

ISABELLE'S JOURNEY

Written by

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EXT. FOREST - EVENING

A light drizzle falls over the forest as an empty dirt road slowly muddies. After a moment of stillness, three black trucks drive down the road.

BON O.S.

Okay, now!

ISABELLE, a 6 year old girl with chestnut hair in overalls and a white cotton shirt, and BON, a 6ft tall Teddybear, dart from a bush across the road and run farther into the forest.

As the drizzle turns into a downpour, the two find a cave and run inside.

INT. CAVE - EVENING

Isabelle and Bon stop to catch their breath. Bon shakes the water off his fur, as Isabelle sits against the cave wall, wringing out her hair.

She tries to warm up by rubbing herself down, her breath visible in the cold night.

ISABELLE

B-b-Bon, I'm f-fr-eezing.

Bon walks over to Isabelle and sits next to her. She hugs Bon, burying herself into him for warmth. Bon pets her.

BON

I know its rough, but you're being such a brave girl.

The cave is illuminated for a quick second by a flash of lightning. Bon looks out at the worsening storm. Another flash of lightning hits and THUNDER shakes the cave.

Isabelle lets out a scared WHINE and digs herself deeper into Bon. Bon turns back to her, then curls up into a ball as the two fall asleep.

FADE TO:

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY (PAST)

Isabelle, now dressed in a dirtied up baby blue bloomer with white accents, follows a frog hopping along a dirt road, mimicking it as she hops behind it. She trips and falls over face first into the dirt. Isabelle quickly picks herself up and hops after it again.

She passes a small humbling stone synagogue adorned with the Star of David at the center of its stone inlet. A GROUP OF CHILDREN play with a ball outside of the synagogue.

Farther down the road, she passes a rather impressive town hall flying a French flag as a GROUNDSKEEPER cleans its hardy wood exterior.

Isabelle passes numerous quaint homes ranging from charming cabins to cozy cottages. ARTHUR, a burly and hairy man in his mid 30s, emerges from one of the houses.

ARTHUR O.S.

Isabelle!

Isabelle stops and turns to Arthur as he walks up to her.

ARTHUR

Come back inside sweetie!

Isabelle runs to Arthur. With a brimming smile she points back to the frog.

ISABELLE

Pa-Pa! I followed the frog all the way up from the creek!

Arthur looks her over and lets out a CHUCKLE.

ARTHUR

Looks like the creek followed you back too.

Isabelle looks down at her dirty clothes. She reacts rather bashful upon inspection.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)

Don't you worry.

Arthur picks up Isabelle and taps her on the nose.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)

I'll sneak you in through the back and we'll have you go up and change.

Isabelle gives Arthur a big grin as he carries her into the house.

INT. ISABELLE'S LIVING ROOM - DAY (MOMENTS LATER)

SARAH, a women in her late 20s wearing a very modest yellow day dress, sits in an arm chair HUMMING the song Tefilat HaDerech while reading from the paper. We see the headline "CIVIL UNREST SPREADS FROM LOOMING GERMAN PRESENCE".

The room is relatively barren with just some family pictures hanging on the wall, a few more seats, a small table and a bookshelf packed to the brim with books on geography, nature and mystery novels.

Isabelle runs downstairs in a brand new pair of overalls and a white cotton shirt. She does a twirl to show them off, before barreling over to Sarah, jumping into her lap.

ISABELLE

These are amazing Ma-Ma! Thank you!
Thank you!

Sarah smiles and runs her hand through Isabelle's hair.

SARAH

Well we can't have you exploring
the woods in your dresses now can
we? Happy birthday.

Sarah kisses Isabelle on the head. As she does, Isabelle quickly retracts and wipes it off.

ISABELLE

Ewww! Ma-Ma stop! I'm six now!

SARAH

Awww, but even big girls need love
from their parents to grow even
bigger and stronger!

Sarah begins tickling Isabelle who lets out a fit of LAUGHTER.

ISABELLE

Ah! No! Arrêtez! I'm sorry!

Arthur enters the living room with a gift box.

