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**THE HEART OF A STORY**

**Synopsis**

Andrej (32) is a successful Serbian writer of two bestselling novels, he has a perfect style and knows the taste of the audience but has very little life experience. He spends most of his time shut inside his library full of rare tomes which he's inherited from his grandfather and that isolation is additionally strengthened by his numerous phobias - fear of heights, sharp objects, speeding, etc. For seven years now he's in the relationship with Olga (35), a clothes and interior designer who has a completely different view of the world. Their relationship is going through the crisis but Olga is in hope of a change after Andrej's literary success and she tries to convince him to sell the library whose worth is estimated at around 10 000e so she could open a design studio and start her own business. The balance between them is maintained for the past five years by Andrej's publisher Zoran (40), who has a strong practical business side but also understands the peculiar demands of the young writer. Andrej feels he owes him for everything he's done for him but becomes fed up with Zoran's practical side which neglects the fact that Andrej is dissatisfied with the way he writes. Lately, Andrej is hunted by the phantasms of his favorite writers, Turgenev and Kafka, who are deepening his feelings of a failed life. Because of the fact that no one else can see these phantasms, Andrej starts to think he's slowly losing his mind.

When Zoran persuades him to attend a literary evening in Ljubljana Andrej meets Mojca (25) a blind translator and emerging poet who will translate his novels to Slovenian. She has lost her sight in a car accident seven years ago in which both of her parents died. Her older sister Urška (33) blames herself for the accident because it happened on the way to a restaurant where she was waiting for them to announce her engagement with Aleš (40). She and Aleš have a vet clinic and developed business, but their marriage is in crisis because Aleš wants to have kids and quiet family life while Urška is spending all of her free time in her obsessive care for Mojca. Andrej is mesmerized by Mojca's beauty and her determination to live her life to the fullest despite her handicap. This struggle of hers makes Andrej even more dissatisfied with his own life. His admiration for Mojca brings a new phantasm into his life - that of France Prešeren, the famous Slovenian romantic poet. Andrej's intention to get close to Mojca is apparent to everyone, but he doesn't have enough determination to make it happen.

Aleš sees the opportunity for someone else to take care of Mojca and invites Andrej to be their guest at their holiday home in the mountains. Andrej ecstatically accepts the offer and there he's forced to face his phobias. The time he spends with Mojca turns his emotional life around, from gray zone to the full specter of almost forgotten emotions. He realizes that his and Mojca's view of the world is quite similar, as are the situations they're in - she also wants to get rid of the influence of others in the form of Urška's obsessive care and change her life. Andrej becomes aware that he could finally write about the themes deep inside him with Mojca on his side. Besides that, she shares his 'madness' - her phantasm is her favorite poet Emily Dickinson.

When he finds out that there is a possibility of an operation in Switzerland that could restore Mojca's sight Andrej is prepared to do anything to make her see again. He decides to sell the library so he

could pay the enormous expenses of the operation, but Olga has already taken what she thinks she deserves - she has used Zoran's practical side to persuade him to sell Andrej's books while he's in Slovenia.

Andrej's brother Milosav (28), a common auto mechanic from the countryside with a huge heart, helps Andrej to realize his intention despite this obstacle. They find Zoran who admits that Olga has escaped with all the money from the books and has crossed the border by now. Andrej is not ready to give up - he'll do everything it takes for Mojca to get her operation. In this ordeal of his, the help comes from the united phantasms of the writers whose goal is to fulfill the purpose of every art - bringing the soulmates together.

Before the 'happily ever after' Andrej must give up his past life - he sells the apartment to pay for Mojca's operation and stays in Slovenia with her. Olga is allowed to keep the money from the books and returns for a more suitable partner - the forever practical Zoran. Urška's burden of guilt is replaced by another one - that of a new life growing inside her.

In my country, there are a lot of people who are dissatisfied with their lives. Instead of trying to change the way they live and get rid of this dissatisfaction they are using all their strength to do just the opposite - to get used to it. You get used to a relationship in which there is no love. You get used to a job in which you don't see any meaning. You set an anchor in a place where there's nothing for you and you're reluctant to move because you fear someplace else might be even worse. You're carving for a change but by now there are so many things wrong that you fear it might be too late. But there is one thing powerful enough to change every other - love. I deeply believe that everyone has a soulmate that's waiting for the reunion. This story is a journey to find it.

