

THE STOLEN DREAM

Based on a true story.
Written by Evelyn von Warnitz

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FADE IN:

SUPER 1987.

EXT. EGELSBACH. PRIVATE AIRPORT AREA. - DAY

We hear the vibrational noise of private jet engines. A rush of arrivals and departures. Well-dressed business people get out of the airplanes, hurry to the Airport Center's business lounge.

Close to the Airport Center.

We discover a man in a hangar hall repairing private jets, wearing a blue baseball hat and a blue uniform.

We ZOOM IN and watch his back. On the back we read "Privatflughafen Egelsbach".

We hear the engines of continuously active private jets. The man in the blue uniform stops working, dries his forehead with a towel.

Coolly he watches the private jets climbing up the sky like birds as he leans on the airscrew of the broken private jet.

FADE IN:

SUPER 1945.

EXT. A FOREST CLOSE TO ROTHENBURG o.d. TAUBER. - DAY

A forest close to a little town in Germany, a few weeks before the end of World War 2.

We see the young KARL (16, skinny, black hair) hastingly, carrying a bag and a gas lamp, through the forest. His face shows the starvation of weeks, his clothes are worn out.

Sweaty he stops in front of a little mountain, bends down, afraid he looks around, breathing fast.

He opens a little door made of leaves and jumps in the mountain hole. In the darkness he turns on the little lamp, sits down, and dries his sweaty face.

His body starts to shake, he starts crying, prays.

KARL

Dear GOD, please, please protect me. --

Loudly shouting, we hear a dominant voice of a NAZI officer.

NAZI OFFICER (V.O.)

Einer links, einer rechts! Der
Rest verteilt sich und durchkämmt
das Gebiet!

A group of soldiers continue their search through the forest.

BLACK SCREEN.

INT. ROTHENBURG o.d. TAUBER. KARL'S HOME. - NIGHT

In a living room which clearly shows the damages of a horrible war.

ELEONORE, 37, blond hair, skinny, wearing a wrecked-up dress, kneeling down in tears, her hands together for a prayer.

ELEONORE

Dear GOD, please take away the evil
In this country! Keep your angels
around Karl---

Sadly she steps in the kitchen. Her hungry view goes around. Just two potatoes and a little piece of bread for dinner are on the table. Tiredly she takes a seat. Her skinny face gets covered with tears.

ZOOM OUT FROM ABOVE.

FADE IN:

SUPER 1943. GERMAN WAR FRONT. SOMEWHERE.

EXT. GERMAN WAR FRONT. SOMEWHERE. - NIGHT

We are in an explosive war battle. Soldiers dying in the gun fire. A group of German soldiers try to defend themselves, machine guns in their hands, while laying in an earth hole.

JULIUS, 32, short black hair, caucasian, in uniform, obviously exhausted, the dirt of the earth on his face, lays himself back.

In tears he grabs an image out of his pocket. It shows Eleonore and his children happily together on a summer day outside.

JULIUS

I love you all!--

A bomb destroys the earth hole with Julius and his soldiers. In a second he dies.

SUPER 1945.

FADE IN:

EXT. A FORREST CLOSE TO BORKEN. - NIGHT

We see the sleeping KARL in the earth cave.

Karl dreams of a joyful summer day with his parents, JULIUS and ELEONORE. They are outside, having a pick-nick. Karl plays soccer with JULIUS in the fields. ELEONORE waves a smile to both.

Abruptly he wakes up in the darkness. He hunches over, his fingers search for the lamp, tries to turn on the lamp. It takes a while until he is successful. Finally the lamp lights up the cave.

Karl looks around. It's cold. He pulls his wrecked-up coat closer. His dreamy smile turns into tears.

BLACK SCREEN.

INT. KARL'S HOME. LIVING ROOM. - DAY

We see the warming spring sun of a lovely day in May 1945 shines through the window into the living room.

We hear an agitated radio voice sound off the old radio.

RADIO ANNOUNCER

Deutschland hat kapituliert!
Der Krieg ist vorbei!

Aroused Eleonore runs in front of the radio. Loudly she calls her children.

ELEONORE

Felix! Addi! Emma! Katharina! Monika! Come down!
War is over!

Visibly touched she puts her hands on her face, tears rolling down.

ELEONORE

Thank you! Thaaank you!---

With a trembling hand she turns up the radio's volume.

RADIO VOICE

Der Krieg ist vorbei! Die Amerikaner
Und Franzosen haben den westlichen Teil
Deutschlands besetzt.--

We hear the loud steps of the hastingly children running
downstairs.

With wide open eyes Addi stares at Eleonore, touching her
shoulder.

ADDI

Mom! Is that true? War is over?

ELEONORE

Yes, it is! Hurry up, run to Karl
And get him back home!

Like hit by a honey bee, immediately and loudly shouting of joy,
Addi and Felix run out of the house to Karl's hiding place.

Joyfully Karl reunites at home with Eleonore and his siblings.

BLACK SCREEN.

SUPER. 1947.

EXT. A MINING CLOSE TO BORKEN/WESTFALEN. - DAY.

We see people hardly working in the mine. Their faces show the
dirtiness caused by their work, full of dust and coal dust.

The camera zooms on Karls face. Skinny, dirty, black coal dust all
over, nethertheless his eyes show the will to survive.

