

Mouse Trap

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FADE IN:

EXT. CITY -DAY

An aerial view of a large city situated in between other cities. The city looks almost black and white and stands out from the surrounding area. We descend closer the ground and an array of matching gray houses can be seen along with large government like buildings. The descent continues now over a large group of gathered people of all ages, in matching outfits. We center on an older white man [PRESIDENT MARROW],48, he is neatly put together and stands in a position matched by the crowd below him. They recite a pledge.

CROWD (UNISON)
Reciting pledge

PRESIDENT MARROW
(More clearly)
Reciting pledge

ASTRA
(mumbling)
Reciting pledge

ASTRA, 14 pokes her friend, MILIA,14 standing close to her. Everything about the girls is just as neat as everyone else but briefly they break formation as the young girl whispers into the others' ear. The girl giggles at what was said, and they receive looks of disgust from surrounding older children as they continue reciting the pledge. The girls quickly quiet and resume their original positions and recite the pledge along with others.

President Marrow says the last line of the pledge at the podium. He begins to rattle off governmental statistics, and everyone in the crowd pays attention attentively.

Astra scoots closer to Milia in formation. Astra breaks formation briefly flashing the phone in her pocket.

MILIA
(whispering)
Saxe gave me something

Milia takes out a note, it reads EVERYONE IS WATCHING.

Elias watches as the girls become more serious, scooting apart and fix their formation.

They both look over and he does the same, spotting Saxe. Saxe briefly beaks formation, turning his head and raising a finger to his lips.

CUT TO BLACK.

EXT. ROAD - AFTERNOON

Astra with a partially unzipped backpack on her back rides a bike down a curved road. Momentarily her footing is off, and the front of her bike turns sharply, she falls off of the bike into a bush. Objects from her backpack spill out onto the grass. Rubbing her shoulder, she gets up, takes her backpack off and begins picking up her things off the ground. Shoving a notebook into her bag she finds a phone on the ground and eyes it suspiciously.

She looks around anxiously, shoving it into her backpack. She picks up her bike and bag, peeling away from where she fell.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE SAXE'S HOUSE/ BACKYARD - EVENING

Astra, Milia, and Saxe stand together in a circle away from the house. They look at the phone in Astra's hands.

SAXE

What is it

ASTRA

No. Idea.

Milia takes the phone from Astra's hands pressing all the buttons that run down its sides. The phone turns on, the screen shows the time, and she presses the home button, the phone unlocks showing news articles.

She clicks on an article about a city

MILIA

What is this place..

SAXE

No, where is that place.

They all look at each other curiously. Just then Saxe's mom, MARGARET, 46, slightly plump and extremely nice looking.

MARGARET

(raised voice)

DINNER!

All of their heads turn toward the voice, but Margaret has already gone back into the house, the door closing behind her. Astra takes the phone out of Milia's hand- placing it in her pocket.

BACK TO:

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Astra, Milia, and Saxe are seen sitting in the last row of a classroom with a SUTTON on the side of Astra and GIRL 1 on the side of Saxe. The three kids pass notes, it travels from Saxe to Milia to Astra.

MS.BLOIS, teacher, 32, in government marked clothing, a shirt and military like pants, with boots. Nothing about her is out of place. Kids in matching attire look at her, whilst they maintain a rigid position- only moving to write.

A note moves from Milia's hand to Astra's quickly. Sutton glances over at them noticing the passing of the note.

MS.BLOIS

Authority is of the greatest importance. They keep us safe and protected. As you have learned it's a privilege to become a soldier and hold the honor of protecting our citizens...

(Fades out)

SUTTON

(Barely moving his mouth)
(to Astra)
What is that?

ASTRA

Nothing.

She opens her notebook on her desk to hide the note and opens it. It reads "Tonight" underlined, in all caps. She looks over at Saxe who smiles slyly.

CUT TO:

INT. ASTRA'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Astra walks into her neat room wearing shorts and a shirt both marked with an emblem

BEGIN MONTAGE

- A girl closed a notebook revealing an emblem on the front
- A teacher writes on a chalkboard away from her student, which has the emblem in the top right corner
- A black van drives down a road marked with the emblem
- Students all walk into school dressed identically with the same black backpacks, marked with the emblem.
- A man stands in a uniform marked with an emblem
- A mother pulls out baby clothes from a drawer, it's a white onesie marked with a small emblem at the top. She begins dressing the baby who we see is only in a diaper- also marked with the emblem.

END MONTAGE

The bed is made military style, desk is clear beside a single notebook with a pencil beside it, identical pairs of shoes line up on the ground under a window. The only thing that stands out is a pile of books on the floor, behind her door. She continues over to a closet, opening it to reveal identical outfits of three colors, black, gray, and a dark navy blue. All marked with the same emblem on her clothes. She takes a suitcase marked with a matching emblem down from a shelf, its black and obviously durable.