Our main character Andrej is at the emotional and creative crossroads of his life. He's already seven years in a relationship with Olga and the only thing they truly share is a place of living. He writes about things he knows the audience will like and not those that are deep inside him, so there's no real fulfillment. But his publisher Zoran is there to keep him on the 'track of success' while Olga is planning their 'bright future'. Andrej finds a sanctuary between the vast shelves of the library he inherited from his grandfather, but the world of literature is slowly deepening his feeling of a failed life. Everything is telling him he has to go, and when Zoran talks him into attending the literary evening in Ljubljana where he meets Mojca the road will open for this long prolonged journey leading to the reunion of the soulmates which will be like a second birth for both of them.

The genre is a romantic comedy with fantastic elements in the form of appearances of famous writer's phantasms. I've developed a great interest in the coexistence of life and art - how tales, myths, and legends can deepen our feelings and make us take action. Turgenev and Kafka depict Andrej's state where he's torn between the feeling that there is no way out (Kafka's pessimistic view of the world as a place for submission and suffering) and his need to set out on a journey (Turgenev's glorification of travels through the country mostly depicted in his 'Haunter's sketches'). Mojca as his soulmate shares his 'hallucinations' - her phantasm is Emily Dickinson who has waited her whole life for a soulmate, shut inside her room. Mojca is also a poet, she's in a similar kind of isolation due to her handicap of lost sight and is also waiting for a soulmate who, in her case, will appear. The brief appearance of Edgar Allan Poe with his delirium tremens is there to depict Andrej's fear that he's going to lose Mojca, while famous Slovenian romantic poet France Prešeren serves as a bridge between lovers. The goal of these characters is to unite the soulmates and when they achieve it they have no further influence on the storyline. The literature is used as an element that has the possibility of becoming a prison of isolation but evolves into a guideline for the journey. My intention is to show (especially to younger generations) that literature can be a powerful ally along the journey through life and to spark a renewed interest in world classics.

The visual style will rely on Mojca's handicap in the service of expressing the gradual impact of the world on Andrej's senses as he sets out on the journey. This will mainly be done with the use of focus and the colors. The film will start out in a pale, almost monochrome palette and through the story, the intensity and number of colors will rise to the culmination when Mojca opens her eyes before a vivid Switzerland landscape. The sound will be done in the same manner - we'll use the increased sound perception of blind people to emphasize Andrej's perception of the adventures along the journey. The appearance of famous writers' phantasms will also have an impact on the visual style that will correspond to the style of their writings, making every-day surroundings of our heroes surpass every fiction.

The budget is roughly estimated on 800 000 euros and a financial plan is to make a co-production between Serbia and Slovenia (where we would also apply to the mountain region between Slovenia and Italy that offers its own funding) and afterward apply to the Eurimages fund. I'm currently in the pre-production of a short film *The Guardian of the Books* that will be shot in summer and that offers a prototype of characters and the visual style of this feature. The producers are Sarita Mijatović from Serbian production house *Playground* and Miha Černec from Slovenian production house *Staragara*. They will eventually be producers also in this film, but there hasn't been any official agreement yet.

Although the story is based on my personal experience and my main target audience is the younger generation I think it will also have an impact on the older one because isolation has become like the new religion. I think that today we have reached the point when the majority of the population is just trying to survive instead of really living their lives. I'm aware that this journey of change is not an easy thing. Even when Andrej realizes Mojca is his soulmate he still needs to make a difficult decision to give up on his 'comfortable shelter' so he can enter his new life. All I want the audience to take away from the film is the notion that it is worth to make the first step. The idea of the film can be expressed through the quote from André Gide's *The Counterfeiters*: 'Man cannot discover new oceans unless he has the courage to lose sight of the shore.'

Close-up of ANDREJ (32) on a literary evening. He answers the question saying that he's not consulting with anyone when he's writing although Kafka and Turgenev have become pretty tiresome lately. This statement causes a few giggles from the audience but he thinks it's not funny - they've started haunting him even when he's not writing and he's convinced that something is really wrong.

In the spacious living room of Andrej's apartment after the literary evening - he is sitting between his publisher ZORAN (40), and his girlfriend OLGA (35). Lively music from an old gramophone connected to a modern amplifier. There is one empty bottle of wine and other who is about to be, and the atmosphere is pretty loose which gets on Andrej's nerves. When Olga stands up to turn the music up Andrej uses the opportunity to leave.

