 Me too.

Lowy looks at him. Paz gives him the "cover me" eyes.

EXT. BEHIND THE FORGE - LATER

Jiri and Sam kiss. Nearby, FORGE POUNDING.

JIRI
 What's that?

SAM
Lowy's dad making horseshoes.

JIRI
No.

He puts her hand on his heart. Sam melts. Then he slowly slides her hand downward towards his groin area.

SAM
We've gotta go. Come on.

She walks away, but stops when she hears...

JIRI
(reading the poem)
"What good is the beauty of girls?
What good is the sun if there is
no day? Stars if they give no
light? The nightingale without his
song? What good is love when we
are apart? Know this: it is there
for a reason...to make us fight
and conquer all!"

Sam kisses Jiri. He makes his move: hand under shirt.

INT. TEREZIN TOWN HALL - LATER

Rudolf, Von Rumpf, Maestro, and Vera listen to Emanuel plays Beethoven's *Moonlight Sonata*. Lowy sits on the edge of the bench, preoccupied, not paying attention.

EMANUEL
Turn!

Lowy turns the page and finishes the piece. Rudolf stands and APPLAUDS.

RUDOLF
The Red Cross will be delighted.

Emanuel starts playing, involuntarily, an ATONAL SCHOENBERG-ESQUE PIECE. Maestro and Vera are impressed and disturbed. More weirdness. Rudolf interrupts.

RUDOLF (CONT'D)
I think the Beethoven.

EXT. ATOP FORTRESS WALL - LATER

Lowy and Emanuel approach the *futbol* field where the soccer tournament is in full swing. BOYS SHOUTING.

EMANUEL

It was like... it was someone else's hands playing.

CHEERS.

LOWY/EMANUEL'S POV: Abscess makes his way down the pitch, leaving Jiri and Otto in the dust.

He sets up the shot and scores. EXPLODING CHEERS.

BOYS

ABCESS. ABCESS. ABCESS...

Lowy and Emanuel look at each other. Weirdness continues.

EXT. CHURCH SANCTUARY - NIGHT (LATER)

In front of the altar, all of the Golem Club members, except Paz who hasn't arrived yet, stare in shock at the enormous pile of dirt that Rudolf has left there.

ABCESS

There is some weird shit going on.

Everyone nods, then turns to...

Paz enters in all white, arms wrapped in phylacteries, a prayer shawl around his shoulder. He has the book *Zohar* in one hand, and a tiny scroll and pencil in the other. He sees the soil and he's speechless for a moment.

PAZ

I knew it.

SAM

Knew what?

PAZ

(indicates soil)
Earth.

Paz discovers baptismal, full of well water. Whoa.

PAZ (CONT'D)

Water! We just need...

PAZ/LOWY

Air?

Paz looks at Lowy, surprised he knows the three required elements.

LOWY

The organ. It uses air.

PAZ

Shlogn me on the lips.

LOWY

No.

SAM

I will.

PAZ

It has to be Lowy. "The Unworthy One."

HANUS

Rude.

Paz hands Hanus the book. He opens to the marked page.

HANUS (CONT'D)

"'The Unworthy One' smacks the lips of the *Tzaddik*, filling him with the secrets of the Torah."

SAM

Wait. You think you're the --?

PAZ

IF WE CAN BRING YOUSEF TO LIFE WE CAN SAVE ABSCESS' FATHER.

Everyone looks at Abscess.

PAZ (CONT'D)

From being hanged. Tomorrow, Abscess. In the Square.

ABSCESS

Smack him.

Lowy SMACKS Paz on lips really hard. His teeth cut his lip, which starts to bleed profusely. Lowy takes pendant and puts it on Paz' lips. Its glow heals the lip.

EVERYONE

Whoaaaaaaaaaaaa.

Paz puts the pendant around his neck. Gem stops glowing.

PAZ

Water. Pour it on the soil.

Golem members bring water over using their mess tins. Paz starts shaping a human form with the moistened soil.

EXT./INT. FORTRESS WALL - SAME

Rudolf and Von Rumpf point flashlights into entrance.

VON RUMPF

One of us should guard the entrance.

RUDOLF

You're afraid of a bunch of boys?

