

SOPHIE

You're not going to trick me.

GRUNWALD

I'm not trying to--

SOPHIE

If you truly admired Schiller, you would not ban his work.

GRUNWALD

The Nazis are insecure. They don't want his words to be manipulated-

SOPHIE

"A tyrant's power has a limit"? ... That seems quite clear to me.

GRUNWALD

Is that how you saw yourself? As William Tell -- trying to save the German people?

Hitler also says he is like Tell. That he saved Germany from Versailles, the Depression-

SOPHIE

That's a lie.

GRUNWALD

Many people believe it. They say it also.

SOPHIE

Just because you repeat a lie, doesn't make it true.

Pause.

GRUNWALD

And you think because Hitler is a tyrant, you are justified in removing him from power?

(off Sophie's silence)

But does this not violate your theological beliefs? Breaking the law to-

SOPHIE

Sometimes man's evil is so great, it requires it. Like Rahab and the spies, or Christ at the Temple--

GRUNWALD

But religion rejects the use of violence.

SOPHIE

So do I.

GRUNWALD

You called on Germans to sabotage the war.

SOPHIE

Peacefully. I never wanted anyone to get hurt.

GRUNWALD

But people have been hurt. They have been killed--

SOPHIE

(cutting him off)

Not by us. And look at how many Hitler has killed. Poles, and Jews--

GRUNWALD

Ah - the *Jews*. So that is what this is / about-

SOPHIE

No. We said in the pamphlets -- we won't defend or apologize.

GRUNWALD

But isn't that what you're doing?

SOPHIE

...It is one thing to strip them of their influence. It is another to kill them, to massacre them. They are people - no matter what you *think* they have done--

GRUNWALD

No one is killing them.

Pause. Sophie looks at him.

SOPHIE

What?

GRUNWALD

No one is killing them. The Jews are being resettled.

SOPHIE

They are being killed. Everyone knows that. My brother saw--

GRUNWALD

So this *is* about the Jews?

SOPHIE

No -- and it's not just the Jews. We are killing Russians, *Germans* -- children born without limbs. The SS is committing heinous atrocities in our name / and-

GRUNWALD

And what about the good things Hitler has done? The economy? The Anschluss? The investment in--

SOPHIE

I want good things, yes. But not at the benefit of Hitler-

GRUNWALD

But they came *because* of Hitler. Because the patriot and the republican cannot co-exist.

SOPHIE

Well, the Anschluss, the economy -- after this war, we'll have neither - believe me. ...

He turns to her.

GRUNWALD

You are too young to remember what it was like -- before. No food, no heat, hoping to survive the night.

Your family robbed on the street. Waiting hours in line. Your child is starving -- he cannot sleep. That was democracy - *that* was death. Hitler was a way out. We did not know what he truly intended--

SOPHIE

You say that now - that you were tricked. But he told you -- he *showed* you what he would do -- in his book, his speeches. He murdered people - *German* people - and life went on like it was the most natural thing in the world.

She looks at him.

SOPHIE

I loved him, too. I begged my parents to take me to the rallies -- the marches. But I *was* too young. I could not understand. ... But you did. All of you. You knew, and you did nothing.

GRUNWALD

There was nothing to do. Hitler cannot be stopped-

SOPHIE

Only because Germany is made of men like you.

This affects Grunwald.

GRUNWALD

And you would condemn me? Without even knowing me--

SOPHIE

Yes.

GRUNWALD

Then what makes you any different from them?

She looks at him.

SOPHIE

If it's true -- that you don't support Hitler, then why are you here? Why are you doing this?

GRUNWALD

Because it's my job.

SOPHIE

To kill children?

GRUNWALD

(harsher)

You are not children. And you have violated the law.

SOPHIE

And you think that should be a crime -- to voice a different opinion?

GRUNWALD

The way you have? Yes.

SOPHIE

The law is unjust.

GRUNWALD

The law is the law. Without order - without rules, we have nothing. What is the alternative?

SOPHIE

A democratic government.

GRUNWALD
 And governed by laws?

SOPHIE
 The laws would be just.

GRUNWALD
 Because you say so?

SOPHIE
 No, because-

GRUNWALD
 And people who decide that the law is unjust - in your new society - are they free to break it? To make their own laws-

SOPHIE
 There are certain things that are right and wrong.

GRUNWALD
 Such as?

SOPHIE
 Thou shalt not kill, thou shalt not steal-

GRUNWALD
 So God should decide the law?

SOPHIE
 Those are not just from God. We are born knowing them. Like Kant, his universal truths.

