

IRENE

Written by

Valerio Pampaglino

"Memories are mirrors in which we see our life."

1

INT. EMPTY HOUSE (MIRROR ROOM) - DAY

1

IRENE(20), is lying on the ground sleeping, dirty with dust, and dressed in light-coloured clothes. Awoken by the light from a window, she opens her eyes.

The girl is inside a room devoid of any furniture or objects; a single window let's in a few rays of sunlight and there are mirrors on the walls.

Some of these are broken and on the walls, only empty frames and silhouettes. Irene looks around and struggles to get up. She tries to shake off the dust. At the end of the room, there is an exit.

As she makes her way to go away, the girl's attention is drawn by a voice, coming from one of the mirrors. As Irene approaches, the sound becomes sharper and louder.

MOTHER OF IRENE (V.O.)

Irene? Irene?

The girl approaches the mirror

CUT TO:

2

EXT. WHEAT FIELD - DAY

2

Irene finds herself in a wheat field. In front of her stand some peasant women dressed in dark clothes and she cannot see their faces; with their scythes, they cut the ears of wheat into bundles.

Irene looks around touching an ear of wheat. A little girl runs to her right, towards one of the women in front of her.

Irene approaches the two. The little girl whispers something to her mother.

MOTHER OF IRENE

All right, that's enough for today.
Tell everyone that it's time to go
home to make lunch.

The little girl looks at Irene and catches her eye. The two look at each other until the little girl runs towards the other peasant women.

Among them there is the little girl. She notices Irene's presence and with a gesture tells her to be quiet, then points to the entrance of the barn.

A great uproar is getting closer and closer.

GERMAN SOLDIER 1

Nimm alles und lass nichts zurück.
(Take all and leave nothing)

More people can be heard approaching the barn

FATHER OF IRENE

Stop, what are you doing?

Irene runs to the straw pile and hides.

Two Nazi soldiers enter the barn with a lantern. Buried in the straw, she cannot make out the figures. faces. There is no sound in the room.

GERMAN SOLDIER 2

Es sind nur zwei Säcke voll Gerste.
(It's just two bags full
of barley)
Nimm sie und lade sie auf das Auto.
(Take them with you and load them
into the car)

The soldier comes out with the two sacks. The father of the little girls enters.

GERMAN SOLDIER 2 (CONT'D)

You have stated that you are alone
and that you have no family left,
right? If
If you tell a lie, you can be shot
instantly.

FATHER OF IRENE

I swear on my lost children, this
is what there is...

Before leaving the barn, the soldier directs the light of his lantern towards the heap of straw where Irene were standing. Called by his colleague, he leaves the barn.

After a quick look around, the farmer comes out too, and waves his hand behind his back.

Irene watches the scene. The little girl slowly comes out murmuring something and three more little girls, all dressed in light-coloured clothes, come out from the straw pile. Irene looks at the scene and starts to get up.

As the other girls sneak out, Irene and the little girl are left alone. The girl remains alone. They approach each other and embrace each other.

The light in the room fades. Irene does not notice that she is alone. Sound of footsteps. Irene looks around.

A lantern illuminates the girl from the front. Two soldiers grab Irene and drag her away.

6 **INT. EMPTY HOUSE (STRAW ROOM) - NIGHT**

6

Irene is thrown to the ground in the middle of the straw. She sees two faceless soldiers staring at her with force, smashing the mirror and leaving Irene terrified on the ground. When the deed is done, the two leave the scene.

Irene gets up. She removes some straw from her hair and dress, the girl hears the sound of a harmonica in the distance. She leaves the room.

7 **INT. EMPTY HOUSE (CORRIDOR) - DAY**

7

Irene enters a corridor following the melody. On the walls there are mirrors still intact and the windows of this hallway let in a light that is warmer and brighter than in the previous rooms. Irene crinkles her her eyes.

Unlike the other rooms, in this one, there are several objects: cradles, baskets, various farm tools, and antique furniture. Irene walks down the corridor, touching the objects.

Arriving at the center of this space, she notices a gold mirror from it comes the melody of the harmonica. The girl approaches the object but is almost immediately blocked by strange footsteps in the distance.

On the other side of the corridor, Irene sees some faceless individuals, brandishing various weapons; they walk and head towards each of the mirrors.

Irene before running away takes one last look at the elegant mirror she was looking at. The figures get closer and closer and the girl runs towards the exit of the corridor.

She exits the corridor.

