

OPEN WINDOW

BY

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OPEN ON:

EXT. PARK - DAY

A dark, dirty street. There is litter everywhere, smoke from a nearby fire as well as screaming and other sounds in the distance.

Three are walking together; POPPY (6-8 years) is carrying a battered old bear and has a dull, dirty pink children's backpack. She is in a filthy, worn pink dress. POPPY is with FRANK (mid-thirties, tall, athletic/toned, dressed smart-ish (blue shirt), though very clearly not washed his clothes in some time and MARIE (sixties, dressed in tired, dirty yellow t-shirt and jeans)

FRANK (VO)

The government said it wouldn't be
a problem, that they could help--

A hand-scrawled banner with "Welcome to the end" written on it.

FRANK (VO)

--They couldn't even help themselves.
There is no government now.

Poppy, smiling at Frank.

FRANK (VO)

I'm worried about Poppy. She's
taken to this world better than
she should have.

A new teddy bear's face, bright yellow, smiling

EXT. PARK - DAY

Gradually more of surrounding area is revealed. The sky is blue, it is a lovely sunny day in a large park (or other grassy area, with occasional trees).

Poppy is carrying the bear and has a bright pink children's backpack. She is in a bright (pink) summer dress. Poppy is with Frank (dressed smart-casual (sky blue shirt) like he's just come from work) and Marie (dressed in yellow summer dress).

All three are happy and smiling, walking through the park.

POPPY (VO)
I love going to the park with Daddy
and Nana.

Poppy looking up at Frank, who notices and smiles down at her.

POPPY (VO)
My Daddy's name is Frank and he is the
best Daddy in the world!

Poppy looking up at Marie (the other side), who notices and smiles
down at her.

POPPY (VO)
And my Nana's name is Marie and she is
the best Nana in the world!

The three walking through the park, toward the camera.

POPPY (VO)
My name is Poppy and we always go on
all sorts of adventures.

The three walking through the park, away from the camera, with the
camera following. This is in slow motion.

Very short flash of darker world (Everything dirty, burning cars
and bodies in the street). The three still walking in slow motion.

Poppy starts skipping (also in slow motion)

POPPY (VO)
We didn't see many people around,
it was quiet—nice.

From behind the three; two people, a happy couple holding hands
(two men) approaching the three. They are wearing very bright
shirts (one bright pink, one Hawaiian).

POPPY (VO)
And when we did see people, they
always liked us and danced with us--

The two men dancing with Frank and Marie, as Poppy watches, smiling and clapping.

Flash of darker world. Frank and Marie are fighting the people.

POPPY
Dance Daddy, dance!

The two men are laying in the foreground, tired but happy. Frank, Marie and Poppy are walking away in the background.

POPPY (VO)
Then the men would get tired and we
would carry on with our adventure.

EXT. NICE NEIGHBOURHOOD - DAY

Frank, Marie and Poppy are walking through a nice-looking neighbourhood. Everything is clean and there are people looking out of their windows, smiling and waving as they pass by.

POPPY (VO)
People are always looking at us, waving
and inviting us to their house.

A person in a house is beckoning the group over.

POPPY (VO, CONT.)
Sometimes Daddy will go in and talk to
them--

Frank enters the house of one of the people smiling.

Short flash of the darker world. There are screams and the sound of a struggle from the house Frank went in.

POPPY (VO, CONT.)
Then when he comes back, he brings
presents for Nana and me!

POPPY
Thank you, Daddy.

Frank hands Marie a small, wrapped present, which she puts in her handbag and a cup of tea. They are both smiling.

Frank then goes down on one knee, or crouches to hand Poppy a small plastic container of sweets (think tic-tacs).

Poppy is very happy and hugs Frank, who hugs her back.

POPPY (VO)
I love my Daddy.

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - NIGHT

Frank, Marie and Poppy are walking through a poorly-lit, rural area. There is the sound of fireworks, but none in the sky.

POPPY (VO)
I hear loud bangs all the time.
Daddy tells me they are fireworks.

FRANK
Can't you see them--?

Poppy smiles and nods, pointing at the sky.

POPPY (VO)
I pretend that I can because I don't
want to upset Daddy.

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - NIGHT

Frank, Marie and Poppy are in a nice, big tent in a field. The night sky is full of stars.

POPPY (VO)
We go camping a lot. It's magical.
Every day I hear Nana talking to Daddy
when they think I'm asleep.

MARIE
We need to keep going, be positive.
For Poppy.

POPPY (VO)

So I do that for them--Be positive.

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - MORNING

Poppy is emerging from the tent in a field, as Frank and Marie prepare an extravagant banquet for breakfast. The world is still bright (perhaps slightly too bright). Everyone is happy.

MARIE

Good morning, sweetheart.

POPPY

Morning, Nana.

Frank is handing a full plate/bowl to Poppy, or delicious-looking breakfast food (bacon, eggs etc.)

POPPY (VO, CONT.)

Daddy and Nana always give me so much.

As Poppy takes the food from Frank there is a flash (several, back and forth) from the nice, full plate to a near empty plate of a meagre amount of porridge

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - MORNING

The world is darker. Poppy still looks happy, but her dress is dirty and torn. Frank and Marie are wearing scruffy, dirty clothes and look a little bedraggled and they look tired & depressed. Both adults have rucksacks nearby, as well as Poppy's backpack.

The nice, big tent is small (and ideally old), looking worse for wear.

FRANK (Quietly, to Marie)

It's hard giving her the same thing every morning.

MARIE (Quietly, to Frank)

She's our main focus now--

Poppy happily eating her porridge, smiling back at Frank.

MARIE (CONT.)
Even if it means us going without.

Frank gives a sad little nod of the head to Marie.

Frank looks fondly at Poppy, still happily eating.

FRANK
She doesn't seem to remember that
you aren't really her Nana--

FLASHBACK

EXT. RESIDENTIAL AREA - DAY

Frank is asleep in a house. The world is darker.

POPPY
Daddy!

Frank is startled awake, looking around for Poppy.

Frank looks out of the window and sees Poppy being bundled into the back of a van by two men and is horrified.

He begins to run, but stops (briefly) when he hears two gun shots.

SFX:

Bang! Bang!

More scared, he runs outside to see Marie opening the van door, helping Poppy out of it. The two men are dead.

POPPY
Daddy!

Poppy runs over to hug Frank. Frank sees Marie has a gun, which she is putting back into her rucksack.

FRANK (TO MARIE)
Thank you.

PRESENT DAY

EXT. COUNTRY LANE - DAY

Frank, Marie and Poppy are walking, looking scruffy and tired. Frank and Marie are carrying their rucksacks. Poppy seems perfectly happy, even though the world (hue) is darker.

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - NIGHT

Frank, Marie and Poppy are walking through a poorly-lit, rural area. There are gunshots, followed by screams.

SFX:

Bang! Bang!

Scream!

FRANK (To Marie)
I hate having to lie to her--

Frank says (silently) to Poppy that they are fireworks.

FRANK (CONT)
--I'm sure she knows--

The Poppy smiles and nods, pointing at the sky.

EXT. RUN DOWN NEIGHBOURHOOD - DAY

Frank, Marie and Poppy are walking through a run down neighbourhood. Everything is dirty, with burnt out cars and corpses in the street. There are shady people peeking out of their windows, looking scared, or angry, waving Frank, Marie and Poppy away.

FRANK (VO)
Everywhere we go, people are either terrified, or dangerous--

A person outside a house sees Frank et al. And runs inside, scared.

FRANK (VO)
Sometimes I have to do what's necessary--

Frank enters the house.

There is a muffled confrontation from within the house, with banging and things breaking. This is followed by silence.

Frank leaves the house carrying as many cans of food and drink as he can hold.

Frank hands Marie half of the goods, which she puts in her rucksack and a can of fizzy drink.

They are both clearly depressed.

Frank then goes down on one knee, or crouches to hand Poppy a small plastic container of pills (paracetamol).

FRANK (TO POPPY)
Don't eat these sweets now.
Have them if Nana and I are gone
and you're scared.

Frank is very sad, Poppy is very happy and hugs Frank, who hugs her back.

FRANK (VO)
I love her so much. It pains me
that I even think like this now.

EXT. PARK - DAY

The sky is grey, it is a dull day in a large park (or other grassy area, with occasional trees).

Poppy is carrying the bear, which is much dirtier, ripped and duller in colour.

Poppy is happy and smiling, in between Frank and Marie. Frank and Marie look depressed/on edge, walking through the park.

FRANK (To Marie)

Nowhere seems safe now--

Poppy looking up at Frank who notices and forces a smile down at her.

Poppy looking up at Marie (the other side), who notices and forces a smile down at her.

The three walking through the park, away from the camera, with the camera following. This is in slow motion.

Poppy starts skipping (also in slow motion)

FRANK (VO)

No matter where we went, people
seemed to find us.

From behind the three; two people, an aggressive-looking pair of men approaching the three. They are wearing dark clothing. They are not armed.

Frank and Marie look at each other worried, Marie clutching Poppy close to her and drawing her gun. The men seem to not notice her gun, focussing on Frank.

Frank approaches them, taking out a concealed knife.

FRANK (VO)

Fighting was the norm now--

The two men fight with Frank, who is able to fatally stab one. The other manages to severely wound Frank. The man then approaches Marie and Poppy.

Marie pulls the trigger, but the gun is empty. Marie is shocked and the man pulls an evil grin, before stabbing Marie with Frank's knife. Marie looks over at Poppy sadly as she dies.

The man then looks at Poppy, before Frank is able to smash the back of his head with a rock, killing him.

Frank is bleeding profusely and he props himself up, looking at Poppy.

FRANK

Can you carry my bag?

Poppy looks confused, but tries to lift Frank's rucksack. It is too heavy for her.

Frank looks up to the sky, as if trying to draw strength from God.

FRANK

Take some of the cans out of mine
and put them in yours.

Poppy takes two or three cans from Frank's rucksack and puts them in her backpack and zips it up.

FRANK

Listen to me very carefully, sweetheart.
You need to be careful, look after
yourself.

POPPY (INTERRUPTING)

--But you and Nana look after me.

FRANK

We are tired and going to sleep now.
If you ever see anyone scary,
eat those sweets, all of them.

Poppy smiles and laughs sweetly

POPPY

Oh Daddy. I can't eat all of them
or I won't eat my dinner.

Poppy puts on her backpack and continues down the road they were heading, skipping past the two dead men.

There is a flash.

EXT. PARK - DAY

The sky is blue, it is a lovely sunny day in a large park (or other grassy area, with occasional trees). Everything is bright and beautiful.

Poppy is skipping away (maybe singing) and hold the bear.

POPPY (VO)
Now we carry on with our adventure!

Close up on the bear, who looks tired, worn and (strangely) sad.

Poppy suddenly seems panicked and lost, she sees a shadow in a run-down house and approaches slowly. A tear runs down her cheek.

She is about to knock, an adult male hand reaches over and knocks

SFX:

Knock, knock, knock

Poppy turns as seems very happy to see the still obscured figure.

FADE OUT

THE END

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