ARTHUR

Wow! Who would've thought my wife
could defeat the greatest
adventurer in all of France!

Sarah stops tickling Isabelle who hops out of the chair and goes over to Arthur.

ISABELLE

You mean in the world!

Isabelle attempts to look stoic as she strikes a pose, but comes off as comical. Arthur CHUCKLES at the sight.

ARTHUR

Oui, oui my little angel. But, even the greatest adventurer needs a companion.

Arthur hands the gift box to Isabelle. She looks over it inquisitively before opening it.

As she lifts the lid off the box, a look of pure glee pours over her face. She reaches inside and pulls out a Stuffed Teddybear, looking it over in pure delight.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)

He'll make sure to keep you safe when you're out. His name is Bon.

Isabelle looks up and shakes her head in disagreement.

ISABELLE

It's Bon Peré!

Arthur gives a warm smile before nuzzling her hair.

FADE TO:

INT. CAVE - MORNING (PRESENT)

Isabelle drifts out of her sleep as a strong breeze blows through the cave, playing with her hair. The morning sun illuminates the cave in a pure white light.

Bon sleeps wrapped around Isabelle. Isabelle carefully wriggles out from Bon and walks towards the entrance.

EXT. FOREST - MORNING

Isabelle looks out at a morning forest covered in fresh dew. She closes her eyes and takes a deep breath of the morning air.

The silence of the woods is cut by the sound of BUGS, a slight breeze RATTLING BRANCHES and of a CREEK off in the distance.

Isabelle opens her eyes, looks towards the sound of the creek and heads off into the woods.

EXT. FOREST CREEK - DAY

Deeper in the forest, only illuminated by sun beams that break through the tree-line, Isabelle hops down a rocky slope towards the creek.

Now at the creek's edge, she kneels down and drinks from it. After a few sips, she leans forward and splashes her face with large handfuls of water, scrubbing it clean.

Isabelle stops and looks deep into the creek at her own reflection. She takes notice of her frazzled hair and tries fixing it. While doing so, a frog swims across the water through her reflection, catching her eye.

The frog exits the creek and hops away. Isabelle quickly finishes her hair and chases the frog through the forest.

EXT. LARGE FOREST CLEARING - DAY

The frog, with Isabelle in tow, exits into a vast clearing. As the frog continues on, Isabelle looks up to find a small old fashioned farmhouse and behind it a stone windmill.

ALICE O.S.
(BLOOD CURDLING SCREAM)

A GUNSHOT rings out bringing Isabelle's full attention to the house. The sound of a larger COMMOTION begins to emit from behind its walls.

She notices familiar black trucks parked on the side of the house. As more YELLING continues to come from inside the house, Isabel takes a slight step back.

Suddenly, the front door of the house bursts open and the commotion spills outside.

Two NAZIS exit dragging ALICE, a women in her mid 20s, towards the trucks as she struggles. A NAZI OFFICER exits carrying NATHANIEL, a 4 year old boy, towards the trucks as he barks orders.

Isabelle, startled, trips and falls over.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. ISABELLE'S FOYER - MORNING (PAST)

Sarah is using her body to barricade the front door as BANGING and YELLING can be heard from behind it.

SARAH
 (hysterically)
 Take Isabelle! Please! Just go!

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. LARGE FOREST CLEARING - DAY (PRESENT)

Isabelle sits paralyzed on the ground, looking on in fear.

More NAZIS pour out of the house. Some of them looting, while others douse the building in kerosene.

Suddenly ENZO, a man in his late 20s with bruises and a gunshot wound to the leg, desperately staggers out of the house towards Nathaniel. He reaches out, meekly grabbing hold of the Officer's shoulder.

The Officer drops Nathaniel and turns to kick Enzo to the ground. He then unsheathes his sidearm and fires two rounds into Enzo's chest.

Alice lets out a blood curdling SCREAM and desperately tries to shake loose of her captors, as Nathaniel throws himself onto Enzo. He lets out a heart shattering WAIL as he grasps desperately onto Enzo's body whilst the Officer tries to pull him off.