She begins to reach for clothes in the closet, but a BABY'S CRY makes her turn looking at her open door and then at the blinds of her window which are up. She closes the door, pushing the piles of books against it, and distinctly we hear ASTRA'S PARENTS calming the baby. She walks back to the closet and begins filling it.

CUT TO:

EXT. SAXE'S HOUSE/OUTSIDE HIS WINDOW - NIGHT

A window SQUEALS open revealing Saxe's face which is lit by ambience from streetlights. He lowers a backpack out the window handing it to Milia, then does the same with a suitcase so heavy it causes Milia to stumble a bit. She drops it to the ground. Saxe jumps out of the window with obviously wet hair, in all black. He looks tired and slightly disheveled.

SAXE

(Running hands through
hair)

Is everything clear?

He anxiously glances around; Milia rolls her eyes at his nervousness.

MILIA
 (sarcastically)
 No, we came here while soldiers are
 marching the streets.

Milia begins to walk away, backpack on her back and suitcase handle in hand- dragging behind her. Saxe and Astra look at each other warily, Astra shrugs, grabbing her things- identical to Milia and follows. Saxe looks back at his closed window, picks his things up off the ground. He slings his backpack on his back and begins a jog trailing his suitcase behind him to catch up the girls.

The three follow each other in a line down a dimly lit, deserted road.

CUT TO:

INT. TRAIN STATION - NIGHT

Milia and SAXE,14, a scrawny but touch looking boy looks around worriedly. He repeatedly plays with his hair pulling it back in that way all boys do. The two kids rummage around in their suitcases which are open on the ground, clothes partially laid out on the floor. Milia turns to a backpack fishing out coins. She stands, putting the coins to Astra's open hand. Saxe comes off the ground, walking over to Astra and does the same. Astra pulls coins out of her pocket placing them in the hand that already has coin in it. She slides the coins around in her hand counting them.

ASTRA
 (Glancing around, worried)
 This might not be enough

SAXE
 Well just try

Astra glances at Milia concerned, but Milia without speaking shoos Astra away with her hand, not looking away from her suitcase which she is now reorganizing.

Astra walks away to a Ticket Booth and places the coins in a metal tray with a CLANG. She slides the tray through a slot to the ELIAS,15 disheveled but still slightly neat, he looks more tired than anything. Preoccupied with a book, doesn't look up at her.

ASTRA

Three tickets, next train to...
 (glancing at a map behind
 him)
 Tanzine.

ELIAS

(Raising his eyebrows)
Tanzine?

Elias now looks up at her curiously, he regards her as weird but pretty. He looks into her green eyes hoping for an explanation. She doesn't give one. He types into a machine behind him, and 3 tickets come out of a small slot on the machine.

ELIAS (CONT'D)

(blandly)
 ...12am, left platform, have a safe
 trip.

He places the three tickets in the tray along a few coins and slides it back through the slot. Diverting his attention back to his book. Astra gathers the tickets and coins, walking away from the booth with a slight skip.

As she approaches Saxe and Milia who now have everything reorganized and closed zipping up the last backpack. They see Astra, tickets in hand and smile. Astra spins with the tickets in hand, fanning herself with them and smiling. Elias is seen glancing up looking at Astra as she turns with a slight smile on his face.

CUT TO:

INT. TRAIN STATION - NIGHT

Elias pulls out coins from his pocket, eyeing the group-
 specifically Astra.

A memory of the assembly flashes

Along with his own phone

He places the coins into the slots on a machine, then types something on a computer, then a ticket slowly comes out of another slot on the machine.

CLOSE UP ON TICKET:

It reads: 12am, LEFT PLATFORM, Tanzine

He glances at a digital clock that reads 9:40pm.

CUT TO:

GWYNETH'S POV: she knocks on the window of the book, ELias raises his head from a book on the counter of the booth. He turns to the clock which reads: 10:20pm. He uses the ticket printed earlier as a bookmark, shoving it into a dingy backpack.

ELIAS

(annoyed)

You're late Gwyn.

GWYNETH

Sorry I missed my train...and you know how that is..

She continues offering an excuse, but Elias has already walked off leaving Gwyneth dumbfounded

EXT. FOREST - SUNSET

CLOSE UP OF ASTRA'S EYES

Astra's eyes now has a sharper look to it. Her brunette hair flaps in the wind attacking her face. Her feet hit the dark ground aggressively as she runs through a thick forest. She continues running and suddenly falls over a tree stump. Briefly losing her bearings she still quickly brings herself off the ground and continues running. Now disregarding bloody knees and mud on her hair, arms and legs. She glances behind her at the CRACK of branches, but no one is there, she glances forward, and we see her goal- a fence almost 500 feet away

CUT TO: