

THE LION AND THE RING

Based on a real story - WGA Reg. # 1319828

LOGLINE

- Russia 1943 - A soldier, Vittorio, deserts the Italian army risking his life for a Russian Jewish woman, Natasha, that he falls in love with during the war.

SYNOPSIS

It's 1989 and the Berlin wall crumbles. With the iron curtain falling, Vittorio can finally go back to the places where he fought during WWII. Travelling on a train to Russia, Vittorio's little grandson, Marcello, discovers an old ring with a lion carved on its side and asks Vittorio whose ring it was. Flushed with emotions, Vittorio tells his grandson his story of love and war.

Stationed at a small village near the front, Vittorio meets a young Russian girl, Natasha. They become friends and she helps him in dealing both with the cold and with the lack of food. They become secret lovers and she gives him a ring promising undying love. But when her family discovers that she befriended an enemy soldier, they force her to end that relationship. When Vittorio's commanding officer also finds out about their relationship, he orders Vittorio to kill not only Natasha but the entire village as well. Unable to carry out such a horrific order, Vittorio and two of his buddies desert to Poland. They discover not only a Nazi death camp, but that Natasha is prisoner there. Vittorio attempts to rescue her and in the process kills the German captain commanding the camp. The rescue attempt fails and they have to flee from the camp, making their way back to Italy. Fearing the worst, Vittorio spends the rest of his life mourning his love.

Marcello is fascinated with the story and becomes excited as their tour bus arrives in the village where Vittorio met Natasha. As Vittorio walks through the village, an old woman notices the ring on his finger and gasps. It's Natasha and she's still alive! They look at each other like ghosts from the past, thinking each other to be dead. But as they move to embrace, they hesitate, resigned that it's been too many years. She had another life, another family. They smile as they walk away from each other. Vittorio gets on the bus leaving behind all his memories.

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