Isabelle's face has melted into terror.

Her hands practically tearing apart the very ground she is latched onto. She opens her mouth to let out a desperate scream, but suddenly Bon appears from behind her and covers her mouth, squelching the CRY before it can garner any attention.

He scoops her up into his arms and runs back into the forest as the farmhouse is set ablaze behind them.

EXT. FOREST CREEK - DAY

Isabelle is once again staring into the creek at her reflection. The reflection shows her unfocused, eyes cloudy. Bon's face appears in the reflection as he takes a seat.

ISABELLE

Bon...

BON

Yes?

Isabelle turns to Bon. Her eyes unable to focus as Bon sits morosely.

ISABELLE

I-I wanna go home. I wanna see Ma-
Ma and Pa-Pa.

BON

... We can't Isabelle. Nobody will
be there.

Isabelle begins to tear up as her body shakes in a panic. Her eyes start to dart around rapidly. Isabelle begins to WEEP.

ISABELLE

Wh-Why?

Bon starts to answer Isabelle, but stops. He looks out onto the creek.

BON

We're going on an adventure... like
always.

Bon wraps an arm around Isabelle and directs her attention across the creek.

BON (CONT'D)

We're going to cross the English
Channel. You always wanted to see
whats on the other side.

Isabelle snuffles, as she begins to hold back the tears.

ISABELLE

W-will we see the Queen.... or the
men with big furry hats?

Bon hops up in a burst of energy.

BON

Why the Queen herself heard of our
exploits. She's personally invited
us to explore her kingdom full of
towering stone monuments and
winding castles!

ISABELLE

And the clock named Ben?

Bon nods with a smile, then extends his hand to Isabelle.

BON

But I can't do it alone.

Isabelle, still slightly reserved in her movements, takes his hand as Bon helps her up.

ISABELLE
Will Ma-Ma and Pa-Pa be there?

Bon pauses, then kneels down and nuzzles her hair.

BON
As soon as they can.

She gives Bon a quick hug.

BON (CONT'D)
Let us be off then!

Isabelle smiles and darts up the rocky slope. She reaches the top and points triumphantly at the sky.

ISABELLE
Nothing will stop the world's
greatest adventures! Onward!

Isabelle runs off into the forest.

BON
Isabelle! The other way!

Bon waits patiently as Isabelle races back past Bon, hops across the creek and continues onward. Bon barrels after her.

ISABELLE
Onward!

EXT. FOREST - AFTERNOON

Isabelle and Bon casually stroll through the forest.

ISABELLE VO
Hey Bon.

BON VO
Yes?

ISABELLE VO
Who were those monsters back there?
(beat)
Were they vampires or ghouls?

They stop as their path is cut off by a giant rock jutting out of the ground. Isabelle tries to jump up and grasp the ledge, but comes nowhere close.

BON VO
They're... well they're not
monsters.

ISABELLE VO
Vraiment?

BON VO
They're men. And it's because
they're men that they're scary.

After a few more hops, Bon grabs her midair and raises her up
and over the ledge.

ISABELLE VO
How come?

Bon then pulls himself up. As he does, Isabelle grabs onto
his arm to help pull him up, though it is actually having no
effect.

BON VO
Monsters only desire evil, but
men... they don't act without
reason.

Once on top, Bon teases her hair and the two continue
walking.

ISABELLE VO
Why that family though? Why us?

EXT. FARMLANDS - EARLY MORNING

We see a field covered in numerous giant mounds of hay. A
caravan of black Nazi trucks pass.

BON VO
I think in this world there isn't
good and bad.

After the trucks pass, we notice movement from one of the
mounds. Bon and Isabelle poke their heads out of the hay,
looking off at the distant caravan of trucks.

BON VO (CONT'D)
I believe all people are connected
and intertwined. That life is to be
lived together.

They hop out of the hay, dust themselves off, and start
walking in the opposite direction of the trucks.

BON VO (CONT'D)

So when people begin to sever those ties, for whatever reason, they become forbidding...

EXT. RIVER - DAY

Isabelle energetically hops from rock to rock across a river, her face full of excitement.

BON VO

But I believe there is much more kindness in the world by those who remain connected than those who look to cut our strings.

Bon, behind her, traverses the rocks more carefully and appears uneasy watching Isabelle.

ISABELLE

Like how you care for me? Like Ma-ma and Pa-pa?

Isabelle stops on a rock and turns to watch Bon as he clumsily stumbles from rock to rock.

BON

Oui, Isabelle.

She LAUGHS at his awkward movements, causing her to accidentally slip and fall into the river. Fear ripples across Bon's face.

ISABELLE (PRE-LAP)

Achoo!

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Isabelle huddles in front of a small fire desperately for warmth as she wipes her nose. Her clothes are still damp. She shivers as a cold breeze passes through.

Bon puts more wood on the fire as he notices Isabelle's constant shivering.

Bon looks down at himself.

He tears a large swath of fur off his chest, exposing his thin felt skin underneath.

BON

I want you to always remember, that
love is greater than this fear.

He wraps his fur around Isabelle. A look of relief crosses
her face as the fur makes contact with her body.

BON (CONT'D)

I know once this is over, the
compassion you'll grow to find in
others, in yourself, will go on to
spread that love.

Bon takes a seat next to Isabelle. She leans against Bon
looking up at him.

ISABELLE

Hey Bon?

Bon flashes her a small grin.

BON

Yes?

Isabelle returns it with a grin of her own.

ISABELLE

I love you too.

Isabelle's eyes begin to flutter as she drifts off to sleep.

FADE TO BLACK

INT. ISABELLE'S KITCHEN - DAY (PAST)

Isabelle'S POV:

She sits eating a breakfast of eggs and bread. Across from
her sits Arthur finishing his breakfast.

SARAH O.S.

Slow down.

Sarah approaches the table. Arthur sneaks in a kiss as she
picks up his plate.

ARTHUR

Ah, I cannot help it. The food is
so delicious it just jumps into my
mouth.

Isabelle GIGGLES. Sarah bends over and comes back up with
some egg in her hand.

SARAH

Looks like the floor wanted some too.

Sarah takes the plate back to the sink.

Arthur looks to Isabelle and gives her a playful wink. Sarah returns to the table with her own breakfast.

SARAH (CONT'D)

You ready for tomorrow Isabelle?

ISABELLE

Uh-huh! I've been practicing the song with Bon!

ARTHUR

Well I'm sure you're gonna sound lovely.

Arthur gets up from the table.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)

I'll be looking over some work in the study dear.

Arthur exits the kitchen, as Sarah continues to eat her breakfast.

ISABELLE

Hey Ma-ma.

SARAH

Yes dear?

ISABELLE

What... what if I get nervous up there?

Sarah stops eating and stares at Isabelle lovingly.

SARAH

That'll never happen. My little girl is the bravest adventurer in all the world. Singing choir at Temple couldn't possibly shake her steel wits.

We hear a COMMOTION quietly off in the distance. Sarah looks towards the foyer as she notices the sound.

ISABELLE

You really think that?

We hear a soft BANG in the distance followed by some SHOUTING. Sarah apprehensively gets out of her seat.

ISABELLE (CONT'D)

Ma-ma?

Sarah exits into the foyer.

SARAH

Sorry sweetie, one moment.

Isabelle returns to eating her food as we hear the FRONT DOOR OPEN and CLOSE. The COMMOTION slowly gets louder.

After finishing her plate, Isabelle walks it over to the sink. Panicked YELLING now cracks the air as the sound of COMMOTION has grown immensely. Now noticing it, Isabelle looks around confused.

The front door OPENS and Isabelle turns towards the foyer.

Sarah rushes in slamming the door behind her. Now inside, Sarah braces the door with body.

SARAH (CONT'D)

They're coming!

Sarah looks to Isabelle.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Isabelle go!

A sudden BANGING starts from behind the front door as Sarah continues to brace it shut.

Isabelle stands still, paralyzed.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Please! Please!

Isabelle remains still as Sarah is thrown around more and more by the force being exerted on the door. People SHOUTING IN GERMAN can be heard from the other side.

Suddenly, Sarah's attention turns to something out of sight in the next room. She bites her bottom lip, trying to hold back the tears rolling down her face while shaking her head "no".

SARAH (CONT'D)

(hysterically)

Take Isabelle! Please! Just go!

We hear FOOTSTEPS coming from off in the living room. Suddenly, Isabelle is hoisted up off the ground and over a furry shoulder.

She turns to see the back of Bon's head as they make their way out the back door.

The CRACKLING OF WOOD pierces the air.

Isabelle turns back to see the front door busted open and Sarah lying on the ground, as two NAZI OFFICERS rush into the room.

Isabelle desperately reaches back towards Sarah.

ISABELLE

Ma-ma!

The Officers look over to Isabelle. They fire a couple of stray shots, as the view of the house disappears behind the dense forest leaves and Isabelle is whisked away into the woods behind her house.

Isabelle begins kicking and pounding Bon's back as the sound of the COMMOTION slowly fades into the distance.

ISABELLE (CONT'D)

Bon! Please! They need us! We have to go back! Bon! Please Bon, please!!!

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST - DAY (PRESENT)

The sound of COMMOTION continues in the distance as Isabelle, lying on the forest floor, snaps awake as Bon shakes her.

As she wakes up, we begin to hear MORTARS and GUNFIGHTING off in the distance. Smoke creeps through the forest.

BON

Isabelle! We must go!

Isabelle, still in a groggy haze, hops to her feet.

Isabelle and Bon run away from the distant fighting.

Isabelle trips on a tree root, letting out a SCREAM as she falls.

Bon rushes over to her. He takes a moment to look over her.

We see her leg has been badly bruised. Suddenly, the sound of GUNSHOTS fill the air as a volley of bullets fly past Bon.

NAZI 1 O.S.
Schnappt sie!

NAZIS O.S.
Ja!

Bon scoops up Isabelle, presses her tightly against his chest, and desperately runs away.

As they continue through the woods, shots wiz past as the distant fighting draws closer.

EXT. SHORELINE - DAY

Bon makes his way out of the forest, Isabelle in hand. The two now find themselves on the rocky inlet above a shoreline.

NAZI 1 O.S.
Schnell! Schnell!

Bon grips Isabelle tightly and descends the rocks.

Down on the beach, Bon makes a mad dash towards the water. A hail of bullets rains down around them.

NAZI 1 O.S. (CONT'D)
Erschieße sie!

As Bon makes his way into the ocean, his left leg gives out and he stumbles over into to the water, dunking Isabelle under.

He quickly pulls her back up as she GASPS for air. Bon quickly slings her around his back.

BON
Hold onto me! Whatever you do don't
let go!

Bon paddles out to sea, as Isabelle grips him out of pure panic. Stray bullets plunge into the waves around them.

As they swim farther from shore, the bullets and fighting die off until there is just the sound of the OCEAN WAVES.

EXT. OCEAN - DAY

In a vast empty ocean, under a dark grey sky, Bon lays floating on his back. Isabelle lays ovetop of him as if he were a log.

Isabelle's BREATHING is loud and wildly inconsistent as Bon's BREATHING is shallow but controlled.

ISABELLE

Bon...

Bon pets Isabelle on the head and looks deep into her eyes as she turns to face him. Her BREATHING begins to settle.

BON

Well, we made it to the Channel.

ISABELLE

B-b-but we're lost

BON

The legends of the English Channel make great stories Isabelle.

ISABELLE

What st-stories?

BON

Of fish-men. They patrol the waters atop their metal whales... Full of food and blankets to rescue travelers like us... We just need to wait patiently.

Isabelle closes her eyes and takes a DEEP BREATH. She remains like this for a few minutes, before suddenly opening her eyes.

She looks down to her leg and finds pieces of stuffing rubbing against it as they float away in a trail.