FADE IN:

INT. UNIVERSITY OF DORTMUND. MASCHINE ENGINEERING. - DAY

We have a look into a classroom.

Young students, just a few men, join the lesson.

We discover the skinny KARL, attentively listening to the professor's teachment on the last bench. Meticulously he writes down his notices on a blank paper.

We hear the professor's final sentence. He closes the lesson.

FADE IN:

EXT. DORTMUND. - EVENING

We are going through a destroyed city. A stigma of World War 2. Few people in wrecked clothes, some pushing bicycles. We follow the street ending up on a riverside.

Close to the river Karl sits down in the grass. Thoughtful he observes the riverside, looks down again. On his lap an open notice book. His pencil becomes alive.

We have a look inside the notebook.

NOTICE BOOK

(written)

Über allem liegt ein frischer Duft
von Blumen, meine Sinne geniessen
einen besonderen Reiz der Rose...

*(There is a fresh scent over all,
of flowers, enjoy my senses, this special
charm of a rose...)*

While the wind blows Karl's hair, we watch him passionately writing.

BLACK SCREEN.

SUPER 1952.

INT. UNIVERSITY OF DORTMUND. - DAY.

We see the university's hall decorated for a celebration, all seats are occupied.

At the lectern, the university dean for engineering speaks.

We discover Karl nervously sitting in the audience beside ELEONORE. His skinny hands flutter as the dean calls his name.

DEAN

Congratulations to the students
Franz Maier, Karl Budde, Max Heim!--

The audience applauds.

Obviously relieved, emotionally KARL hugs ELEONORE, gets up and hurries to the podium. The Dean congratulates Karl, shakes his hand and hands out his diploma.

We look in Karls skinny face. He smiles like a child on his first birthday receiving gifts.

FADE IN:

INT. LATER. ROTHENBURG/TAUBER. KARL'S HOME. - EVENING

We are in the living room of the 1950's while Karl joins a celebration dinner with ELEONORE and his siblings.

Potato salad and sauces are served. We hear ELEONORE saying a prayer.

ELEONORE

Dear heavenly father, we thank you for
your grace and that we are together on this
beautiful celebration day. We thank
you, you sent your angels, so Karl is
blessed to be an engineer. We thank you
to have food served, we ask for your
blessings. Amen

Loudly we hear the reply of all children AMEN.

Eleonore opens her eyes, joyful looks at Karl.

ELEONORE

So very proud of you! I do wish Julius
would be here...

Karl hunches over, takes Eleonore's hand, smiles warmly.

KARL

Mom, you KNOW he is around all time!

Smiling, he starts to join the food. We see a tear in Eleonore's
eyes. Tenderly Karl reaches out, touches Eleonore's cheek.

Eleonore dries her tears, gets up, walks to the sideboard. She
opens a drawer, takes money out of it. As she steps beside Karl,
she puts her hand with the money on Karl's hand, whispers in his
ear.

ELEONORE

(whispering)

That's for your way!

We discover 20 Deutsche Mark in Karl's hand.

BLACK SCREEN.

SUPER 1955.

EXT. FRANKFURT AM MAIN. TRAIN STATION. - DAY.

The busy train station of Frankfurt am Main. It's the year 1955.
We watch a train slowly stop, a sign on top FRANKFURT/MAIN. The
train
doors open, the travellers jump out.

In the crowd we discover Karl, carrying a suitcase. He jumps out
of the train.

Suddenly he stops, looks up to the roof made of steel, and takes a
look around. We see a shimmer of hope in his eyes.

KARL

Welcome me, my lovely future!

FADE IN:

INT. FRANKFURT AM MAIN. HOTEL ESCHENHEIMER TURM. - NIGHT

A simple hotel room. The sound of the 1950s is filling the space coming from a radio on the table. Through the window we realize the lightful advertisement of shops keeps the nightly street bright.

Comfortable Karl lays on the bed, a map of Frankfurt in his hand, some brochures of the city and shops lay closely around. We see a brochure with the title NEUAPOSTOLISCHE KIRCHE.

Karl studies the map of the Frankfurt area as he takes his job application. Seriously, he inspects the address of the company PITTLER MASCHINENFABRIK, Pittlerstrasse, Langen/Hessen, and looks back at the map.

Out of nothing, the sound of the COMEDIAN HARMONISTS reaches our ears. We hear them sing "Irgendwo auf der Welt".

[\(4\) Irgendwo auf der Welt \(Somewhere in the World\) - Comedian Harmonists - YouTube](#)

Karl jumps up, volumes up the radio, as the brochure of the church falls down. Karl bends down, takes it up, and starts reading it. We have a look together with him in the brochure.

FADE IN:

SAME SCENERY. NEXT MORNING.

We see Karl in the bathroom. He dresses up for a job interview.

Carefully he shaves while singing "Irgendwo auf der Welt, gibt's ein kleines bisschen Glück...".

Finally dressed, he takes an intense look in the mirror, a cool smile on his face.

KARL

Good morning, my name is Karl Budde.
And I would like to have a little bit of luck
of this world.--

Happily he walks back into the room, bends down in front of the bed as he saves his prayer.

KARL

Dear heavenly father, please send your
angels beside me, to guide me. Amen.