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Based on the original idea of Marko Rauhala

STORMHEART

Version 6.1

www.stormheart.fi

www.myrskyelokuva.fi

1. INT. BARRACKS. RED STAR KENNEL. DDR YEAR 1989. NIGHT.

A dirty grey room with some soldiers' junk and clothes lying about. On a rug spread on the plain concrete floor lies a Caucasian Shepherd mother with her newborn puppies. One of the puppies, (STORMHEART), is seeking his mother's nipple, his eyes closed and his nose trembling. Finally, he finds the nipple and is soon sucking the milk beside his brothers and sisters, all snuffling with happiness.

2. EXT. BERLIN WALL. NIGHT.

Quiet steps are heard in the darkness. A Caucasian Shepherd guarding the wall on top of his doghouse turns his eyes towards the sound, gives a growl and dashes into the darkness. The footsteps turn into running steps. Next, there's a hollow growl and a cry for help. Then it's all quiet again.

3. EXT. BERLIN WALL. AUTUMN. DAY.

Silence. The gloomy grey Berlin Wall and its barbed-wire obstacles dominate the landscape. Armed soldiers and huge Caucasian Shepherds are guarding the massive wall. A solitary Trabant driving by covers everything in smoke.

4. INT. BARRACKS. RED STAR KENNEL. AFTERNOON.

The puppies have opened their eyes. Stormheart is clumsily fighting with his brothers and sisters. Patiently, the mother lets her growling puppies climb all over her and nibble at her fur.

The warehouse door opens. The mother stands up and gives a warning growl. An East German soldier comes in. The mother calms down. The soldier puts on her leash and takes her out. Stormheart sneaks out to the yard behind his mother, without the soldier noticing.

5. EXT. BARRACKS. AFTERNOON.

A soldier is walking with Stormheart's mother in the yard. Stormheart, born seven weeks ago, is bouncing along behind them. A construction man who is repairing the gate shouts at the soldier.

SOLDIER (in German)

Zum teufel! Catch him! We're in a hurry!

The construction man takes Stormheart in his arms and pets him. Stormheart's tail is wagging with happiness.

SOLDIER (in German)

Don't pet him! Or if you do, pet him the wrong way. He mustn't get used to humans.

6. EXT. BERLIN STREET. EVENING. CANDLE REVOLUTION.

Stormheart is wriggling in the man's arms. A huge procession of people is advancing silently down the street. The demonstrators are all carrying a candle. Among the men, women and children watching the procession, there are lots of policemen and army vehicles.

The TV and photographic cameras of dozens of reporters are preserving the night of the revolution on film. The riot police have German Shepherds and much bigger Caucasian Shepherds with them. The DDR tanks and special forces are powerlessly watching the sea of candles. Stormheart gives frightened looks at the big guard dogs.

7. INT. LIVING ROOM. HÄMEENLINNA. FINLAND. AT THE SAME TIME.

The TV is broadcasting the historical event all over the world.

TV REPORTER

Emotions are stirred up on both sides of the Berlin wall. Tears are about to fall as finally, there is hope of meeting again the relatives that were left behind the border.

PEARL BERRYSTON, 7, is playing with Matryoshka dolls at the living room table. Her mother, IRIS, is watching the news from the Candle Revolution of the DDR. Pearl's older sister, MINTY, 13, is sitting in the corner of the sofa, her eyes red with crying.

MUM

Minty. You have only two choices. You can spend the time you're grounded here in the living room with us, or you can spend it alone in your room.

PEARL

Is Daddy on TV?

MUM

Darling. Daddy is on the West Berlin side and this is coming from East Berlin.

PEARL

What's the difference?

MUM

There's a heavily guarded wall between them, so there's no way Daddy could be there.

PEARL (climbing into her mother's lap)

Why do they have the wall there?

MUM

It's a bit complicated. But now those people want that the wall be torn down.

MINTY

It's not complicated. With that wall, they want to prevent people from getting out of there, and others from getting in. Just like here with us. You can't meet who you want to.

PEARL

So they're all prisoners?

MINTY

Yeah. Just like me.

MUM

Minty!

MINTY

What are you, a Nazi? One can't even say what one thinks here.

Mum gives a sigh. Serious-looking Pearl is watching the TV, now showing some heavy artillery.

PEARL (climbing into her mother's lap)

Will there be war now, Mum?

MUM

No. No, there won't. Nothing like that.

PEARL

Won't you have to work in the army then?

MUM

That has nothing to do with mum's work.

8. INT. BARRACKS. RED STAR KENNEL. EAST GERMANY. DAY.

The puppies have grown older and are now ready to go. Stormheart is still trying to suck milk from his mother's nipple. The door opens. Some soldiers come in.

One of them puts the leash on the mother. Some of the puppies start whining after their mother. The soldier has tears in his eyes. With a heavy sigh, he takes the mother with him. Two other soldiers gather the puppies into a cage.

9. EXT. BARRACKS. RED STAR KENNEL.

The soldiers are dragging a cage that is too small for so many puppies.

CONSTRUCTION MAN (in German, shouting from the gate)

Where are you taking them?

SOLDIER (in German)

You know where.

Stormheart is watching the strange, new world from inside the cage. Suddenly, the construction man's familiar face appears at the cage. Stormheart whines and reaches towards the man.

CONSTRUCTION MAN (pointing at Stormheart)

I'd like to have that puppy.

SOLDIER

What? You can't cope with him. And how will you feed him?

You don't even have work anymore.

CONSTRUCTION MAN

I just want this one to live.

SOLDIER (shrugging his shoulders)

Whatever. He's not needed anymore.

10.1. EXT. EAST BERLIN. STREET. MORNING

The gates of the Berlin Wall have been opened. Stormheart walks down the street on a leash, watching curiously. He encounters different kinds of shoes: stylish "Western shoes", Nike and Reebok sneakers and plastic "Eastern shoes".

A little East German boy bends down to pet Stormheart. Stormheart starts wagging his tail with joy. An elegant old West German lady in an emotional state and a younger East German woman hurry to them.

The West German old lady bends down to stroke the little boy's head. The boy stops stroking Stormheart and stands up in astonishment. Tears pour down the woman's cheeks as she looks at her grandchild. The construction man picks Stormheart up in his arms and leaves discreetly. Looking over the construction man's shoulder, Stormheart sees the old lady wrap the boy tightly in her arms.

11.1. EXT. EAST BERLIN. ANOTHER STREET CORNER. A MOMENT LATER.

Stormheart is whining with hunger. The construction man picks a piece of bratwurst from his pocket. Stormheart sees it and becomes even crankier.

The construction man sees a stall selling agricultural products, living baby chicks and other things.

11.2. INT/EXT. OLD MARKET HALL

The construction man enters the market hall, where they sell agricultural products, bread, vegetables, and meat. The construction man stops in front of one of the stalls, in which a COUNTRY GROCER sells, besides meat products, live baby chicks among other things.

THE CONSTRUCTION MAN (in German)

Could I have something for the puppy to eat?

THE COUNTRY GROCER gestures with her fingers, asking for money. The man spreads his arms in submission.

CONSTRUCTION MAN (in German)

Kein Geld. Put the puppy up for sale. You can keep the money, if you just take good care of him.

The country grocer looks at Stormheart suspiciously and ties him with a rope on her table. Stormheart gets a nice portion of food that he gulps down eagerly.

The construction man disappears in the crowd. Stormheart watches as he leaves, then he hears a peeping sound. Stormheart sees beside him a cardboard box with baby chicks inside. Stormheart stretches his neck to see better, but can't get any closer because he is tied with a rope. Stormheart wriggles himself free and pads along to the baby chicks. He sniffs at them and touches them with his big paw.

The country grocer takes fright when she sees that Stormheart has escaped from the rope. She is all the more surprised when Stormheart gives a friendly lick to one of the baby chicks.

12.1. EXT./INT. HENHOUSE. EAST GERMAN COUNTRYSIDE. EVENING/INT. HENHOUSE.
EVENING.

Big hens are cackling at roost. Stormheart is sleeping in a small chicken-wire cage with the baby chicks. The chicks climb under Stormheart's leg, seeking warmth from his thick fur.

13.1. INT. EAST BERLIN, OLD MARKET HALL. TWO WEEKS LATER.

Besides agricultural products and Stormheart, the grocer is also selling pieces of the Berlin Wall. Stormheart is sitting in the cardboard box, surrounded by baby chicks, watching people passing by. He has grown and looks like a chubby bear cub compared to the peeping little chicks. The country grocer scratches Stormheart.

A Russian colonel and his elegant wife walk by. The colonel's wife notices Stormheart.

COLONEL'S WIFE (pointing at Stormheart in confusion)

Owcharka.

COUNTRY GROCER (astonished)

Owcharka?

COLONEL'S WIFE

Yes, Owcharca. Wall guard dog.

Gesturing with her fingers, the colonel's wife shows "running steps", then "a dog's huge, gaping mouth that swallows up the runner". The country grocer is shocked.

COLONEL'S WIFE (to the colonel, nonchalantly)

Didn't they put them all down?

Embarrassed, the colonel gives his wife a glare to silence her and leads her into the crowd.

Suddenly, a man stops at Stormheart, looking at him with awe. He a Finnish orchestral player,
ZACHARY BERRYSTON.

ZACHARY (from now on, DAD)

What strange creature are you? You know, you look just like the biblical lion among sheep.

Stormheart looks at Dad, tilting his head. The old lady grabs her chance.

GROCER (in German)

Owzarca. Take him with you. You can have him cheap.

DAD (in German)

What?

GROCER (in German)

Owcharka. Come on, buy him. Take him away.

DAD (in German)

What? What ovtaska?

The grocer draws her finger across her throat as if cutting it open. Dad picks Stormheart up in his arms. Stormheart licks at his face.

DAD (slightly shocked)

How could anyone do any harm to such a kind creature at a time like this?

14.1. EXT. BERLIN

Dad takes Stormheart through East Berlin and West Berlin, alternatively walking then carrying him. The architecture of Hitler and Stalin's era change into pompous palaces and the sky-kissing angel statue of Tiergarten.

14.2. INT. BACK ROOM OF CONCERT HALL / CONCERT HALL. EVENING.

The back room is full of music stands and instrument cases. Stormheart is sleeping in Dad's violin case with the lid open. From the concert hall is heard Bach's music which Dad on violin and his musician friend on cello are playing together in a small chamber orchestra.

15. EXT. FERRY DECK. MORNING.

The ferry arrives at Helsinki harbour. Dad is holding Stormheart in his arms. At the feet of the men are their suitcases and violin and cello cases.

DAD (to Stormheart)

This place is called Finland. This is your new home country.

Dad opens his bag and puts Stormheart in there.

DAD (calming down the struggling Stormheart)

Hush... quiet. What we're going to do now may be a bit illegal, but that way, you'll survive.

DAD'S MUSICIAN FRIEND (giving a thumbs-up to Stormheart)

Hang on, pal!

Dad pushes Stormheart inside the bag and zips it up.

16. INT. TRAIN. DAY.

Dad is sitting with Stormheart in the pet compartment of the train. A beautiful view unfolds from the train window. Behind the lake, there is the mighty silhouette of Hämeenlinna castle.

DAD

This is your new home. Hämeenlinna.

17. EXT. BERRYSTON HOUSE. DAY.

The taxi stops at the nice-looking single-family house. Dad gets out of the taxi, holding Stormheart in his arms. Dad looks over the small fence at his seven-year-old daughter, Pearl, who is playing in the yard.

Pearl is holding a little box with a dead beetle in it. Pearl lays the box in a hole she has dug and shovels some dirt on it. Then, she places a cluster of rowanberries on top of the beetle's grave.

PEARL

Don't worry, Becky the Beetle. In heaven, you'll have lots of new friends you can play with.

Grandmama will be there, and Hippy the Hamster, Lucky the Worm and Mummy's doggie Netta, and all dead animals of the world.

Dad crouches down behind the fence, opens the gate quietly and lets Stormheart free in the yard.

Wagging his tail, Stormheart runs to Pearl. Pearl looks at Stormheart, amazed.

PEARL

Who are you?

Stormheart forces his way into Pearl's lap. Pearl pets Stormheart's head.

PEARL

What are you doing here? Whose dog are you?

The erupting permanent teeth make Stormheart's gums tickle and he snaps at Pearl's hand and bites it to feel better. Pearl squeals with pain and pulls her hand away.

PEARL

You mustn't bite!

Pearl tries to push Stormheart away. Stormheart gets excited. He growls and jumps at Pearl, wagging his tail. Pearl is a bit frightened. Dad sneaks quietly up to Pearl.

DAD

Don't be afraid. His gums are tickling and he just wants to play. You see, he's just a little puppy.

PEARL (delighted)

Daddy!

Dad hugs Pearl. Stormheart forces his way between them and licks both of them.

PEARL

Whose dog is it?

DAD

Yours.

PEARL (delighted)

Mine! Did you bring me a dog as a present?

The door opens. Minty steps into the yard.

MINTY

Dad. I'm so glad you came to rescue me! Mum's been just awful. What's that?

DAD

That's Stormheart.

MINTY (petting Stormheart)

Why is such a cute little thing called Stormheart?

DAD

I don't know. It's just that at the moment the Wall broke down, I felt like I was in the heart of a storm.