VON RUMPF

No. I like boys. Well enough.

RUDOLF

The rats?

VON RUMPF

No...

RUDOLF

Ghosts?

VON RUMPF

Spiders. Spiders terrify me.

Rudolf heads in first, followed by Von Rumpf.

INSIDE FORTRESS WALL

They walk slowly down the passageway. Their flashlights reveal rats. Bats. No spiders. Yet.

INT. CHURCH SANCTUARY - LATER

The moistened soil is now in the shape of an impressive, ten foot Golem.

Emanuel sits at the organ. Hanus, Abscess, and Sam follow the instructions in the book. Lowy stands by, anxious.

PAZ

Lightning'll strike Yousef --

HANUS

-- "The soil will glow, and vapors
will rise."

PAZ

(indicates forehead)
I'll carve "EMET" into his *keppie*.

ABSCESS

"Then, in his mouth, place the
scroll with *Hashem's* true name on
it."

SAM

God's true name is unknowable.

PAZ

Not to the *Tzaddik*. It will be
revealed to him.

Collective eye roll at the unbearable hubris.

PAZ (CONT'D)

Lowy's gonna count - in Hebrew -
each time I complete an orbit
around Yousef. When he gets to
Alef, everyone, look out.

Paz cues Emanuel to start playing. He plays Mozart's
melody "Twinkle, twinkle, little star."

PAZ (CONT'D)

SOMETHING... SPIRITUAL!

Emanuel starts playing the spiritual "Amazing Grace."

PAZ.

NOT THAT SPIRITUAL!

Emanuel plays the ATONAL PIECE he played earlier.

On the first orbit, Paz recites the mantra: "*CHASHMAL*."
Lowy's reacts to this word he's come to know. On the
completion of the first orbit...

LOWY

ALEF.

For the second orbit, Paz switches up the mantra: "*KÄRV*."

LOWY (CONT'D)

BET.

On the third orbit, Paz switches up the mantra: "*SUFAH*."

LOWY (CONT'D)

GIMEL!

Everyone holds their breath.... Nothing. Room deflates.

PAZ

(indicates Sam)

It's because she's here.

Lowy retrieves from his satchel the book *Sefer Yetzirah*.

LOWY

It's not her.

PAZ

(grabs the book)

"Book of Creation." Where did you get this?

Abscess grabs the book, reads a bit, face lights up.

ABSCCESS

Who's hungry? "How to create a calf!"

LOWY

I missed that part.

PAZ

You can't read Hebrew.

LOWY

Yes I can.

Paz hands him back the book and points to a passage.

PAZ

Translate it.

All eyes on Lowy. He hesitates, then with lightening speed.

LOWY

"Climb the ladder of Nothingness. Bridle your mouth from thinking. And if your heart runs, return to the Three Mothers. The Three Fathers. Their progeny: Earth, Water, and Air. The three planets, orbiting. Flee the enemies: liver, tongue, gall..."

HUGE LIGHTENING BOLT INSIDE THE SANCTUARY

SCEAMS. Everyone flees except Lowy. Paz turns back, takes off pendant, bitterly throws it to Lowy, and exits.

INT./EXT. FORTRESS WALL - SAME

LIGHTING reveals a tiny little spider. VON RUMPF SCREAMS as he runs.

LATER - PASSAGEWAY EXIT

Von Rumpf exits the Fortress Wall, then Rudolf.

RUDOLF

(epiphany)

The old man will know where they are.

INT. BELL TOWER - SAME

Isaac draws on the wall: "CHASHMAL. = Silent Speech; KÄRV = engrave; SUFAH = Whirlwind."

LOWY

(indicates pendant in his hand)

I don't want this.

Isaac gestures him to stop speaking.

ISAAC (V.O.)

Bridle your mouth.

[We never see Isaac's mouth move. As a mute, he can only speaks to Lowy telepathically. He often indicates to something on bell tower wall that illustrates his point.]

LOWY

What's "bridle" mean?

ISAAC (V.O.)

Shut up.

Isaac indicates "*Chashmal = Silent Speech*" on the wall.

LOWY

"Silent Speech?"