8 **INT. EMPTY HOUSE (MAIN DOOR) - DAY**

8

Irene comes down the stairs and slumps to the floor, catching her breath. A haze of dust mingles with the sun's rays entering through the barred windows.

The girl rises and advances toward the center of the room. In front of her, she finds a large doorway and around it dozens and dozens of photographs, almost all blurred, she cannot make out any of the subjects in them. One of them portrays the little girl.

Recognizing it, she peels off the photo from the wall and brings it to her chest.

Forcefully she tries to open the large door. The door does not open. She tries several times, but it is blocked. The girl sits against the door and faceless figures appear before her.

VOICE 1

Irene? Where are you?

VOICE 2

Do you remember how beautiful those flowers?

VOICE 3

Irene?

VOICE 4

Who are you running from?

VOICE 5

Is that your name?

Irene holds the child's photo to her chest while voices crowd around her. A ray of sunlight illuminates her face in the mist.

The light slowly fades. Irene falls asleep.

VOICE 6

Sleep Irene, tomorrow is another day.

CUT TO BLACK.

9 **INT. EMPTY HOUSE (MIRROR ROOM) - DAY**

9

Irene wakes up and is lying on the floor, full of dust. The girl looks around: there are only broken and smashed mirrors on the floor. A dark silence reigns in the room.

The noise of breaking glass interrupts the scene. Irene clings to the arm of the boy who, in a hurry, leads her behind the big tree

CUT TO:

13 **INT. EMPTY HOUSE (MAIN DOOR) - DAY**

13

The girl stands again in front of the doorway full of photos and behind her the mirror with the boy covered by the hat intent on greeting her. Irene greets him, but a faceless man appears from behind the mirror and throws it to the floor.

On the wall there are dozens of frames without pictures. Irene kneels in the middle of the room, only a few ray of sunlight comes to illuminate her.

VOICE 1

Why are you crying?

VOICE 2

Where are you?

VOICE 3

What's your name?

VOICE 4

Is Irene your real name?

VOICE 5

There's nobody here.

VOICE 6

Sleep Irene, tomorrow is another day!

The voices overlap. Irene has her head lowered to the ground and is on her knees.

CUT TO:

14 **INT. BEDROOM - DAY**

14

Clock is ticking. A woman feeds an elderly lady.

WOMAN

Come on, take your medicine

Irene opens her mouth and swallows.

IRENE

Thank you. But... shall I
get up for lunch? Has dad
arrived?

WOMAN

Don't worry, Franco is coming.

Irene sighs, turning towards the window as her carer leaves the room. Looking around, the elderly lady tries to get out of bed, without success. She looks at the room.

IRENE

Mommy... When are we going home?

Nobody answers.

CUT TO:

On the bedside table is a vase of daisies. The door room opens and FRANCO(40) come's in, Irene's son, dressed in a simple shirt and a pair of jeans. In his hands holds a tablet.

FRANCO

Hey, mum!

IRENE

(smiling)
Good evening....

FRANCO

How are you mom? What's up?

IRENE

Eh. I'm waiting to go home. Have you seen mum there? I want to go home.

Irene turns towards the window, removing her smile. Franco looks at Irene and sits near the bed.

FRANCO

I want you to hear something.

Irene doesn't say anything and continues to watch the window. Sitting next to his mother, Franco plays the song "Vola Colomba" by Nilla Pizzi;

CUT TO:

22 **INT. KITCHEN (IRENE'S HOME) - DAY**

22

A harmonica plays through the window. A boy wearing a hat attracts the girl's attention.

MOTHER OF IRENE

He never left either.

Irene gets up and goes near the window. CARLO(25) stops playing and removes his hat, showing his face to the girl. The two shake hands and look at each other.

CARLO

I missed you.

IRENE

I missed you too...

They kiss each other. The two see the little girl from the greenfield enter the gate, dressed with the same dress of Irene.

CARLO

You need to go with her now.

IRENE

I want to stay here.

Irene's mother approaches the two. With her thumb, she wipes away a tear from Irene.

MOTHER OF IRENE

Don't cry anymore... We will see soon...

She hugs her daughter.

IRENE

I love you mum...

CUT TO:

23 **INT. BEDROOM - DAY**

23

Franco looks touched at the scene smiling while Mama Irene squeezes her son's hand tightly. Franco takes a handkerchief from his breast pocket and wipes away his tears.

IRENE

This is the most beautiful gift you could ever give me.

