# “BONHOEFFER”

##  Written by

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Based on the book,

BONHOEFFER Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy by

Eric Metaxes

FADE IN:

EXT. BERLIN GRUNWALD DISTRICT -STREET – MORNING – LARKS SINGING

FOUR BROWN HORSES have their perfectly brushed shiny coats decorated in black robes. Flowers and bells hang from their necks. They walk in unison pulling a mahogany wood glass hearse, bedecked in wreaths and garlands. The DRIVER, dressed in a fine black and red coat and top hat sits comfortably in his seat as the horses move thru the streets effortlessly.

EXT. STREET SIDEWALK - QUIET

PEOPLE are gathered on the side walk as the horse driven hearse goes by. MEN remove their hats as it passes. One CHILD starts toward the horses, but is restrained by its MOTHER.

THE BONHOEFFER FAMILY is walking along at the rear of the hearse. They walk in order; CARL and PAULA BONHOEFFER; THE CHILDREN- from the eldest to the youngest. JULIE BONHOEFFER is walking with her younger grandchildren. THE BONHOEFFER and VON HASE FAMILY members are following.

CRYING and SOBS can be heard from those in the FUNERAL POSSESION.

CARL B. in a long black coat has his arm around Frau Bonhoeffer, who is shrouded in a long black mourning veil. She tries to walk straight but often stumbles and zig zags. Carl B. has to hold her up and guide her straight. His breathing becomes more concentrated.

Sounds of controlled breathing.

BLACK

INT. TEGEL MILITARY PRISON BERLIN – CELL 92 – DIM LIGHT

(Heavy controlled inhales and exhales)

Mixture of shots. Close up on floor and wall

DIETRICH BONHOEFFER is doing exercises in the small room. We don’t see him fully, but we know that he’s moving quite a bit in the space.

Cut to EYE GLASSES atop an opened BIBLE on the desk table. Next to the bible are half smoked cigarettes.

Cut to the BED. It’s narrow with a thin mattress dressed with a gray blanket that looks like it’s been bleached more than it should have been.

Pan shot of the PRISON WALL. There are writings here and there. The writings are in German, English, French and Russian.

Written on THE WALL – ‘ICH VERMAG ALLES DURCH CHRISTUS, DER MIR KRAFT GIBT’

Cut to DIETRICH exercising. Continue Mixture of exercise shots.

 VO

Children laughing

 VO (1st MALE)

Cause you’re too scrawny.

 VO (1ST FEMALE ADOLSCENT)

 Leave him alone, Walt.

 VO (2nd MALE)

Sabine is bigger than you.

 VO (1ST MALE ADOLESCENT)

Cause she’s a girl. Girls grow faster than boys. Father always says so.

 VO (1ST MALE)

No brother of mine is going to be a weakling. Get up there and give me 3. Are you a man or a mouse?

BURST OF LAUGHTER fading into the distance but can still be heard as it mixes in with the random noises from the prison.

INT: TEGEL PRISON CELL 92

YOUNG MAN appears in cell. He’s dressed in a 1918 German issued Army uniform. He’s standing next to the table and touches the glasses.

 YOUNG MAN

Are you a man or a mouse?

DIETRICH stares at the figure in his rooms. He wipes the sweat out of his eyes and THE MAN disappears. He continues to exercise.

 VO

Sound of laughter increases.

FADE OUT

FADE IN

FLASHBACK

INT. BONHOEFFER HOUSE – 1918 – NIGHT

PEOPLE are gathered around the dinner table. There are drinks and pastries, some half eaten some whole on elegant plates and silverware. Everyone is smiling and festive. There are unwrapped gifts on the table.

SUZANNE is standing, reciting a poem. Upon finishing, everyone applauds and she runs to her brother WALTER BONHOEFFER for a hug. Walter graciously removes the cigarette from his month and kisses her on both cheeks.

Two of the Bonhoeffer children are fretting over a piece of pastry. One of them licks the pastry and hands it over to their sibling.

KLAUS BONHOEFFER eyes the red miniature Fokker. He studies it and spins the propellers. Walter takes notice. Karl –Friedrich looks disinterested until he notices his empty tea cup. He pours himself more.

 CHRISTINE BONHOEFFER

That’s the 5th cup you’ve had. You’ll be up half the night relieving yourself.

 KARL-FRIEDRICH

You should follow my example. All of you.

 CHRISTINE

How’s that?

 KARL-FRIEDRICH

There’s a nasty string of influenza popping up.

 URSULA

True, I saw the news reel at the Picture Show about that. But it’s just centralized in Spain. It hasn’t come near Germany.

 PAULA BONHOEFFER

Thank God.

 KARL-FRIEDRICH

Is that what the reel said?

 KARL BONHOEFFER

I guess the war isn’t the only thing killing people.

 KARL FRIEDRICH

People are dying, sweet Sister. Tea has certain qualities that help the immune system ward off infections. Mother, have Frau Lindstrom keep a supply in the cupboards.