He indicates on the wall a drawing of two hands. Each finger has a Hebrew word in it - the *Sefirot*.

ISAAC (V.O.)

Climb the ladder to nothingness.

LOWY
Fingers on a wall?

ISAAC (V.O.)
With the eyes in the back of your
head.

LOWY
I DON'T HAVE EYES IN THE BACK OF
MY HEAD!

From outside the church.

RUDOLF (O.S.)
OLD MAN!

Lowy throws the pendant at Isaac.

LOWY
I. DON'T. WANT. IT!

Lowy exits thru the trap door, down the ladder.

SANCTUARY

Lowy tries to make his escape.

CHURCH DOORS OPEN. Lowy hides under the altar.

LOWY'S POV: FOOTSTEPS COMING CLOSER AND CLOSER. Then,
Rudolf and Von Rumpf's feet.

RUDOLF (O.S.)
Someone's been playing in my dirt.

INT. CHILDREN'S BARRACKS BATHROOM - DAY

Boys in stalls, at sinks. FLUSHING. WATER RUNNING. Lowy
washes, his pendant carefully placed on his back. Abscess
enters and washes at the sink next to him.

ABSCESS
You're coming with me, right?

LOWY
I promised I would. What time?

ABSCESS
Ten. Don't be late.

Jiri and Otto enter. Jiri taunts Abscess.

JIRI
Morning, Fatso.

LOWY
Lay off him, will you?

JIRI
As soon as Otto lays off your mom.

Lowy rushes at Jiri. But he stops when Maestro appears.

MAESTRO
Line up.

EXT./INT. ELDERLY BARRACKS - TRACKING

Lowy enters the dilapidated building. QUIET MOANING.
Smell of incontinence, illness, death makes him nauseous.
He searches each bunk, stuffed with pathetic old people.

His face lights up when he spots Babička. He hugs and
kisses her, sits next to her, holds her hand.

LOWY
Babička, are you eating?

She just offers her pleasant, distant smile.

OLD JEWISH MAN
None of us are.
(perplexes Lowy)
Murmelstein cut our food rations.
Medicine too.

LOWY
Why would he do that?

OLD JEWISH MAN
So you young people can get more.

LOWY
That's the meanest thing I've ever
heard.

OLD JEWISH MAN
He's right to do it. You're our
hope.

LOWY
THE MEANEST THING!

LATER - OUTSIDE ELDERLY BARRACKS

Lowy exits, wiping tears. Then, he remembers something. He takes the *Sefer Yetzirah* out of his satchel and pages through it until he finds: DIAGRAM OF A CALF.

INT. BELL TOWER

On wall, Isaac completes his drawing: A CALF, WITH INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO MAKE ONE.

Lowy comes through the trap door.

LOWY

I want to make a --

He stops in his tracks, dumbfounded that Isaac anticipated the purpose of his visit.

LOWY (CONT'D)

-- calf.

ISAAC (V.O.)

The *Tzaddik* can create an entire world if he wishes.

LOWY

Help me make a calf and I'll create your Golem.

ISAAC (V.O.)

Your Golem. He need not be created. He is here.

Lowy takes a step back, looks around.

ISAAC (V.O.)

You need only guide him to good.

LOWY

How?

ISAAC (V.O.)

Climb the ladder --

LOWY

-- Of nothingness. How?

ISAAC (V.O.)

What can the eyes in the back of your head see?

LOWY

I don't have --

ISAAC (V.O.)
 -- WHAT DO THEY SEE?

LOWY
 Nothing.

ISAAC (V.O.)
 Nothingness.

Isaac closes Lowy's eyes. LOWY'S POV:

EIGENGRAU SCREEN WITH PHOSPHENES FLOATING ABOUT

ISAAC (V.O.)
 What do you see?

LOWY (V.O.)
 Black.

ISAAC (V.O.)
Eigengrau, the color of the
 absence of light. And phosphenes.

LOWY (V.O.)
 Are they those floaties swimming
 around?

ISAAC (V.O.)
 Now look with the eyes you do not
 have in the back of your head...

LOWY (V.O.)
 But --

ISAAC (V.O.)
 -- LOOK!

Eigengrau Screen turns to a...

