

SOPHIE'S CHOICE

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EXT. AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU CONCENTRATION CAMP - NIGHT

TITLE: MARCH 12TH, 1943

It's raining.

A mass of JEWS stand alongside a train, the sliding doors of its freight cars still open from a recent arrival.

They huddle together for warmth as NAZI OFFICERS methodically separate them for selection. Amongst the Jews is SOPHIE ZAWISTOWSKI (early 20s), a young Polish mother of two.

Sophie's son, JAN (10), stands by her side clutching her dress; she holds her CRYING daughter, EVA (7), in her arms.

An SS OFFICER approaches and stares at Sophie for a beat; he then looks back and forth between the children. As he does, Eva continues to CRY.

SS OFFICER
(in German)
You may keep one of your children.

Beat, as Sophie looks back confused, Eva's CRYING becoming almost manic. Then--

SOPHIE
I beg your pardon?

SS OFFICER
*You may keep one of your children.
The other one must--*

SOPHIE
(handing him Eva)
Here.

Beat, as the SS Officer stands surprised by her quick choice.

SS OFFICER
(taking Eva)
Oh. You're... you're sure?

SOPHIE
(matter-of-factly)
Yep. You can have that one.

Eva's CRIES turn into SCREAMS as she's carried away.

Jan stares up at his mother in wide-eyed fear.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

(to Jan)

Come on. I have to find a bathroom.

Sophie walks off, dragging Jan behind her.

He looks back over his shoulder as if calling for help.

THE END