Andrej walks into a small dusty basement. He takes a notebook and a pencil and sits on a small crate. Just as he's about to write the first sentence FRANZ KAFKA appears, sitting on a barrel behind him. He warns Andrej that he shouldn't retreat in front of Zoran and Olga, otherwise he'll end up like Gregor Samsa in his novella 'The Metamorphosis' - he'll wake up in his bed one day and see that he's turned into a large bug. Andrej turns his back on him, trying to convince himself that it's all in his head.

Olga becomes nervous because she realizes that Andrej has gone into the basement again. Intercut between them and Andrej: Zoran thinks he probably went to throw up, but we see Andrej turning around and spotting a giant bug on a barrel where Kafka was. While Olga is complaining that Zoran is encouraging Andrej in his 'hallucinations' we see Andrej trying to smash the bug with his notebook.

Zoran invites Olga to dance and her mood increases. She wants to know when will she be able to meet 'his boyfriend', but Zoran is tired of gay jokes and warns her to stop shifting her sexual frustrations to him. Olga says that her only frustration is that 'damned library' Andrej shuts himself into.

Andrej is on his knees in the basement still trying to find Kafka-bug. IVAN TURGENEV appears behind him and advises him not to pay too much attention to Kafka. He explains that life is just a big hunt on which man must go alone, while literature can simply be a guideline to the prey. Andrej starts to ponder on this and Turgenev mentions it's not a quote because he's never written something like that.

Zoran and Olga are sitting on the floor exhausted from dancing, smoking a joint. He wants to know if Andrej had given her back the key to his room. He didn't, and Olga thinks he's never gonna forget 'her treason'. Zoran remarks that she must be very careful since she knows how sensitive Andrej is about his books which are his grandfather's legacy. Olga explains that she just wanted to check if those ancient tomes are really worth something and reveals that the worth was estimated to more than 10,000e and that she could use that money to open a design studio and start her own business. She's complaining that Andrej doesn't think about the future at all.

The next morning in Andrej's room. All the walls are covered in bookshelves from floor to ceiling, filled with old tomes. Andrej finds Turgenev's 'Hunter's Sketches' and starts going through the pages. Turgenev tells Kafka that he knew that Andrej would check if the things he has told him in the basement were a quote and Kafka remarks that he did well not writing it down - not all things should be shared. Andrej wants to enter the conversation but he's distracted by the knock on the door. When he looks back he realizes he's alone in the room.

Andrej steps out in the living room and immediately locks the door behind him. Olga, just in a bathroom robe, hands him the phone with Zoran on the line. Andrej complains that he can't go to Slovenia because it's far, they have mountains and he's afraid of heights, but Zoran hangs up on him. Olga uses this opportunity to state her own dissatisfaction with his numerous phobias. This turns into a fight and Andrej strikes back with the fact that she's still swollen from all that weed she smokes with Zoran and that she should better find something to do. Olga is really hurt, she jumps hysterically on the bed accusing Andrej that he made her that way, that she's his 'slave', his escort on literary evenings only when it is not 'too far' or 'too high'. She starts to throw pillows on him screaming that she's bored to death, asking him why he doesn't sell that library and then she could open up her design studio, she could've been famous by now. Andrej is struck by a guilty conscience and promises he'll sell the library and give her the money for her studio.

Zoran and Andrej are in a cafe. Zoran is trying to persuade Andrej to go to the literary evening in Slovenia, mentions that he will meet his translator - she's one of the best, very young and beautiful, but blind. Andrej laughs making a comment that he hasn't expected anything normal - only a blind person could stand to translate that 'crap'. Zoran pretends he didn't hear his remark and continues with persuasion but Andrej states that he's very dissatisfied with his second novel and can't continue to write that way. Zoran tries to avoid

the subject and to return to the trip to Slovenia, but Andrej feels ashamed to read from those books in front of an audience. Zoran decides to pull a card from his sleeve - he mentions that the best thing is that they would be able to visit the famous antique bookshop in Ljubljana. Andrej takes the bait.

Vet clinic in Ljubljana. URŠKA (33) is nervously walking around in search of her keys. ALEŠ (32) watches her with a look of dissatisfaction while caressing a weak puppy that's lying on the table. Urška checks with him if he can finish by himself. He confirms it, commenting that he's become used to it. Urška kisses him on the cheek and he wants to know how long are they going to keep living this way. Sadness comes over Urška's face and she leaves. He shouts after her apologizing and sending his regards to her sister.

