

"JULIA"

BERLIN , DURING WORLD WAR II

INT. RESTAURANT CAFE ALBERINI- A SMOKE FILLED RESTAURANT ABUZZ WITH MERRY DINERS

Lily spots Julia at a booth wearing common clothes, defying her wealthy upbringing.

Lily goes to table where Julia is sitting. They sit together and hold hands.

JULIA

Fine, fine, I've ordered caviar, we'll celebrate. Albert had to send out for it but he won't be long. Oh look at you, just look at you.

LILY

Tell me what to say to you.

JULIA

It's alright. Everything's fine. Nothing will happen now.

LILY

How long do we have?

JULIA

Not long.

LILY

You still look like nobody else. Why do you have crutches?

JULIA

I've got a false leg.

Lily looks under the table and Julia shows her the wooden apparatus that is now her leg. She shows how it is hinged at the ankle.

JULIA (CONT'D)

No tears Lily.

LILY

I'm sorry.

JULIA

It's done. That's what it is.

LILY
When?

JULIA
You know when. You were there, in Vienna . No tears, there's no time.

LILY
I'm sorry.

They hold each other's hands on the table.

JULIA
Your fingers are cold, here.

Julia warms Lily's hands between hers and breathes on them.

LILY
They took the candy box. A man and a woman.

JULIA
That's right, everything's fine.

Lily removes a handkerchief from her purse and dabs at her eyes.

JULIA (CONT'D)
Now what I want you to do is take off your hat as if it were too hot in here. Lily, listen to me, you're not listening.

LILY
I'm listening, I am.

JULIA
Take off your hat, comb your hair, and put your hat on the seat between us. Do as I tell you.

Lily removes her hat and sets it down between them. Julia folds her coat nonchalantly over it.

JULIA (CONT'D)
Who are you with in Paris? Good friends?

LILY
Yes good friends. They don't know anything about this.

JULIA
Take out your comb.

LILY

My comb...(She fumbles through her purse.)Oh, I still carry too much.

JULIA

There it is. Take it out and use it. You look so very well. I read your play.

LILY

Did you like it? "The Children's Hour?"

JULIA

I'm proud of you. It was wonderful.

LILY

My second one failed

JULIA

I know, I heard. So you're writing your third?

LILY

I'm writing it.

JULIA

I'm going to the toilet, you come with me. If the waiter tries to come and help, you wave him away.

Julia slowly rises, gripping her crutches and holding the coat with the hat inside under her arm.

JULIA (CONT'D)

(Slightly louder to be overheard)

It's alright, I can do it. The leg doesn't fit properly. I think it belonged to someone else. It has their initials on it.

LILY

Oh my God.

JULIA

Act gay. Can you act gay?

Albert, the waiter approaches with a plate of delicious caviar and crackers.

JULIA (CONT'D)

Ooh, Vielen Dank. Albert, dies ist meine beste Freundin an.

Lily and the waiter, Albert, shake hands.

JULIA (CONT'D)
Sie ist ein berühmter.

Julia leads the way to the bathroom. Lily opens the door for her and Julia struggles to get inside with the crutches and the coat tucked under her arm. Lily waits by the door, partly listening, contemplating a cigarette and observing the various patrons, some of which might just be on to her and Julia's ploy. Julia emerges a moment later.

JULIA (CONT'D)
The German public toilets are always so clean, so much cleaner than ours in America.

They get to the table which Albert pulls out to allow Julia to get inside easier.

JULIA (CONT'D)
(Speaks German to the waiter.)

They sit down at the table which now has caviar, cheese and a variety of crackers along with two glasses of water.

JULIA (CONT'D)
I want you to know that you've been better than a good friend to me. You have done something important. We can save 500 people, maybe a 1000 if we can bargain right.

LILY
Jews?

JULIA
About half are Jews. Political people. We can only do today, what we can do today. And today, you did it for us.

Lily takes a long drink.

JULIA (CONT'D)
Do you need something stronger?

LILY
No.

JULIA
Do you have a photograph of Hammett?

LILY

Yes. I do. I have one. (She searches through her purse) I wrote you about him. Did you get that letter? Do you get my letters?

JULIA

Some.

LILY

Here. (She hands Julia the photograph.)

JULIA

I like his face, tell me what he is. (She hands the photograph back to Lily.)

LILY

He's remarkable, difficult. It's not simple together. I don't know how to describe him. He's an extraordinary kind of American man. I want you to meet him.

JULIA

I want to. I'm coming to New York.

LILY

When?

JULIA

I'll be coming in a few months. I have to get a better leg. (Sees someone out the window.) We have to talk fast now, there isn't much time. I need you to do something else for me. I have a baby. I'll bring her with me when I come to New York . I want to leave her with you.

LILY

A little girl? Where is she?

JULIA

She's across the border in Alsace. She lives with a baker's family. (She searches her purse for a photograph.) I can see her whenever I can cross over but she shouldn't be in Europe . It ain't a place for a baby these days.

Julia hands her a small wallet with the photo inside.

LILY

What's her name?

JULIA

Lily. She's fat, she's handsome, she's very healthy. She's nearly one year old, and I don't even mind that she looks like my mother.

LILY

I'll take care of her.

JULIA

Oh, I won't stay away long. I won't last much longer in Europe . The crutches make me too noticeable. You won't have to worry about anything, there's enough money.

LILY

That doesn't matter, you know that.

JULIA

The father won't disturb you. He doesn't want anything to do with the baby or with me. I don't know why I did him. I don't care. The baby's good.

LILY

What is it? Why is it like this?

JULIA

Are you as angry now as you used to be?

LILY

Mm-hmm, I try not to be but there you are.

JULIA

I like your anger.

LILY

You're the only one who does then.

JULIA

Don't let anyone talk you out of it. The man whose going to take care of you has just come into the street. He'll make sure you get on the train safely. And there'll be somebody that will stay with you until you get to Warsaw tomorrow morning.

LILY

I don't want to leave you. No, I want to stay with you couple more minutes.

JULIA

No something might still go wrong. We can't be sure who anyone is anymore. Now I want you to stand up, take your hat. Listen to me. Put your hat back on, say good bye to me and then go.

Lily stands up.

LILY

I'll take care of Lily. It will be wonderful.

JULIA

Put your hat on. (Julia lifts the hat from the bench and extends it to Lily) hat on. Yes, my beloved friend, leave.

Lily exits.