 WALTER

You’re concerned with trifling colds. Munitions workers are striking and putting soldiers on the front at risk….

 CHRISTINE

They need better wages.

 WALTER

We all have to do our part.

 KARL BONHOEFFER

Yes, there are more things the Kaiser should be concerned about, like the fallout from torpedoing that U.S. ship? (at Ursula) Saw it in a news reel.

 WALTER

Oh, no worries Dad. The Red Baron’s has them shaking in their knickers.

KLAUS get up and makes a sound like a machine gun and points at WALTER. WALTER feigns death.

Laughter and chatter increase amongst the family.

 URSULA

Father, may I attend the picture house tomorrow with Rebekah. They’re showing Chaplin’s new film.

 KARL B.

That young man has serious issues. Why not see Tarzan of the Apes?

URSULA begins her protest.

PAULA BONHOEFFER looks around and stands.

 PAULA

 Alright my beautifuls. It’s time to turn in. Your brother has an early train. (to her husband) and we have to travel into the city.

Sabine is pulling at Dietrich and he is being unresponsive.

 SABINE

Mother….Dietrich has a gift for Walter.

PAULA B. looks down the table at DIETRICH, age 12. He glances briefly at his mother and rises from the table and exits the room.

INT**.** BONHOEFFER FAMILY ROOM – PIANO

Close up of DIETRICH sitting at THE PIANO. He begins to play.

The family members flow into the room, filling it. After a few moments, DIETRICH begins to sing “Now at the last we say Godspeed on your Journey”.

At the end of the song, tears well in PAULA BONHOEFFER’S eyes. DIETRICH turns to his brother WALTER.

 DIETRICH

Did you like it Brother?

 WALTER

Very much. It was your best yet.

DIETRICH looks over at his parents; both give an approving smile.

EXT: BERLIN- LEHRTER BAHNHOF – DUSK

CARL and PAULA BONHOEFFER are waiting on the platform with WALTER, who’s in uniform. They stand in silence and watch the busyness of the station. Walter is looking toward POTSDAMER PLATZ.

There are sounds of THE TRAIN approaching.

The TRAIN arrives at the station. The CONDUCTOR disembarks and announces the train’s destination.

A STEWARD takes Walter’s baggage. Walter turns toward his parents. He goes in for to hug his mother.

 PAULA

Nimm jetzt endlich diese blöde Kippe aus dem Mund und küss mich richtig!"

WALTER snickers and extinguishes the cigarette under his boot.

 WALTER

Maybe you should don this uniform instead of me, Mother. Those Frogs wouldn’t stand a chance.

He kisses her and shakes his father’s hand.

WALTER boards the train, quickly finding a sit next to a window.

The Conductor calls for all passengers to board.

The ENGINEER rings THE BELL signaling that the train is departing.

Paula’s face appears to be struggling with something.

The TRAIN begins to pull away from the station.

Paula breaks away from her position next to her husband and runs after the train.

 PAULA (yells)

WALTER….

Walter turns and looks at his mother, who is running alongside the train.

 PAULA

Be brave Son. It’s only space that separates us.

BELLS continue ringing in the distance.

EXT. STREETS OF BERLIN- GRUNEWALD DISTRICT – FUNERAL PROCESSION

Close up of Frau Bonhoeffer’s face beneath the veil. She concentrates on the bells on the horses and follows them into the CHAPEL GATES.

INT. LUTHERN CHAPEL - AFTERNOON

Family and FRIENDS are seated. The sanctuary is quiet, with sounds of sniffles. A plane can be heard flying overhead.

UNCLE HANS VON HASE is standing behind the ALTER. He’s looking down, and slightly looks up at his sister and brother in law. He looks down again at the hymnal in front of him. He startles at the sound of the CHAPEL DOORS closing.

 HANS VON HASE

Guten Tag. We will begin with the hymn on page 192. Jerusalem, du Hochgebaude Stadt.

The people begin to sing the hymn. As the song progresses, Dietrich’s voice rises. All of his family members follow suit, so that the volume increases and the singers can be heard clear from outside the CHAPEL.

FADE OUT on YOUNG DIETRICH singing loudly.

INT. TEGEL MILITARY PRISON – CELL 92

DIETRICH is singing the same song in his cell on his knees. The background noise becomes silent.

TEARS begin to run down his face and he begins to sob.

INT. TEGEL PRISON. OUTSIDE CELL 92

A MAN knocks at the cell door.

INT. CELL 92

DIETRICH gets up from the floor and fixes his shirt and trousers. He walks to the door as he hears that it’s being opened.

Standing on the other side is MANFRED ROEDER the Prosecutor wearing a suit and tie. His face is smug as he eyes Dietrich. Roeder steps aside and a young LADY about the age of 18 comes into view.

Dietrich draws in a breath and stands paralyzed for seconds. Then his face ignites in a smile.

END