BLACK SCREEN

LOWY (V.O.)
 Nothingness!

BACK TO SCENE

Lowy opens his eyes.

LOWY
 Then what?

ISAAC (V.O.)
Chashmal.

LOWY

(epiphany)

Silent Speech! Not out loud. In my head, like you do.

(beat)

What should I tell Yousef?

ISAAC (V.O.)

Guide him to good. But he will not listen until he trusts you.

LOWY

If I'm the *Tzaddik*, why wouldn't he trust me?

ISAAC (V.O.)

When the Maharal de-commissioned Yousef's body in the synagogue attic, he trapped his soul. Five hundred years is a long time for a soul to be stuck in a little room.

LOWY

Golems don't have souls.

ISAAC (V.O.)

Not until the supernal energy of Shabbat surged through Yousef's body. It charged him with one. And free will, the very essence of a soul. The power to pursue love and beauty and justice. But also vengeance and destruction and... evil. The Golem will not allow you to guide him to good, let alone take on his human form, until he trusts you will not decommission him as the Maharal did.

LOWY

(shouts to the room)

I WON'T, YOUSEF! PROMISE!

ISAAC (V.O.)

He requires a covenant.

LOWY

What's a covenant?

ISAAC (V.O.)

What kind of a Jew are you?

Lowy looks at a clock: 10:00AM.

LOWY
Abscess! I'm late!

Isaac throws Lowy the pendant. He puts it on, and heads for the trap door.

ISAAC (V.O.)
A COVENANT!

INT./EXT. SMALL FORTRESS - CELL BLOCK A

Lowy stands next to a crying Abscess in front of father's cell. Abscess' Father grips his son's hands thru bars.

ABSCCESS' FATHER (O.S.)
I need you to be brave.

While Abscess and his Father talk, Lowy closes his eyes until he can no longer hear them. The gem pulses yellow under his shirt.

LOWY'S POV: NOTHING TO NOTHINGNESS

EIGENGRAU SCREEN WITH PHOSPHENES

Then...

BLACK SCREEN

BACK TO SCENE

Lowy opens his eyes. The cell door give way. Everyone is in a shock for a moment. Then...

ABSCCESS
(whispers)
Let's go!

Abscess' Father hesitates. Looks around. No guards.

ABSCCESS' FATHER
It's a trap.

ABSCCESS
No.
(discreetly)
Lowy's the Tzaddik.

Abscess' Father looks at Lowy, who neither confirms or denies.

ABCESS (CONT'D)
He can bring the Golem back to
life. To help you escape.

ABCESS' FATHER
Listen to me.

Abscess, really crying now, tries to pull his father out
of the cell.

ABCESS
Dad, please.

ABCESS' FATHER
LISTEN! Both of you. Even if I
were to escape, they'd retaliate.
Against you. Your Mother. The men
in my barracks. The boys in yours.
(looks at Lowy)
Resist this evil. But be smart
about it. They musn't never know
it's you.

Abscess' Father hugs Abscess.

ABCESS' FATHER (CONT'D)
Abyssinia.

ABCESS
Abyssinia.

COURTYARD - CONTINUOUS

Rudolf and Von Rumpf watch Abscess wipe away tears, Lowy
pat him on the back.

RUDOLF
The blacksmith's son. He wasn't on
the list. Find out who his
bunkmate is.

EXT. MAIN SQUARE - CONTINUOUS

Abscess and Lowy approach the anxiously-waiting Emanuel,
Hanus, Sam and Paz. As always, Bubble their mascot is
there too. Behind them, the completed gallows.

HANUS
Everyone's to be in the square at
noon.

ABSCESS

(lip quivers)

I better go find my mom. Can
someone come with me?

Hanus, Emanuel and Abscess exit.

SAM

(to Lowy)

The drawing you did in Friedl's
class. You knew.

PAZ

(bitter)

Of course he knew. He's the
Tzaddik.

LOWY

I don't know everything. I need
your help.

PAZ

Forget it.

LOWY

I need to make a covenant.

PAZ

What?

LOWY

In the Torah, how did the Jews
make a covenant with God?

PAZ

You don't know that?

LOWY

I SAID I DON'T KNOW EVERYTHING. I
DO KNOW WE ALL WANT TO SAVE
ABSCESS' FATHER. SO STOP BEING A
SCHMUCK FOR ONCE AND TELL ME, HOW
DID THE JEWS MAKE A --

PAZ

-- B'RIT MILAH!

(quizzical look)

"And God commanded Abraham: Every
male shall be circumcised. Take
the flesh of the foreskin and -- "

LOWY

-- GOT IT! Do you know how to do
one?

PAZ
A *bris*? Do I look like a *mohel*?

SAM
Yes.

PAZ
Why?

LOWY
I need to make a covenant. With
Yousef.

PAZ
(makes a "snip, snip"
gesture)
You're not --
(gets a head shake)
What kind of a Yid --?

LOWY
-- I'm about to be a better one.

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. CANTEEN

They sneak into the kitchen, search through drawers. Lowy
finds a chopping knife. He smiles, then cringes.

EXT./INT. CHURCH SANCTUARY

The three sneak down the cellar steps, careful to avoid
the gathering crowd in the square.

SANCTUARY

Lowy pulls the priest's chair to the altar, stands on it.
He crouches down, trying to figure out how all of this is
going to work. Paz, with chopping knife in his hand...

PAZ
This is awkward.

SAM
Yeah...

PAZ
What if I miss?

LOWY
Please don't.

LOWY'S POV: He looks straight ahead the whole time. He stands back up on chair, drops his drawers, crouches down at just the right level so his penis rests on the altar.

Sam, standing with her back to them, cringes.

Paz, drenched in sweat, pulls Lowy's foreskin, winds up.

PAZ

*Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu
Melech haolam, asher kid'shanu
b'mitzvotav v'tzivenu al hamilah.*

And then he aborts.

PAZ (CONT'D)

I CAN'T!

SAM

Give it to me.

CUT TO:

SLICE! SCREAM FROM LOWY ECHOES ACROSS TIME AND SPACE

An ethereal, warm blue light we haven't seen before spreads throughout the entire space like paint, giving Lowy, Paz, and Sam a profound sense of calm and peace.

Then, in an instant, it's gone.

PAZ

(indicates foreskin)
What do we do with the...

SAM

I did my job. You take care of it.

PAZ

(to Lowy)
You don't want it?

LOWY

For what?

PAZ

I don't know. Keepsake?

EXT. MAIN SQUARE - LATER

AERIAL SHOT: Thousands of Jews pack every inch of square.

A procession makes its way through crowd to gallows:
Abscess' Father, some SS soldiers, Murrelstein, Rudolf,
Von Rumpf, the HANGMAN.

BACK TO MAIN SQUARE

In the crowd, Sam and Paz monitor Lowy, with his eyes
closed, concentrating very hard. He opens them.

LOWY

Too much noise.

Lowy notices "MDCCCV" above the Church doors. Epiphany.

LOWY (CONT'D)

(to Sam)

Hum.

SAM

What?

LOWY

Just hum.

Sam hums.

LOWY (CONT'D)

Lower.

SAM

I'm a girl.

PAZ

You are?

LOWY

(to Paz)

Chant, "KÄRV."

Paz adds his MANTRA to Sam's contra-alto HUMMING. Lowy
closes his eyes and concentrates harder.

LOWY'S POV: NOTHING TO NOTHINGNESS

EIGENGRAU SCREEN WITH PHOSPHENES.

Then it goes to...

BLACK SCREEN

LOWY (V.O.)

"Climb the ladder of Nothingness.
Bridle your mouth from thinking.

And if your heart runs, return to
the Three Mothers..."

QUICK FLASHES: Of Friedl, Vera, Regina. Back to...

BLACK SCREEN

LOWY (V.O.)
"The Three Fathers..."

QUICK FLASHES: Of Lowy's Father, Maestro, Freddie Hirsch.
Back to...

BLACK SCREEN

LOWY (V.O.)
"The Earth, Water, Air..."

QUICK FLASHES: Of Lowy, Sam, Paz. Back to...

BLACK SCREEN

LOWY (V.O.)
"The Three Planets, orbiting..."

QUICK FLASHES: OF Abscess, Emanuel, Hanus. Back to...

BLACK SCREEN

LOWY (V.O.)
"Flee the enemies: liver, tongue,
gall."

QUICK FLASHES: Murrelstein, Von Rumpf, Rudolf.

END BLACK SCREEN

Lowy opens his eyes. He, Sam, Paz watch as the "MDCCCV"
over the Church doors changes to "EMET" (in Hebrew).

They see Isaac in the Bell Tower.

Procession passes by Abscess and Abscess' Mother and onto
the stage. Abscess looks back to Lowy with pleading eyes.
Do something!

From his satchel, Lowy pulls his tiny memo book out and
rips a piece of paper out of it. He writes a single word.
A trembling Paz, realizing Lowy "knows," whispers...

PAZ
The true name of *Hashem*...

Paz tries to look. THUNDER. Lowy puts paper under tongue.

LOWY
 (mumbled, to Paz)
 Chant "SUFAH." And hold hands.
 Earth...

Lowy takes Sam's hand.

LOWY (CONT'D)
 Water.

Sam extends her hand to Paz. Unhappily he takes it.

LOWY (CONT'D)
 Air.

Soul of Yousef appears over them as a demonic Spector.

As Abscess' Father and the Hangman walk into position on gallows, dark clouds roll in. It begins to RAIN, and then POUR, and then HAIL huge ice balls. A WHIRLWIND threatens to blow everyone on the gallows off of it.

Hangman looks to Rudolf. Rudolf hesitates.

VON RUMPF
 Harden...

Rudolf gestures to Hangman for him to proceed.

Lowy closes his eyes and climbs to nothingness. Right to:

YOUSEF'S POV: The Spector of Yousef flies over the crowd to the gallows, casting a yellow glow over stage. As the Hangman places noose over head of Abscess' Father, Yousef knocks Abscess' Father off the gallows onto ground below.

LIGHTENING HITS STAGE. TRAP DOOR OPENS. Hangman falls. The noose falls over his own head on the way down. COLLECTIVE SCREAM OF HORROW as Hangman swings. He reaches to his neck in vain. GASPING until he's dead.

SUSTAINED THUNDER and LIGHTING ILLUMINATE SQUARE. Thousands of Jews stampede back to their Barracks.

FADE TO:

INT. ELDERLY BARRACKS - DAY

Elderly residents ecstatically feast on a roasted calf. Lowy smiles at Babicka and Old Man having their fill. Then, severe stomach pain overtakes him. He exits.

INT. CHILDREN'S BARRACKS BATHROOM - DAY

INTERCUT: WITH HEYDRICH IN BERLIN/ENROUTE TO PRAGUE

A) BATHROOM STALL -- Lowy, in pain, PUSHES on the toilet.

B) NEW REICH CHANCELLERY -- Heydrich gives ADOLF HITLER the Nazi salute.

C) BATHROOM STALL -- Lowy looks down, surprised. Cringing and holding his breath, he goes in for the new prize.

D) CAR -- Heydrich waves DRIVER to go.

E) BATHROOM SINK -- Lowy washes the Chrysoberyl Gem: HALF RED AND HALF BLACK WITH THIN WHITE STRIP BETWEEN THEM, WITH A WHITE "EYE" ON BLACK HALF.

Suddenly, Lowy hears (not in head) RADIO STATIC:

PRESIDENT BENEŠ (V.O)

"Commence Operation Anthropoid at once. Over."

OTTO'S POV: Looking at Lowy's back between stall crack.

CZECH RESISTANCE LEADER (V.O.)

"Rodger. Please reconsider. Will have terrible repercussions with Butcher of Prague. Over."

G) CAR -- Heydrich looks out window, uneasy.

H) ANOTHER BATHROOM STALL -- Otto, standing on the toilet, peeks over stall. Big eyes. Talking gem!?

PRESIDENT BENEŠ (V.O)

"Rodger. Best way to improve bargaining position with Allies here in London. Direct Order: Commence Operation Anthropoid at once. Over and Out."

Lowy turns around. No one there. He exits. Otto comes out of the stall with a smug look.

END OF EPISODE