GRUNWALD
 But someone must codify these laws, yes? Write them down-

SOPHIE
 A government -- of the people.

GRUNWALD
 But the people chose Hitler. They elected him.

SOPHIE
 And then he seized power.

GRUNWALD
 It has been *10 years* since Hitler came to power. 10 years. And besides you - besides a group of university students - no one has publicly opposed him.

SOPHIE

They are too scared. The SS, the Gestapo, they rounded everyone up-

GRUNWALD

This is a country of 80 million, Ms. Scholl. The SS, the Gestapo - they are tens of thousands. Do you really think they can control 80 million?

A pause.

GRUNWALD

Do you know what happened to the leaflets you distributed? They were turned *in* to the Gestapo.

People did not keep them, they did not read them. They did not rally to your cause. They turned them over, so the Nazis would hunt you -- and kill you.

So perhaps the people have chosen the leader -- and the law -- that they want.

A show of doubt from Sophie.

SOPHIE

...perhaps.

GRUNWALD

(sharply)

So how can you be sure that you are right, Ms. Scholl, when you are unsure of so much else?

She collects her thoughts.

SOPHIE

...My father used to say there are two kinds of people in the world: those who ask questions, and those who answer them. The Nazis have the answer to every question. I remain someone who asks them.

GRUNWALD

And yet you do not question your own actions. The harm you have caused--

SOPHIE

What harm have I-

GRUNWALD

You have undermined our soldiers. If a soldier does not believe in his cause, he will lose faith -- he will lose hope. And one day, he will meet an enemy who has those things, and he will not survive--

SOPHIE

The war is wrong.

GRUNWALD

It does not matter if it is wrong; it is what his country has asked of him.

SOPHIE

That is why we must end the war. So our soldiers can come home--

GRUNWALD

And be ruled by Russia? The British? Because that is what awaits us if we lose this--

SOPHIE

Removing Hitler is the only way to preserve Germany. To restore our--

GRUNWALD

And what of those who've already died? Who've given their lives for Germany. What did they die for?

SOPHIE

For nothing. No -- for worse. For evil.

Grunwald seethes.

GRUNWALD

So what should they have done? Refused to fight?

SOPHIE

Yes.

GRUNWALD

Then they would have been killed.

SOPHIE

That's better than becoming a killer-

GRUNWALD

What about your brother -- Hans?

SOPHIE

He was a medic. He saved lives.

GRUNWALD

Which allowed the war to continue. And your other brother -- Werner. And your boyfriend -- Fritz. They are fighting - they are killing. Why don't they-

SOPHIE

They are not part of The White Rose.

GRUNWALD

Then who is? Who were your accomplices; who were the other cells?

(off her silence)

And you, Ms. Scholl. You manufactured munitions. Munitions that killed people. You picked crops, and helped the war effort--

SOPHIE

I was forced to--

GRUNWALD

You could have said no. You could have let them jail you / or--

SOPHIE

I have been weak--

GRUNWALD

You are not weak. You are a liar -- and a fraud. It is easy for you to condemn others, to send them to their deaths, *but when it is your time to choose*, when death comes for you -- you save yourself, just like all the rest.

He stops, composes himself.

Then he picks up a file, and resumes the interrogation.

GRUNWALD

Was Willi Graf involved in founding The White Rose?

(pause)

How vast was your network? How many people were involved?

Sophie is silent.

GRUNWALD

The Gestapo will *make* you answer these questions. They will do it with pain. I will do it with truth.

Sophie gestures to the confession.

SOPHIE

Please. I've told you everything--

Grunwald takes the paper, reads it.

GRUNWALD

“I purchased 10,000 sheets of paper and copied each leaflet by hand ...*I alone* typed the addresses ... *I* took the express train to Ausburg and mailed them ... *I* placed the leaflets in telephone books, parked autos...”

A beat. Grunwald looks at Sophie’s confession, then throws it to the floor.

GRUNWALD

Up.

SOPHIE

What are / you-

GRUNWALD

Stand up! Against the wall.

He forcefully places her against the wall.

GRUNWALD

You will stand there, Ms. Scholl -- your hands at your side, your feet straight ahead. You will not move, you will not drink, you will not sleep -- you will not do anything until you tell me everything I want to know.

Blackout.

SCENE FOUR

VOICE

Hitler can’t win this war, he can only prolong it.

VOICE

Do you want to suffer the same fate that befell the / Jews?

VOICE

Every word that comes from Hitler's mouth is a / lie.

VOICE

Why do you stay silent in the face of all these / crimes?