She follows the trail with her eyes to find it exiting from Bon's left leg. Her BREATHING suddenly becomes staggered again, her face pale.

ISABELLE

B-Bon your-

BON

It's fine.

ISABELLE

No... NO it's not!

BON
Stay calm Isabelle it'll be-

ISABELLE
NO! DON'T TELL ME THAT! I CAN SEE!
I CAN SEE YOU'RE HURT!

Isabelle breaks down CRYING. Bon lays there quietly, his eyes welling up with tears.

BON
Isabelle... would you sing that
song for me?

ISABELLE
Wh-what?

BON
The song you'd been practicing,
would you sing it with me?

Isabelle continues choking on her tears as she tries to force out the words. Bon takes a deep breath.

BON (CONT'D)
May we be blessed as we go on our
way. May we be guided in peace. May
we be blessed with health and joy.

Isabelle calms down, takes a deep breath.

ISABELLE / BON
Aaaaaa-men Aaaaaaa-men, may this be
your blessing Amen. Aaaaaa-men
Aaaaaaa-men, may this be your
blessing Amen.

Isabelle and Bon continue to drift out to sea as a thick fog rolls in, hiding the world around them.

ISABELLE / BON (CONT'D)
May we be sheltered by the wings of
peace. May we be kept in safety and
in love. May grace and compassion
find theirway to every soul.

EXT. OCEAN - EVENING

Isabelle and Bon drift across the open sea.

Bon is noticeably smaller and deflated, as stuffing from his wound drifts around them.

They both lie unstirred.

The ocean has calmed, as dusk rolls in.

ISABELLE / BON

Aaaaaa-men Aaaaaaa-men, may this be
your blessing Amen.

ISABELLE

Aaaaaa-men Aaaaaaa-men, may this be
your blessing Amen.

Suddenly, a SHIP HORN pierces the air. The shadow of a
battleship cuts through the fog.

Isabelle jolts out her trance and looks up at the massive
ship approaching.

ISABELLE (CONT'D)

Bon wake up! The fish-men have
arrived! They've got food and
blankets! Wake up!

She rubs Bon's face to no reaction. She freezes up and tears
begin to leak uncontrollably from her eyes. The ship has now
pulled up next to them.

SAILORS

Hey you there! // You okay?! // I
think she's alive!

ISABELLE

Stop playing around! We made it!
The Queen needs both of us!

Isabelle shakes Bon, as a rope ladder falls next to her and
SAILOR 1, a man in his mid 20's in a British Royal Navy
Uniform, makes his way down to her.

ISABELLE (CONT'D)

Please! Please wake up!

SAILOR 1

No need to worry. I gotcha.

Sailor 1 grabs Isabelle off of Bon and tugs on the ladder.

SAILOR 1 (CONT'D)

Pull us up!

ISABELLE

(hysterically)

Take Bon! Please! Just go!

The ladder reels them up. Isabelle frantically struggles to get out of Sailor 1's grasp and back to Bon.

ISABELLE (CONT'D)

Let me go! Please he needs me! Stop it! Stop it!

EXT. BATTLESHIP - EVENING

Sailor 1 hops over the railing with Isabelle in tow, placing her on the deck.

Numerous SAILORS run up to her with blankets, but she immediately staggers towards the guard rail.

As she tries to hop the rail Sailor 1 holds her back, pinning her to the ground. She continues to struggle desperately under him.

ISABELLE

Get off me!

SAILOR 1

Wait! Calm down!

ISABELLE

He needs me! I have to save him!
He's all I have! Please! Please!!
PLEASE!!!

She continues to struggle until suddenly her body gives out and becomes still.

Sailor 1 gets off her and wraps a blanket around her.

She lies still, her tears pooling on the metal deck. She lets out a WAIL as her body convulses.

Sailor 1 joins some other sailors at the guard rail, peering over it.

Floating in the blood tinged water below is Arthur, his shirt torn right down the center.

The sound of the ship's HORN rings out in the night, drowning out Isabelle's CRYING.

FADE OUT.

THE END