

SOPHIE'S CHOICE

NYC - 1947

It is two in the morning and Sophie anxiously waits up for Nathan. She hears Stingo coming up the stairs and invites him in to keep her company.

Sophie:

Stingo, you look...very nice. You're wearing your "cock sucker"

Stingo:

My Seersucker.

Sophie:

Oh, yeah. Right, Seersucker.

Stingo:

I love it here. I'm glad you couldn't sleep.

Sophie:

You hurt your mouth? You talk funny.

Stingo:

I bit my tongue.

Sophie:

You want me to get you something?

Stingo:

No, please, no. It just needs to be left alone.

You changed all the furniture around?

Sophie:

Yeah, you like it? I do that, when I can't sleep you know?

It's good, because then you don't have...you don't have to think about anything.

Stingo:

Well, then I'll try that.

Sophie:

Oh. No. Stingo you don't have to move furniture. You'll move mountains.

Stingo:
I can't even move my tongue.

Sophie:
Maybe you moved it too much.

Stingo:
Why aren't all the women in the world like you?

Sophie:
You'd better thank God they're not. I see many women in your life...many beautiful women...who adore you and that make all that love with you.

Stingo:
Sometimes...I can see myself just being alone forever.

Sophie:
Oh, Stingo...I'm not fair with you. I think Stingo is so young, he is a talented American, he doesn't have any real...real problems, but..

Stingo:
You don't know if I'm talented. You've never read anything I've written.

Sophie:
I don't ask about your work...and what it is about, because I know a writer likes to...be quite about his work.

Stingo:
It's about a boy...a 12 year old boy.

Sophie:
So its autobiographical?

Stingo:
To a certain extent, maybe it is. It takes place in a year, which is the year his mother dies...

Sophie:
I didn't know your mother died.

Stingo:
When I was...

Sophie:
You loved her very much?

Stingo:
Not enough.

Sophie:
What do you mean, "Not enough".

Stingo:
I mean "Not enough".

Sophie:
And that's what is so terrible about outliving those people that we love. I mean that...that guilt...

Stingo:
Your father?

Sophie:
My father, my mother, my husband...

Stingo:
You were married?

Sophie:
Yeah, I was married. And I was very young. I was married to a...disciple of my father. Assistant at the University

Stingo:
Your father was writing Nazi articles? That probably got him into trouble.

Sophie:
One day I was at the Mass and...they have a...
I had..."presentiment" and I...I run out of the church and I go to the University...and I see that the gate is locked and...there were many Germans there...and I saw the professors. They "was" loading them into the truck...and this one part of canvas has moved away...and I see my father's face and the face of my husband behind him. And...
I looked and the...
But the Germans pulled that away and...I never saw those faces again. They took them to Sachsenhausen, German work camp, but they shot them the next day.

Stingo:
And your mother?

Sophie:
My mother...my mother got...t - t - tuberculosis. Tuberculosis and she is very sick, you know? She's dying. I can't do anything. But I think if I could get that meat for my mother...it would make her strong, so I go to the country and...the peasants, they're selling...ham And I go with that black market money and I buy that and...I bring it back. But it's forbidden for all the meat goes to the Germans. If you get caught... So I hid the ham under my skirt on the train. I'm pretending that I'm pregnant, you know? I was so afraid! I was shaking. And then that German...who was in the front of the train and he saw me. And I'm sitting there and he "come" up to me... and he "take" under my skirt that ham and...
So they sent me to Auschwitz.

Stingo:
You were sent to Auschwitz because you stole a ham?

Sophie:
No I was sent to Auschwitz because they saw that I was afraid.

He sees the scars on her wrist

Sophie:
You know what that means?

Stingo:
Yeah, you tried to commit suicide in Auschwitz.

Sophie:
No it was after that. After that I was in...after liberation.

Stingo:
After you were safe?

Sophie:
Yes, safe. Yeah. I was safe. I was in Sweden. I was in that refugee camp. I mean that was good. They try to help you, you know? They try...but...I knew that...Christ had turned his face away from me... and that only Jesus who no longer cared for me could...kill those that I love, but...leave me alive...with my shame? Oh God so I went that church...and I took the glass I knew was there and I've...cut my wrist. But I didn't die, of course! Of course.

Sophie cont:

Stingo...there is so many things you don't understand.

There is so many things that I can't...that I cannot...tell you.

Stingo:

I want you to trust me. I want you to trust me Sophie,

Just trust me.

A tender beat... Sophie hears Nathan on the stairs

Sophie:

Oh God! There is Nathan! Nathan!

She exits to find him leaving Stingo alone