

Free Antigone in Munich by Claudia I. Haas (1m, 1f) – 2nd scene

SOPHIE and ALEX are sketching. They are college friends. ALEX has become a member of the White Rose Society which is still a secret from SOPHIE.

(The lights change and SOPHIE moves to ALEX'S home. SOPHIE (age 21) is sketching ALEX and ALEX is sculpting or sketching. It is May, 1942.)

SOPHIE

I want a world where this is all we do.

ALEX

After the war.

SOPHIE

So many things are “after the war.” Turn left.

ALEX

Not my best side.

SOPHIE

Right then. A little more.

(SOPHIE is not happy with the pose and gets up and gently puts her hand on his cheek, moving his head. ALEX briefly touches her hand. It briefly affects them. SOPHIE sits back down.)

Don't move.

ALEX

Are you admiring my classical Roman profile?

SOPHIE

Peculiar.

ALEX

Sorry?

SOPHIE

I drew you looking like Peter Pan.

ALEX

That English boy who is determined to remain a boy?

SOPHIE

Yes.

ALEX

My Russian soul is wounded.

SOPHIE

Your Russian soul is delicate.

ALEX

Forget the profile. Try me full-faced - as a thinker! Look at my eyes! Do they remind you of Tolstoy!

(ALEX poses)

Or an artist? Do I look “soulful” enough for you?

(ALEX poses)

Or better yet – the man who is one with the great outdoors! That is how I want to be remembered!

SOPHIE

Remembered?

ALEX

Later. When I am old and white-bearded.

SOPHIE

After you have grown up!

ALEX

Out of the mouth of a schoolgirl.

SOPHIE

Is that how you see me?

ALEX

No. There are no more Peter Pans. We grew up before we left Primary School.

SOPHIE

No wonder I yearn for childhood. Maybe after the war, I will rediscover it.

ALEX

After the war, I will return to Russia. It is there that I will become the man I wish to be.

SOPHIE

Will you practice medicine in Russia?

ALEX

I will be an artist.

SOPHIE

Yet you study medicine.

ALEX

There is no propaganda in medicine. Its facts cannot be twisted to suit the political climate. For now, I am better suited to medicine. Its facts are not under attack. But when I am free – I will sculpt. I will live out in the country with my clay and stone and find what is hidden inside. It will be a simple life,

SOPHIE

You? Leading a simple life? Alex - with his wining and dining and concerts/

ALEX

/Diversions, Sophie. They are ways to black-out the outside world. But when the war is over, I will return to what is dear to me. Art. Russian literature. Nature.

(Beat)

What will you do after the war? When you're all grown up?

SOPHIE

Listen to American jazz – cranked up loudly on the phonograph! Buy every banned book legally and read them all! Put huge amounts of jam on bread because it isn't rationed!

ALEX

/But – what will you *do*?

SOPHIE

Live peace. Teach peace. In the mountains where you can touch the sky.

ALEX

You're a dreamer.

SOPHIE

I've wanted to bring the natural world to people since I was knee-high. "Keep true to the dreams of your youth."

ALEX

That's a Russian ideal.

SOPHIE

Hardly! A German quote! Friedrich von Schiller. It's truth. You can be forty, fifty and beyond and still hold on to your early dreams. My body will age. My dreams won't.

ALEX

May they still be intact later – when all this ends.

SOPHIE

They will be. It's what keeps me sane.

ALEX

We should play a game... “when the war ends, I will...”

SOPHIE

“When Hitler loses, I will get my country back.”

ALEX

Sophie ... that statement is treasonous.

SOPHIE

Not here! Not in your apartment. “When Hitler loses, we will be allowed freedom of thought.”

ALEX

Be careful, my dear.

SOPHIE

“When Hitler loses, we will rebuild.” Your turn.

ALEX

Sophie ...

SOPHIE

He must lose. It's the only way Germany can win. Have you read these? I've been meaning to show them to you. He teaches peace. With hard truths.

(SOPHIE brings some papers to ALEX.)

ALEX

(They both hold the letters for a moment.)

Bishop Galen's sermons. Yes. I have copies. It's a wonder the Gestapo hasn't arrested him.

SOPHIE

“Deporting the mentally ill to the great unknown never to be heard from again.” *Are we doing that? Killing innocents that have no defense?* Thou shall not kill. Thou shall not kill. Thou shall not kill. It’s all through his sermons. And yet, we kill - the most vulnerable.

ALEX

Take care where you share these.

SOPHIE

Do you do what I do? Share small snippets of conversation, listen to someone’s humor and then try to decide what side they’re on.

ALEX

We all do that. It’s how we found each other.

SOPHIE

I don’t remember a world where we didn’t do that. I want a world where we talk, rail against the world, go home and no one gets arrested.

ALEX

I love the beauty of your convictions.

SOPHIE

Alex?

ALEX

Just appreciating ... what’s good.

SOPHIE

I should/

ALEX

/Yes/

SOPHIE

/It’s getting late and I have a 9 a.m. lecture tomorrow.

ALEX

Sophie. (Pause.) Talk to Hans tomorrow.

SOPHIE

I always talk to him.

ALEX

There are things you should know.

SOPHIE

What?

ALEX

Talk to him.