MOJCA (25) is sitting on the bed, wearing a colorful bathroom robe. She moves her hands over her neck, her face, through her hair - we can see she's blind. Urška walks in with bags from the store and kisses her on her hair. They move to the kitchen, Mojca sits at the table while Urška is unpacking the goods from the store. She gives her Aleš's regards, Mojca wants to know what he's been up to, Urška mentions some dog disease and Mojca wants to know when she'll take her to the clinic to play with the puppies. Urška complains that Aleš is still trying to find her a dog guide but she's not gonna turn her own sister to the care of some animal. Mojca thinks she's overreacting and assures her that Aleš has the best intention to free her from these every-day obligations. Urška states that Aleš knew what's it gonna be like and that he can find a new wife if he's not satisfied. Suddenly she bursts into tears. Mojca urges her to change that attitude, explaining that she must stop blaming herself.

Andrej is preparing for the trip, there is an automobile siren so he starts grabbing things randomly from the closet and stuffing them inside the suitcase. Olga enters carrying some stylish chair that's falling apart and shows it to him with excitement. Andrej barely looks at the chair and accuses her that she didn't pack his things although she knows he can't do it alone. Olga puts the chair in the middle of the room and looks at it, satisfied. Andrej approaches her to say goodbye, she finally notices him and announces that she'll be able to buy the whole set of chairs once he sells those ancient books.

Gas station somewhere along the road. Andrej is taking a nap on a passenger seat, but Turgenev's voice wakes him up. Turgenev is quoting his 'Haunter's Sketches' trying to make an atmosphere for the journey, but Andrej wants him gone. Zoran exits the store with two

frappes in plastic cups and sees Andrej turned to the back seat, gesticulating. When he approaches and opens the door he doesn't notice anything strange.

Literary evening in the national university library in Ljubljana. Andrej is at the gallery, on the safe distance from the crowd below, looking through the tomes in the bookshelves. He hears Zoran's voice and turns around to see him approaching with Urška and Mojca. They are introduced, Andrej is very clumsy shaking Mojca's hand. He's hypnotized with Mojca's face and poses a clumsy question about Mojca's work in spite of her handicap which makes Urška laugh. He's embarrassed and excuses himself that he needs to go to the toilet. Urška sees drunken Aleš in the crowd below and suggests that they all go down.

Andrej is urinating when FRANCE PREŠEREN, the famous Slovenian romantic poet from the 19th century, poses himself in front of the next urinal. While urinating, Prešeren is quoting one of his romantic love poems. After he finishes he taps Andrej on the back and exits.

Urška is worriedly eyeing drunken Aleš in the crowd, so when Zoran mentions he's hungry she offers to lead him to the tables. Andrej approaches Mojca and clumsily announces it's him. Mojca is glad that they've chosen her for the translation, but Andrej states that the whole thing sucks. He quickly corrects himself - it's not her that sucks, she's lovely, he meant his novel. Mojca doesn't share his opinion, she only agrees that his view of the future is a bit dark and makes a joke that it suits her fine since her whole life is that way now.

Mojca and Andrej are sitting on the short wall outside, drinking wine. She points a finger above their heads and asks him if he can see the windows above them. Andrej looks at the windows and sees that they have the shape of an open book, with covers to the outside. Mojca thinks that the architect probably wanted to say that books are our windows to the world and admits that only when she lost her sight she realized how many things she wasn't able to notice. Andrej tries to console her, but she explains that she's not looking for pity, that she only wanted to tell him that his novels have shown her some of those things she couldn't notice before. Andrej is flattered and notes that he's aware that his writing has quality but admits that he's writing about things he knows the audience will like. He concludes that there is not a trace of him inside, no life experience and that his stories don't have a heart. Mojca suggests that maybe their heart just hasn't started beating yet. Andrej hesitates for a moment than repeats Prešern's love poem he heard from him in the toilet. Mojca is confused, ashamed and laughing - all at the same time. She wants to know where did he get that from. Andrej explains that he's not sure and admits he even doesn't understand the words in Slovenian. He

asks her to translate it to him. She doesn't want to do it now and suddenly stands up, complaining that she's cold. Andrej immediately takes off his coat and puts it on her shoulders. Not expecting that, Mojca startles and drops her glass which brakes on the pavement. Andrej quickly leans to pick it up but backs off when he sees sharp shreds and at the same time Mojca makes a step forward. She steps on the shreds and cuts her foot, screams. Andrej quickly grabs her leg and takes off her sandal, apologizing. Mojca must hold onto him to keep the balance and she starts to laugh. He's freaked out, standing there and having no clue what to do, when Urška and Zoran appear. Andrej tries to explain that it's all his fault, but Urška calms him down and pulls a small bottle of iodine and bandages from her purse that she always carries with her. Zoran helps Andrej to move Mojca to the bench and Urška quickly and skillfully cleans the wound and applies the bandages. Urška decides it's time to go, Andrej wants to shake hands, but Mojca misses his hand which remains in the air.

The next day Zoran is wandering through the bookshelves inside an antique bookshop, talking about the plan of activities for the day. When he reaches the end of the bookshelf he sees Andrej staring out of the window - he wants Zoran to set up a meeting with Mojca so he can apologize for his foolish behavior last night.

Zoran is on the phone in the pastry shop while Andrej is explaining the salesman which pastries to pack.

Aleš brings a bottle of beer and two beer mugs that he places on the table in front of Zoran. They're in his and Urška's vet clinic and Zoran is uncomfortable with the fact that they've interrupted their work but Aleš explains that there is always time for friends and looks at the other part of the room with a smile on his face. Mojca and Andrej are there, sitting on a small sofa. Her foot is still bandaged, she's caressing a puppy in her lap and explaining Andrej how she translates. She plays one message in a generic voice from her phone to show him the example. Urška enters with two paper plates with pastries which she hands to Andrej. Andrej realizes that he's holding both plates. He takes the small fork and carefully separates a small piece of pastry. Then he takes it up to Mojca's lips without asking. Mojca opens her mouth, takes the piece and starts chewing. Silence. Andrej repeats the same thing. Aleš is carefully following the development of the situation while Zoran smiles absently. Urška walks towards Mojca to interfere, but Aleš stops her. He gives her a significant look and she gives up.

Old gas station along the next day. Zoran parks the car and walks out, Andrej spots the shadow in the rearview mirror. He quickly exits the car and sees Turgenev cutting the back

tire with his hunting knife. Andrej wants to know why did he do that and Turgenev explains that sometimes it's good to get lost in nature, to lose the sense of time... Zoran runs towards the car and freaks out when he sees the tire. Andrej tries to explain that Turgenev did it but realizes he's gone.

While Zoran is making the deal with the auto mechanic Andrej is looking at Mojca's business card.

Zoran is lying tucked up in his bed while Andrej is sitting on his, deep in thoughts. Zoran complains about the prices of Slovenian hostels but states that he'll pay for this because he's the one who doesn't want to travel by night. Andrej comments that it was also the night that day seven years ago when the car accident in which Mojca lost her sight took place. Urška and Aleš were waiting for them in a restaurant, they wanted to announce their engagement and to surprise them. The parents died on the spot. He suddenly stands up and announces that he's going for a smoke.

Andrej stops at the corner and looks at the sign with the name of the street. Kafka appears beside him wondering if the name of the street sounds familiar. Andrej quickly takes out Mojca's business card - the name is the same. Kafka wisely concludes that in some situations you don't need to bang on the Castle's doors, it's enough to realize you're already in. One of the tenants walks out and Andrej holds the door.

He's walking up the stairs following Kafka. He hears female voices and runs to hide behind the wall. One of the doors open and Urška steps out to place a garbage bag outside. She returns inside and leaves the door open. Andrej can hear her arguing with Mojca and decides to come closer, breathing heavily in the fear of getting caught. The cause of the argument is Mojca's wish to have a puppy, which Urška doesn't allow. Mojca accuses her of making a cripple out of her and gets very emotional. Screaming, crying, the sound of things breaking - Andrej runs back behind the wall.

Urška is hugging Mojca who slowly calms down and whispers that she should go because Aleš is waiting for her. Urška asks her not to make things more difficult because the situation is already too horrible for her. Mojca bursts again and screams she wants more wine.

Mojca's scream echoes the hallway. Urška steps out and locks the door. She picks up the garbage and walks away, Andrej follows her down from the distance.

Andrej is peeking through the entrance door. Urška walks up to her car, puts the garbage in the trunk, and takes off. Andrej slowly steps outside.

The same entrance, Andrej moves commercial papers with which he blocked the door and enters the building with a bottle of wine from the store.

Andrej knocks on Mojca's door. He hears Mojca's worried voice checking if it's Urška, but doesn't reply. When Mojca asks who is it he turns around and runs down the stairs.

Zoran is driving down the highway while Andrej is sleeping in the passenger seat. Andrej's head falls on Zoran's shoulder and he almost loses control over the wheel. Zoran parks the car and drags Andrej out of the passenger seat.

Andrej is sleeping in Turgenev's lap while Zoran is wondering what's come over him to sneak out, buy a bottle of wine, get drunk, and throw up all over the bed! He wants to know if Andrej even called Olga during these three days, did he bought her a present? He opens the glove compartment and pulls out a small wrapped box. He tosses it over his shoulder to Andrej, announcing that it's 'Channel Poison' and that those 60€ were Andrej's. The box hits Andrej in the head and he wakes up to see that Turgenev is gone.

Mojca's awakened by EMILI DICKINSON who's sitting beside her bed quoting one of her love poems. Then she urges Mojca to get out of the bed and recite hers. She recites the poem that depicts her fantasy that last night Andrej was knocking on her door.

Olga and Zoran are sitting at the table in the living room, eating some fast food. She mentions that Andrej told her before they left that he'll sell the library and give her the money to start her own business. Zoran is amazed at how Andrej forgets about all the little things and he would do a big thing like that. Olga wants to know what 'little things' is he talking about and Zoran mentions her perfume. Olga is about to say that 'Channel' is not a little thing, but she realizes that Zoran bought her present. She theatrically caresses him on the cheek, stating that she loves his wonderful 'gay taste'. Zoran gives her a serious look and replies that he simply loves beautiful things. Moment of silence before Olga retracts her hand.

House in the countryside, kid's birthday party. Andrej is among children and two elderly people (his MOTHER (57) and FATHER(63)), then there is his brother MILOSAV (28) and his WIFE(25). Their DAUGHTER(3) is blowing out the candles on the cake. Andrej lifts her up and they hug tightly. Andrej's Mother takes the girl and Milosav invites him outside.

Front yard - there are a couple of cars waiting to be prepared. Andrej and Milosav are smoking, one dog is sniffing around their feet. Milosav comments that this is who knows what time Andrej comes to the birthday alone and concludes that all that 'writer's stuff' is worthless if he doesn't lead a fulfilled life. He starts to caress the dog and explains to Andrej that it has some tumor. He complains that doctors in the village don't want to operate because it's benign and the dog can leave with it, but he thinks that no one should drag something around that causes pain, not even a dog.

The next day Olga knocks on the door of Andrej's room and hands him the phone. Soon he rushes out from the room, kisses her and hugs her cheerfully, announcing that they've been offered to go to Ljubljana for a couple of days. Olga wants to know if this is about translation and Andrej explains that it will be just a casual visit and that the publisher offered to lend them his holiday home. Olga hesitates before explaining that she can't because she's been offered a job. Andrej is caught off guard with this sudden news, but she explains it was a surprise.

Mojca is translating Andrej's novel and talking with Emily Dickinson about it when Aleš visits her. He confesses that he's introduced himself as the publisher and invited Andrej over. She's a bit mad but still wants to know if he's accepted to come. Aleš mentions Andrej asked if he could bring his girlfriend and apologizes for the mess he's made.

Olga takes the key of Andrej's room while he's under the shower.

Zoran and Olga are sitting in the garden of a cafe. Zoran has called the Slovenian publisher and they don't have any idea who called Andrej. He concludes that's even better - he'll buy him a ticket and get him on the bus. He wants to know what has Olga decided. She pulls the copy of the key from her purse and puts it in Zoran's open palm.

Next morning. The bus is taking off, Zoran is waving to Andrej from the station. Turgenev and Kafka are sitting behind Andrej. Turgenev is excited because of the travel but Kafka warns him he won't be so cheerful after four border crossings before Slovenia.

Mojca and Urška are in the vet clinic, drinking wine. Urška admits she can't control Aleš anymore. He wants them to move to some idyllic countryside, he wants kids, he already carved a bunch of toys out of wood and she's afraid that she would lose her mind.

Aleš parks the car in front of the cottage on the mountains and invites Andrej inside. Andrej is terrified by the height, he's scared from the sharp ice axes for mountain climbing that Aleš shows him, and overall he's pretty confused.

The next day Urška, Mojca, Aleš, and Andrej are having a picnic near the cottage. Mojca and Andrej go for a walk where he admits his phobias and that everybody thinks he's insane because sometimes he can see Kafka and Turgenev. Mojca doesn't think that's insane because she can also sometimes hear Emily Dickinson like she's in the room with her.

Aleš drops off Mojca and Andrej in front of the small national park.

Mojca leads Andrej to the tall rock with a hole inside in the shape of a fist. She tells him a legend about Jason and the Argonauts - when they were sailing home with the Golden Fleece this is where the river was cut off and Jason was so furious that he punched the rock with his fist. She knows that it's only a legend, but this legend helped her to continue with her life after the accident, to finish her studies, and to build a career. She pauses then translates Prešeren's poem that Andrej repeated to her the night after the literary evening. Andrej admits that it was he who came knocking on her door later that night, but Mojca already knew that. Andrej kisses her for the first time. He wants to know how the story about Jason ends. Mojca reveals with the smile that they carried the ship across on their backs.

Andrej and Mojca are finishing dinner in her apartment. She wants to know about his girlfriend and he explains that relationship is over, he just needs to go back to sort things out.

Andrej undresses in the bedroom and starts to fold his clothes slowly and carefully. Mojca instructs him to just throw them on the floor and come to bed already.

In the kitchen, Prešeren opens the bottle of wine and pours it to Kafka, Turgenev, and Emily. They make the toast, silently.

The next morning Aleš and Andrej are sitting in the pub on the bus station when Aleš mentions the possibility of operation for Mojca in Switzerland that costs thousands of euros.

Andrej enters his apartment and calls out to Olga. She doesn't reply and he sees that all his bookshelves are empty.

Nightmare: Andrej is in front of Aleš's cottage in the mountains at night and the scene has a gothic look. He walks slowly among the trees when EDGAR ALLAN POE jumps out and

grabs his hand in delirium. Poe quotes one of his poems about the loss of the loved one and Andrej sees Mojca walking towards the cliff. Andrej tries to free himself from Poe's grip and save her, but a big raven flies down on Poe's shoulder and croaks at him.

Andrej lifts his head from the table screaming Mojca's name. There is an almost empty bottle of rakia in front of him. Milosav grabs him by the shoulder asking him to calm down. Kafka appears behind Andrej to advise him not to pay any attention to Poe because all his 'scribblings' were the product of his delirium tremens. Milosav says he already contacted the man, Andrej doesn't need to worry, they're not criminals, they are the people you can trust, the ones you must lean on when you find yourself in the difficult position. At that moment a THUG (23) comes in - bald, covered in muscles and announces that they've found Zoran.

Zoran is tied to the chair under a beam of light. Andrej emerges from the dark, shocked. He unties him and tells him everything will be alright. Zoran explains in a crying voice that Olga took the cash from the books and fled, she must've crossed the border by now. Andrej gives up and promises he'll tell them to free him, but he has to stay a while longer just to make sure he was telling the truth. Zoran begs him to take him with him and Andrej replies that he doesn't want to see him ever again - but someone else does. Andrej leaves and Kafka emerges from the shadows. He takes a fountain pen from the pocket of his coat and signs the copy of „The Trial“. He hands the book to Zoran, as a souvenir, then exits.

Milosav is watching Aleš operating on his dog nervously. Aleš gives him a thumbs up.

Mojca opens her eyes in the hospital room, slowly gets up and opens the curtains - lively Switzerland landscape, full of vivid colors.

In front of the cottage in the mountains. Urška is in the chair in the late stadium of pregnancy. Aleš is making a barbeque and opening a bundle of beer. Andrej is on the cliff watching the scenery, this time without fear. Mojca runs out from the cottage and falls into his embrace. She wants to show him what she's found. She takes out her mobile phone and Andrej mentions she has a new one now. She does, but she'll keep the old just for one thing - she plays one of the messages. In generic voice, we hear Andrej's message - that they're halfway there, Milosav is driving 120 miles per hour and if he doesn't make it he wants her to know that he couldn't live without her and that he loves her.