18. INT. HALLWAY. EVENING.

A cacophony. Mum, Minty, Pearl and Stormheart and the TV and the washing machine are all making a noise. Stormheart is dashing across the floor, tearing a kitchen roll into pieces. Dad is unpacking his suitcase.

MUM (looking at Stormheart, shocked)

Yeah. That's a stormheart all right. How could you get a dog just like that, without asking our permission?! Who'll be taking care of him? Who'll be taking him out?

DAD

One little puppy doesn't matter much, when an entire nation collapses overnight. No one wanted him there. Should I have left him to die? They'd have put him down there.

MUM

I'm a bit surprised that among a million people, the only benefactor turned out to be... you! If you get a pet, you have to bear the responsibility!

MINTY

I can take him out, except in the mornings!

Stormheart comes rushing by, with Mum's high-heeled shoe in his teeth.

MUM (crying out with horror)

No, you're not taking that!!!

PEARL

Stop that yelling!! The poor little thing is scared at your yelling!!

Mum grabs her shoe, but Stormheart doesn't want to give it to her. Mum tries to pull the shoe out of Stormheart's mouth, but Stormheart holds it even tighter, growling at Mum.

MUM (a bit confused)

Oh my, that's a lively puppy.

19. INT. LIVING ROOM. EVENING.

Mum and Dad are watching on TV how the Berlin Wall is being torn down with might and main. Pearl and Minty are stroking Stormheart, who has fallen asleep between them after the wild play. Mum looks at Stormheart with deep emotion.

DAD

Do you understand now how I felt when I saw that fur ball there amongst the baby chicks? He was like a living symbol of peace.

MUM

He looks like a living puppy to me. A little sniffing thing, just like our doggie Netta was.

MINTY

Dad, what had they done to him before you saved him?

DAD

I don't know, really. The grocer said that he'd die if nobody took him and then she just kept saying something like ovtaska, ovtaska, ovtaska,

PEARL

What does that "ovtska" mean? Is it his name or what?

MUM

Sounds like Russian. Do you have any idea of his breed?

DAD

No. I'll look it up in the dog book.

PEARL (excited)

What if Stormheart is a circus dog?!

20. INT. PEARL'S ROOM. EVENING.

Pearl is showing Stormheart the stars twinkling behind the window.

PEARL

You know what? Your dad, mum and sisters aren't dead. They're over there. They've turned into stars, and they're looking at us. Now we have to say good night to them.

Pearl grabs Stormheart's paw and waves with it at the stars.

PEARL

Good night Stormheart's dad, mum and sisters. Good night Grandmama. Good night Hippy the Hamster, Lucky the Worm and Becko the Beetle. Good night Mum's doggie Netta, and Good night all dead animals of the world.

Pearl climbs into her bed. Stormheart follows her.

PEARL

Come here, little one, come to Pearl.

Pearl takes Stormheart and her bedtime toy, a sweet looking cuddle hedgehog, under her arm. Stormheart snuffles happily beside Pearl and starts chewing the cuddle hedgehog's ear.

PEARL (takes the hedgehog from Stormheart, scolding him)

You mustn't bite Hedgie! You're hurting him! Now, let's go to sleep and tomorrow we'll find out who you are.

21. EXT. LIBRARY. DAY.

Stormheart is sitting alone in front of the library, whimpering. He is tied with his leash to a lamp post.

22. INT. LIBRARY BORROWING COUNTER.

PEARL

We'd like to borrow some dog books!

LIBRARIAN

Can you read already?

PEARL (proudly)

Yes, I can. I learned when I was five.

23. INT. LIBRARY READING ROOM.

Dad and Pearl are studying a big dog book with a picture of a wolf in it.

DAD (reading aloud in a low voice)

In the early days, the dog's main task was to protect humans and farm animals against the attacks of beasts and robbers. With the help of big, furious dogs, our ancestors kept their homes and cattle safe.

24. EXT. LIBRARY.

Stormheart is still whimpering at the library stairs. He misses Pearl. A 50-year-old man appears with two greyhounds. The greyhounds sniff at Stormheart with caution. Stormheart is stirring, feeling unsafe. The man squats down to pet Stormheart. Eagerly wagging his tail, Stormheart tries to get into the man's arms. Dad and Pearl arrive.

PEARL (proudly)

He's my dog.

MAN

Well I've never seen one like this. What breed is he?

PEARL

We don't know yet.

MAN (amazed)

You don't know? Look at his paws.

The man shows Pearl and Dad how enormous Stormheart's paws are in relation to his size and to the slender paws of the full-grown greyhounds.

MAN

Judging from the paws, he'll become a really big dog.

25. EXT. ARMY BARRACKS. LATE MORNING.

Dad and Pearl are standing in front of a big, menacing-looking tank. Handsome men with good posture, wearing uniforms, are swarming around it. Mum arrives.

MUM (hugging Pearl)

Nice of you, darling, to come and meet mummy at work.

PEARL

Mum, a man said that Stormheart's going to be really big.

SOLDIER (from further off)
Hey Iris, whose puppy is this?

They look around and see how further down in the yard, Stormheart is following a handsome soldier in a uniform. The soldier comes over to them, laughing.

MUM
He's ours. Zachary brought him to us secretly from Berlin.

SOLDIER
Secretly?! It looks like he wants to work here in the army.

MUM
I guess he was used to soldiers in Berlin.

DAD
Well I found him among some baby chicks.

The soldier looks like he wants to laugh. Mum looks ill at ease.

26. INT. PEARL'S ROOM. EVENING

Stormheart is sleeping in Pear's doll bed. Pearl is sitting at her desk, writing a letter to Stormheart's mum and dad. It reads in capital letters: "Dear Stormheart's mum and dad!" Mum enters Pearl's room.

MUM
Go to sleep now. You should be in bed already.

PEARL
I'll just finish this letter to Stormheart's mum and dad.

MUM (wondering)
To Stormheart's mum and dad? Well, how are they going to get the letter?

Pearl proudly shows Mum a cardboard "mailbox" that she has made, with two compartments in it.

PEARL

I've made this mailbox where they can get all the letters I'll write to them. And here's the compartment where they can put the letters they send to me, and I can get them from there.

27. EXT. BERRYSTON HOUSE. NIGHT.

A drunk young man swaying from side to side walks past the house and throws an empty beer can over the fence into the yard.

28. INT. PEARL'S ROOM. AT THE SAME TIME.

Stormheart, lying by Pearl's side, pricks up his ears, jumps onto the floor and gives out a low growl. The door opens quietly. Mum enters in her nightgown.

MUM

What are you growling about?

Mum takes a letter from the "mailbox" that Pearl has written to Stormheart's parents.

29. INT. DAD'S STUDY. A MOMENT LATER.

Dad is quietly practicing his violin in his sound-proof study. Mum enters the room.

MUM (showing Pearl's letter to Dad)

Look. Stormheart's mum and dad. 7 C Heaven Road. Heaven.

MUM (opens the letter and reads it aloud)

Dear Stormheart's mum and dad! You don't have to worry about your child anymore. He has a good home now. I am his new mum and I shall take very good care of him. Could you please write to me and tell me who you are? Yours truly, Pearl.

30. EXT. AULANKO PARK. DAY.

Stormheart is sitting alone in the centre of a clearing in the park, whimpering. Pearl is squatting behind a bush, hiding with Sandy and Rose. The girls are playing hide and seek with Stormheart.

PEARL (calling for Stormheart)

Stormheart!

Wagging his tail, Stormheart starts running towards Pearl's voice and finds the hiding place of Pearl and the other girls. Pearl gives Stormheart a hug, Sandy and Rose pet him.

PEARL

Were you worried that Pearl would leave you? Pearl won't leave you. Pearl will never leave you.

31. EXT. HOME. AT THE GATE. DAY.

Minty and her 15-year-old boyfriend, Rusty, are leaning against the fence. Rusty has a Mohican hairstyle and he's wearing a black leather jacket decorated with studs and safety pins.

MINTY

Dad says I can be with anyone I want to, but our mum has some weird prejudice against punks.

RUSTY (quoting the lyrics of Pelle Million)

Wild child, run, run far away, there you'll grow stronger and you can be free...

.....Pelle Million

MINTY

Yeah, I'll soon be running. And real far away.

RUSTY

Hey sis, don't run away! Your mum's just been brainwashed to think that we punks are bad, but you know what I'm really like.

Rusty bends down to kiss Minty.

MINTY (embarrassed)

Wait, I'll put my gum away.

Minty takes the gum out of her mouth and holds it in her hand while kissing Rusty a bit clumsily. Pearl comes to the gate, followed by Stormheart. She looks at Rusty and Minty with disgust.

PEARL

Yuck!

Feeling uneasy, Minty withdraws from Rusty and puts the gum back in her mouth.

MINTY

Look, that's the puppy our dad brought from Germany. Isn't he cute?

At that very moment, Rusty bends down to Stormheart.

RUSTY

Booooo!!!!

Frightened, Stormheart squeaks at Rusty with his shrill puppy voice.

MINTY (giggling)

You mustn't frighten the little thing.

Pearl gets angry. She walks casually beside Rusty. Suddenly, she roars:

PEARL

STUPID!!!

Rusty is scared out of his wits.

PEARL

You mustn't bully those smaller than you!

MINTY (to Rusty)

Guess what it's like to live with someone like that.

RUSTY

Quiet, sister. I think your little sister is right. Mustn't bully those smaller than you.

Pearl is surprised. Minty is embarrassed.

RUSTY (to Pearl)

I'm sorry I scared your dog. Punks don't wanna hurt animals.

Rusty bends down to pet Stormheart.

RUSTY (to Stormheart)

I'm sorry. Peace.

Stormheart does not forgive Rusty, but growls at him.

32. INT. LIVING ROOM. EVENING.

Mum is going through her army papers. Pearl is watching on TV a nature documentary about a lion catching a gazelle from a herd of gazelles. She bursts into tears. Mum turns off the TV.

PEARL

Stupid lion! Why did she kill that gazelle?

MUM (sitting down next to Pearl)

She was just so hungry. That's nature. In nature, nobody kills anyone out of meanness, but to survive.

PEARL

I think nobody should kill anybody.

Stormheart rushes into the living room, giving out growls, with Pearl's cuddly hedgehog toy, Hedgie, in his teeth.

PEARL (rushing to Stormheart, crying out loud)

Stormheart!!!! Don't take it!!!

Stormheart runs away, wagging his tail with joy. Pearl runs after Stormheart.

33. INT. KITCHEN.

Pearl is running after Stormheart. Stormheart is giving out excited little growls.

PEARL

Give it to me!!! Can't you see, you're hurting it!!!

Pearl manages to grab the Hedgie. Stormheart gives out a louder growl. Pearl tries to pull the hedgehog out of Stormheart's mouth, but Stormheart won't open his jaws. Getting all the more furious, he pulls the hedgehog away from Pearl.

PEARL

Don't hurt it, it's my best friend!!!

With a shrill bark, Stormheart bites Pearl in the finger.

PEARL (letting go of the hedgehog, frightened)

Aiiih!!!!

Pearl looks at her bleeding finger. Triumphantly, Stormheart shakes and tears the Hedgie so that it rips and the stuffings pour out. Pearl bursts into desolate tears.

PEARL

Stormheart killed Hedgie!!!

34. INT. PEARL'S ROOM.

Pearl is crying. Dad is trying to comfort her.

DAD

He was just playing with it. Daddy will buy you a new one.

PEARL (getting furious)

How can you say that?! Nothing new can replace something that's dead! Why did you bring us that stupid dog!? He's evil!!!

35. INT. BATHROOM. LATE IN THE EVENING.

Pearl is brushing her teeth. Storm rises on his hind legs against the sink, panting beside Pearl. In the mirror, there is Pearl with her mouth full of white toothpaste foam, and the blackish, tangled face of Stormheart.

PEARL

Go away! Go away, you Tooth Goblin!

36. INT. LIVING ROOM.

Mum and Dad are watching TV. Pearl enters the living room, followed by Stormheart.

PEARL

Good night.

Pearl goes to her room. Stormheart follows her.

PEARL (getting angry)

Go away!!! Don't follow me!!! Don't you get it?! You're not my dog anymore!!! Go away!!!!

DAD

Couldn't you forgive him? He's just a little puppy

PEARL

No! I'll never forgive him for killing Hedgie! I want him to leave!

37. INT. HALLWAY.

Stormheart is whimpering and scratching the door of Pearl's room.

38. INT. PEARL'S ROOM.

Pearl is at the window, waving to the stars.

PEARL (with tears in her eyes)

...good night Hedgie, and good night all dead animals of the world.

39. INT. HALLWAY. NIGHT.

Stormheart is still whimpering and scratching the door of Pearl's room. Dad enters.

DAD

Come here, little fellow.

Dad picks Stormheart up and carries him upstairs.

40. INT. DAD'S STUDY. NIGHT.

Dad is writing a letter. Stormheart is sleeping in the violin case, although he's too big for it now.

DAD (reading aloud the letter he has written)

Dear Pearl! Thanks for your letter. I'm Stormheart's mum and my name is Daria. Stormheart's dad's name is Daniel. We're so happy that Stormheart has got a good home. Look, Pearl: Stormheart can be really bad sometimes, because he's so little. We hope you'll be kind to Stormheart anyway and forgive him for his tricks. Kindest regards, Daria and Daniel.

41. INT. PEARL'S ROOM. NIGHT.

Dad sneaks into Pearl's room and puts Daria and Daniel's letter into Pearl's "mailbox".

42. INT. PEARL'S ROOM. MORNING.

Pearl wakes up and finds to her surprise that there's a letter from Daria and Daniel in the "mailbox". She gets out of bed, picks up the letter and opens it.

43. INT. KITCHEN.

The family are having breakfast at the table. Pearl enters. Stormheart rushes in, all excited, to meet Pearl. Pearl freezes, never even looking at Stormheart.

DAD (inquiringly)

You still won't forgive him, will you?

Pearl's lower lip trembles and she runs out of the kitchen. Stormheart rushes after her.

44. EXT. YARD. DAY.

There's a little hole dug in the ground. Stormheart is sniffing at it. Pearl pushes Stormheart away.

PEARL

You can't forgive just anything.

Stormheart runs away. Pearl puts the torn-up Hedgie into a cardboard box decorated with little stars. Tears are running down Pearl's face.

45. EXT. NEIGHBOUR'S YARD / BERRYSTON YARD.

Seen through a rifle scope, a long-haired Persian cat is in the bushes, stalking a little bird that is pecking grain from the ground. .

Further away, the man living next door is creeping towards the cat, cocking his small-bore rifle. Stormheart sees the cat from behind the fence and growls at it.

Hearing Stormheart growl, the neighbour turns his head towards the sound. At that very moment, Stormheart jumps over the fence to the neighbour's yard and towards the bush where the cat is stalking the bird. Frightened at Stormheart, the cat runs away.

MAN NEXT DOOR

Goddamned dog!!!

Pearl appears at the fence, frightened.

MAN NEXT DOOR

Is he your dog?

PEARL

No, 'cause he's so bad.

MAN NEXT DOOR (staring Pearl in the eye)

Hear this: an eye for eye, a tooth for tooth. That's the punishment for evil. What shall we do with the cat, then?

PEARL (almost bursting into tears)

The cat's not evil!!! She's just awfully hungry!!!

MAN NEXT DOOR (whispering)

Hush... You're frightening the birds.

MAN NEXT DOOR (waving his rifle menacingly)

Next time he comes to this side of the fence, I'll give him a taste of this.

The neighbour waves his rifle menacingly.

PEARL (alarmed)

You mustn't kill anyone!

46. EXT. STREET. A MOMENT LATER.

Pearl runs down the street.

PEARL

Stormheart!!! Stormheart!!!!

47. EXT. ANOTHER STREET.

A little boy is holding the pedigree cat the man next door was just trying to shoot. The cat is hissing, frightened at Stormheart who is trying to sniff at it.

BOY

Go away, stupid dog, go away!!!

Pearl arrives.

PEARL

He's not stupid!!! Stormheart!!! Stormheart!!!!

Stormheart leaves the cat alone and rushes to Pearl, all excited.

PEARL (hugging Stormheart)

I forgive you. You saved that cat's life.

48. EXT. BERRYSTON HOUSE. DECEMBER.

The Berryston yard and the leafless trees are covered with frost. The fence surrounding the yard has been raised unnoticeably with an extension matching its colour.

1. LETTER SEQUENCE BEGINS

49. INT. PEARL'S ROOM. DAY.

Pearl is writing a letter to Daria and Daniel. Stormheart is lying on his back on Pearl's bed. He's now five months old and has grown to three times his former size.

PEARL (voiceover)

Dear Daria and Daniel. Thank you for your letter. We are really surprised that Stormheart has suddenly grown so big.

50. EXT. YARD.

Dad is raising the fence.

PEARL (voiceover)

Daddy had to raise our fence so that Stormheart would not jump over it to the neighbour's side.

51. INT. LIVING ROOM.

Dad and Pearl are sitting side by side on the sofa, looking at a picture of a Leonberger in a dog book. The living room is only a shadow of what it used to be. The wooden parts of the tables and chairs are all chewed and the filling is poking out of the torn-up sofa.

PEARL (voiceover)

Daddy and I have been trying to find out what breed Stormheart really is....

Stormheart lumbers into the living room, raises his leg and pees on the leg of an armchair.

PEARL (voiceover)

..because although he has grown a lot, he has not become any wiser.

52. INT. STAIRCASE.

Stormheart runs upstairs with Pearl's cuddly toy in his teeth. Pearl catches him, grabs him in the neck and growls in a loud voice. Stormheart drops the cuddly toy down.

PEARL (voiceover)

But he obeys me, because I can speak dog language. If Stormheart hurts my cuddly toys, I growl at him just like he growls at me..

53. INT. KITCHEN. DAY.

Stormheart is trying to open the fridge door. Finally, he manages to open it with his nose and gobbles down everything inside the fridge.

PEARL (voiceover)

But otherwise, he's even worse than when he was a little puppy.

Having emptied the fridge, Stormheart opens the freezer door. He opens the drawers with his teeth and starts pulling a package of frozen mincemeat into the living room.

54. DAD'S STUDY.

Mum's screams are heard like a faint whisper in Dad's sound-proof study. Dad goes on playing the violin, undisturbed. At that very moment, the door opens and Mum steps in.

MUM (screaming at full voice)

ZACHARY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

55. INT. KITCHEN.

Litres of water are pouring down on the floor from the freezer. Mum and Dad are on their hands and knees on the floor covered with water, trying to wipe it dry.

PEARL (voiceover)

Mummy says that Stormheart should be trained. But Daddy thinks that both children and animals should be allowed to grow free.

MUM (teaching Dad)

Dogs need their limits, just like children! You must be able to say no!

DAD (irritated)

Here in this house, I'm the one who dares say yes to both a child and a dog!!!

56. INT. / EXT. HALLWAY / PORCH.

The doorbell rings. Stormheart barks furiously. Minty runs from upstairs to the hallway.

MINTY

Shut up!!!

PEARL (voiceover)

Minty is impolite towards Stormheart, but don't worry about that.

Minty opens the door. Stormheart gives out a low growl as he sees Rusty standing at the door.

PEARL (voiceover)

That's because Minty is in puberty and in puberty, girls usually fall in love with boys and don't care about their pets as much as before.

Mum smiles to herself as the frightened Rusty gives Stormheart the peace sign.

PEARL (voiceover)

Stormheart hates Minty's boyfriend Rusty almost as much as Mummy does..

Minty angrily bangs the front door closed in front of Stormheart's nose. Stormheart slams the door open with his paw and growls again as he sees Minty and Rusty kissing on the porch.

PEARL (voiceover)

Maybe it's because Stormheart doesn't like punks either.

Pearl comes and gives Stormheart a hug.

PEARL (voiceover)

Don't worry that I'll leave Stormheart when I'm in puberty. I'll always love him the most in the world.

57. INT. PEARL'S ROOM.

Pearl finishes her letter to Daria and Daniel.

PS. PEARL (voiceover)

It says in the dog book that the Leonberger is a big, friendly family dog.

Are you two Leonbergers? Yours truly, Pearl

1. LETTER SEQUENCE ENDS.

58. EXT. YARD.

Rusty and Minty are spreading a large sheet on the ground with a text on it saying: "No to unnecessary animal testing". Mum walks across the yard.

MUM

What are you two doing?

MINTY

That's none of your business!

Mum shakes her head, walks through the gate and leaves for her errands. Minty goes to the porch and opens the front door.

MINTY

Stormheart! Stormheart, come here! You can come out with us.

Stormheart rushes out. Pearl appears on the porch.

PEARL (wondering)

But you never take him for a walk.

MINTY

What? Yes, I do.

RUSTY (pointing the sheet to Pearl)

Stormheart can come and protest now.

PEARL (spelling the words, puzzled)

No to un-nec-es-sa-ry ani-mal test-ing?

RUSTY

Hey, little sister can read!

MINTY (explaining to Pearl with an air of importance)

Punks are against unnecessary animal testing. They are having a big demonstration in Helsinki against testing animals, and we'll train Stormheart for that.

PEARL (puzzled)

Is Stormheart going to a dog demonstration?

RUSTY

Yep! We'll tie this on Stormheart's back, and he can tell the world what he thinks about how the system's treating animals.

Rusty approaches Stormheart with the sheet. Stormheart bares his teeth at him.

RUSTY (trying to calm Stormheart down)

Now use your brain, pal. You fur balls should unite with those who want your best and growl at those who are using you.

Rusty spreads the sheet and tries to place it on Stormheart's back. Stormheart gets furious. He grabs the sheet with his teeth and pulls it away from Rusty, growling. Rusty tries to get the sheet back from Stormheart. Stormheart bares his teeth at him. Rusty is frightened.

MINTY

Should we go in for a while, so he can calm down?

RUSTY

Okay.

Rusty starts walking towards the door, but Stormheart stops him by forcing his way in front of him and growling in a low voice.

59. INT. DAD'S STUDY.

Dad is practicing his violin. Pearl rushes in.

PEARL

Dad! Stormheart won't let Rusty move!

He's forcing him to stand in the same spot!

Dad looks out of his window and sees Rusty standing outside, embarrassed and petrified by Stormheart's unyielding stare.

60. EXT. YARD.

Dad and Pearl drag Stormheart in by his collar. Rusty and Minty walk to the gate.

MINTY

I'm really sorry that Stormheart's like that. Please stay, will you?

RUSTY (quoting the lyrics of Pelle Million)

Sister, I'd like to stay, but the highway is burning...

MINTY

Was that Pelle Million?

RUSTY (waving goodbye)

Yeah. Bye.

MINTY

Bye.

Feeling miserable, Minty stares at the back of Rusty's leather jacket with the text: THE SYSTEM SUCKS disappearing into the distance.

61. INT. MINTY'S ROOM. EVENING.

Minty is sitting on the bed, staring gloomily ahead of herself. Someone knocks on the door. Pearl and Stormheart come in.

MINTY

Go to hell!

Pearl sits down next to Minty. Stormheart also forces his way into Minty's bed.

PEARL

Is that what being in love is like?

MINTY

You don't understand anything about this.

PEARL

No, 'cause I'm only seven, and that love stuff is something kids start thinking about when they're twelve.

Stormheart sticks his nose under the mattress. He has seen something interesting there.

MINTY

Stormheart is destroying me and Rusty's relationship.

PEARL

Stormheart doesn't like punks.

MINTY

Punks like animals, and that's why I like punks. They defend the innocent.

PEARL

But Stormheart doesn't realise that, 'cause the punks look so scary. Why can't Rusty just cut off that crest of his hair?

MINTY

Never! It's that Mohican that makes him look so cool!

Minty looks at Stormheart, nearly bursting into tears. Stormheart has found a black studded wrist cuff from under Minty's mattress and is now chewing it with delight

PEARL (a little bit shocked)

You're not becoming a punk too?

The phone rings downstairs. Pearl runs to answer it. Stormheart rushes after her.

62. INT. HALLWAY.

PEARL (answering the phone)

Pearl speaking.....Minty!!! It's Rusty!!!!Listen, Minty and I we were just talking that if you cut off your hair crest, Stormheart would start liking you.

Minty rushes downstairs, appalled, grabbing the phone from Pearl.

MINTY

Give it to me! Hi... I never said anything like that...

Pearl sees tears suddenly running down Minty's face.

PEARL (alarmed)

Doesn't Rusty want to be with you anymore?

Minty shakes her head.

PEARL (with compassion)

Stormheart, now you have tell Minty you're sorry. You must say you're sorry if you've been bad.

Pearl grabs Stormheart's paw and strokes Minty's leg with it. Furious, Minty pulls her leg away.

PEARL

Tell Rusty that Stormheart wants to say he's sorry to him, too.

Minty slams down the receiver.

MINTY

I hate Rusty! He said I was a brainless next-door girl, who thinks of nothing else but with whom she'd like to dance the slow ones at the school disco. Then he said all in our family are small-minded petty bourgeois, living in a single-family house with two kids and a dog, 'cause that's part of the system.

63. INT. STAIRCASE / LANDING

Minty rushes into her room, crying, and slams the door closed. Pearl and Stormheart run after Minty.

PEARL (shouting from behind the door, confused)

What's wrong with two kids and a dog?

Next, Minty wrenches the door open and slams on it a sign saying: ENTRANCE FORBIDDEN FOR STORMHEART

MINTY

You two have ruined my life!!!

64. INT. PEARL'S ROOM. MORNING

Stormheart is lying in Pearl's bed. Pearl takes Daria and Daniel's letter from the "mailbox" and opens it.

PEARL (reading the letter aloud)

Dear Pearl. Thank you for your letter. Stormheart has been quite bad, but maybe he is at a negative age. In our family, there was a little girl who was really impossible when she was three. When she got angry, she drew pictures of the Tooth Troll all over the walls.

Surprised, Pearl looks at the walls of her room and sees the fading scrawlings depicting the Tooth Troll.

PEARL (reading the letter aloud)

You asked if we were Leonbergers. I hope you don't mind, but we'd rather not answer that, because it's wrong to classify dogs by their breed. We think all breeds are equal, whether they be Poodles, Golden Retrievers or Dachshunds. What matters is that the dog has a kind heart, not what size or colour he is. Kindest regards, Daria and Daniel.

PEARL (to Stormheart)

Did you hear what your Mum and Dad said? What matters is that the dog has a kind heart. Now you'll have to start being good, or you'll get no presents from Santa!

65. EXT. AREA OF DETACHED HOUSES. EVENING. CHRISTMAS.

Santa Claus, wearing mittens, grabs the handle of the Berryston garden gate. At that very moment, he finds himself staring in the eye of a big, growling dog. Stormheart is standing on his hind legs, leaning against the gate. Alarmed, Santa throws the sack full of presents over the fence.

66. INT. DINING ROOM. CHRISTMAS EVE.

The Christmas dinner of the Berryston family and their grandfather is interrupted by furious barking and rattling and banging noises from outside.

67. EXT. BERRYSTON YARD.

Stormheart is shaking the sack of presents in the snow. The presents scatter all over the yard.

68. EXT. BERRYSTON YARD.

Pearl, Minty, Mum, Dad and Grandfather are looking around themselves, amazed. Beautiful, twinkling Christmas lights decorate the trees in the neighbours' gardens, and candles are glowing in the windows. Further away, Santa is running down the road at full speed, without his sack of presents. There are Christmas presents everywhere – on the ground, on the branches of trees and bushes.

PEARL (delighted)

Santa was here!

GRANDFATHER (astonished)

He was in quite a hurry.

Stormheart is tearing open one of the presents with special excitement. Pearl rushes in to save the present, only to find a huge chewing bone inside. Pearl sees the text on the card saying: Merry Christmas, Stormheart! From Daria and Daniel.

PEARL (excited)

Stormheart, your Mum and Dad have sent you a Christmas present! We must thank them!

PEARL (looking up in the sky, waving and shouting)

Thank you, Daria and Daniel!!! You have a really kind heart!!!

Dad looks at Pearl and smiles. Mum takes Dad's hand and gives him a kiss on the cheek.

69. EXT. YARD. MARCH. SPRING MORNING.

Almost all the snow has melted away. Tree branches are adorned with little buds of leaves.

Stormheart runs around the yard, barking, and then jumps over the fence. Both Stormheart and the fence have grown taller.

70. EXT. STREET IN HÄMEENLINNA.

Stormheart runs after Pearl who is walking in the distance.

71. EXT. PEARL'S SCHOOL.

The bell rings, ending the recess. The children go inside. Pearl is struggling with Stormheart, now twice her size, at the school gate. Stormheart tries to force his way in and Pearl just barely manages to close the gate in front of Stormheart's nose.

PEARL

Dogs can't come to school.

Pearl breaks into a sprint to get to class in time. Stormheart jumps easily over the school fence and dashes in, oblivious to Pearl trying to stop him, before Pearl manages to close the door.

72. INT. SCHOOL CORRIDOR.

Stormheart follows Pearl, wagging his tail with joy.

PEARL

Can't you see, I'll get a note and detention because of you!

73. INT. SCHOOL. CLASSROOM.

Pearl enters the classroom, followed by Stormheart.

PEARL

Sorry for being late, but my dog ran after me.

TEACHER (amazed)

He's really big. What's his breed?

PEARL

I don't know. Besides, the breed of a dog doesn't matter. What matters is that he has a kind heart. And Stormheart has one. He really loves children.

TEACHER

Although he loves children, you can't have a dog with you at school.

Tie him up to wait in the hallway and take him back home after the class ends.

74. INT. EMPTY SCHOOL VESTIBULE.

Stormheart is struggling in the leash with which he has been tied up to a coat rack. After wondering for a while, he bites the leash, cutting it in two.

75. INT. EMPTY SCHOOL CORRIDOR.

Stormheart pads along down the corridor.

76. INT. ANOTHER SCHOOL CORRIDOR.

Stormheart stops at the swing doors of the kitchen, smelling the air with interest.

Stormheart pushes the door ajar and quietly slips into the kitchen.

77. INT. SCHOOL KITCHEN.

By the kitchen door, there are big pots full of meat soup. Further away, the school cooks are making salad. Quietly, Stormheart puts his paws on the table and starts to eat the soup from the pot with a strong appetite.

The headmaster, in good humour, peeks in through the kitchen door.

HEADMASTER

Good morning, girls! What delicacies are we getting today?

At that very moment, the headmaster sees Stormheart and goes stiff with fright. Seeing the headmaster, Stormheart starts to advance towards him, staring at him quietly. The headmaster runs out in panic.

78. INT. SCHOOL CORRIDOR.

Stormheart is chasing the headmaster and the kitchen ladies, barking joyfully.

HEADMASTER (in panic)

To the gym!!!

The headmaster and the kitchen ladies storm into the gym. They slam the door closed right in front of Stormheart's nose. Stormheart stops at the door, raises his paw and slaps the door handle with ease.

The door opens right away.

79. INT. SCHOOL CLASSROOM.

Someone knocks on the door. The caretaker, looking a bit nervous, peeks in from the door.

CARETAKER

Sorry to interrupt your class, but could I borrow a pupil called Pearl Berryston for a moment?

80. INT. GYM.

The kitchen ladies are hanging from climbing ropes next to each other. Further to one side, much lower, the horror-struck headmaster is hanging from a rope of his own. Stormheart is pulling with his teeth the rope from which the headmaster is hanging. Pearl is desperately trying to get Stormheart to let go of the rope.

PEARL

Stormheart, let go! Stormheart! You mustn't do that!

The school bell rings. Children dash out for the break. Some of them stop at the open gym door to stare at the strange sight. Pearl feels ashamed.

81. EXT. PLAYGROUND NEAR SCHOOL.

Pearl is sitting on a park bench, crying, with Stormheart at her side. Rusty comes in from the distance, moving forward cautiously. Rusty stops, plucks up his courage and walks cautiously over to Pearl. Stormheart gives out a low growl.

RUSTY

Hey, little sister. I heard you and Stormheart smacked the system in the face today.

PEARL (desperate)

Stormheart was just awful. I'm sure I'll end up in the observation class. And I don't dare to go home either, 'cause Mummy will be mad at me.

RUSTY (comforting Pearl)

Listen, schools are for teaching the kids to be slaves of the system. Don't be afraid, little sister! You have to be brave! You're part of the revolt now, you see! How's Minty, by the way? She won't even talk to me anymore.

PEARL

She's just crying and wailing all the time, listening to some sobby music in her room. Why did you leave Minty? You should've cut off that hair crest, then Stormheart would've liked you.

Four small-town moped guys in their twenties, wearing jeans and boots, come in on their mopeds. Stormheart gets up and growls.

MOPED GUY 1 (sneering at Rusty)

Look at that crested bird! I didn't know they come with that colour!

MOPED GUY 2

Wanna take a sniff from the tank?

RUSTY

Get out of here. Can't you see I've got smarter company to talk with than you?

MOPED GUY 1 (pointing scornfully at Stormheart)

Is that poodle your new protection target, eh?!!

Moped Guy 2 raises the front tyre of his moped into the air and accelerates in a menacing way. At that very moment, Stormheart stands up, jumps at the moped guys and sinks his teeth into Moped Guy 2's black boot with a picture of a skull on it. Moped Guy 2 takes fright and tries to get away on his moped, but Stormheart doesn't let go of his boot. Finally, Stormheart manages to take off his boot, and Moped Guy 2 and the rest of the moped gang drive away in panic. Feeling proud, Stormheart goes to Pearl "to show off his catch".

PEARL (bursting into tears)

Stormheart!

PEARL (alarmed, to Rusty)

Promise me you won't tell anyone.

RUSTY

I won't, ever. Stormheart saved our lives.

82. EXT. YARD. AFTERNOON.

Dad is raising the fence even more.

83. INT. HALLWAY.

Mum is vacuuming in the hallway. The vacuum cleaner hits a corner where, among other shoes, there's a black boot with a picture of a skull on it. Mum picks the boot up in astonishment. At that very moment, Stormheart appears behind her, giving out a low growl.

Frightened, Mum drops the boot on the floor. Stormheart picks the boot up with his teeth and walks into the living room, holding the boot in his mouth.

2. LETTER SEQUENCE BEGINS.

84. INT. / EXT. PEARL'S ROOM.

Pearl is writing a letter to Daria and Daniel.

PEARL (voiceover)

Dear Daria and Daniel! I wouldn't want to worry you, but the headmaster phoned us today, complaining about Stormheart. Mummy got furious and yelled that I mustn't spend so much time with Stormheart anymore, and that I must meet more girls of my age and play the games of ordinary girls.

The door to Pearl's room opens. Mum enters. Pearl covers her letter to Daria and Daniel with her hand.

MUM

Pearl. Do you know where that black skull boot came from?

PEARL (lying)

No.

Mum leaves. Pearl continues writing the letter.

PEARL (voiceover)

Mummy doesn't understand that Stormheart loves me so much that he doesn't want to spend one minute away from me, and that nothing can separate me and Stormheart.

85. INT. LIVING ROOM. AFTERNOON.

Mum looks with irritation at Stormheart who is lying on the sofa, chewing the skull boot with great satisfaction. Dad comes in, looking tired.

MUM

Zachary. Do you know where Stormheart got that boot from?

DAD (looking at the skull boot, amazed)

No, I don't.

Dad turns the TV on and tries to push Stormheart away from the sofa.

DAD

That's my place. Get away from there. Go!

Stormheart does not obey. Dad grabs Stormheart at the neck. Stormheart growls. Frightened, Dad lets go of the dog. Mum enters.

MUM

Don't give up. Show him who's the boss! That's how we trained our dog, Netta.

DAD

You show him, since they've taught you in the army how to command!

MUM (commanding)

Stormheart, down! Down!!!

Stormheart is lying on the sofa, undisturbed. Dad gives Mum a malicious smile.

DAD (giving Mum a scornful look)

Pearl! Will you come and get Stormheart down from the sofa?!

PEARL (shouting from her room)

What will I get if I do?!!!

MUM (getting furious)

Mummy will not do deals on things like this!!!

86. INT. PEARL'S ROOM. EVENING.

Getting cross, Pearl stops writing her letter to Daria and Daniel.

PEARL (furious)

Don't do it then!!!

Pearl goes on writing her letter.

PEARL (voiceover)

Mummy can't boss me and Stormheart around, that's for sure!

Dad enters. Pearl stops writing the letter again.

DAD

Pearl, I'll give you one mark, if you drive Stormheart away from the sofa.

PEARL

I want two marks!!! Stormheart and I are collecting money for a home for orphan animals!

Dad gives a deep sigh of resignation.

87. INT. LIVING ROOM.

Pearl marches into the living room and growls at Stormheart who is lying on the sofa. Unwillingly, Stormheart gets down from the sofa.

PEARL

Two marks!

DAD (delving into his pockets)

Here you are.

Pearl leaves with the money. Stormheart follows her. Mum is dissatisfied.

MUM

Now, we're being bossed around by a dog and a seven-year-old child.

88. INT. KITCHEN. AFTERNOON.

MINTY (shouting into the living room)

What am I, a dish machine?!!! It's Pearl's turn to do the dishes!!!! Do the dishes, Pearl!!!!

PEARL (voiceover)

She should boss Minty around, her puberty is getting even worse.

89. INT. PEARL'S ROOM. AFTERNOON.

Minty slams Pearl's door open.

MINTY (commanding)

Do the dishes!!!!

PEARL

No! I'm writing a letter to Daniel and Daria!

Minty gets furious and throws the dish brush at Pearl. Pearl gives a scream. Stormheart gets up in a flash and gives a growl.

90. INT. BATHROOM. / HALLWAY.

Minty storms into the bathroom. Stormheart stays at the door, guarding. Minty comes out from the bathroom with an eye shadow palette. Stormheart follows her. Standing in front of the mirror, Minty smudges her eyelids with lots of violet eye shadow. Stormheart watches her constantly.

MINTY (raging at Stormheart)

What are you watching me for?! Can't I do anything? I shouldn't date a punk, I shouldn't put on make up, all I should do is do the dishes and obey Pearl. You know what, blackface?! I'm going to be really bad, and there's nothing you can do about it!!!

Minty puts her coat on and marches out, slamming the door closed after her.

MUM

Minty, where do you think you're going?!!! You're not going out of that door at this hour!!!

91. INT. PEARL'S ROOM.

Stormheart comes and slumps down on the bed to sleep at Pearl's side. Pearl is still writing her letter.

PEARL (voiceover)

Mum says that we must take Stormheart to a dog psychologist...

92. INT. PARENTS' BEDROOM. NIGHT.

Sour-looking Mum is listening as Dad reads aloud the letter sent by Pearl to Daria and Daniel.

DAD

...A dog psychologist is someone who examines if there's something wrong inside a dog's head. I think there's something wrong inside Mum's, Dad's and Minty's head and not Stormheart's. Yours truly, Pearl.

MUM

You're not going to answer any more of those letters! Soon Pearl, too, will be out of her mind.

At that very moment, there's an explosion of barking from the hallway, the door out slams open and next, Stormheart's bark echoes across the yard.

2. LETTER SEQUENCE ENDS.

93. INT. STREET IN FRONT OF BERRYSTON HOUSE. NIGHT.

Barking furiously, Stormheart pounds towards the group of teenagers making a noise behind the fence. The teenagers freeze and stand completely still, holding beer bottles in their hands. Minty, drunk, is swaying in the middle of the group. Neighbours' windows light up. Mum, Dad and Pearl storm out in their nightclothes.

94. INT. HALLWAY. A MOMENT LATER.

Mum picks a packet of cigarettes from Minty's pocket. Dad and Pearl are standing by, looking serious.

MUM (shocked)

Have you started smoking?

MINTY

Yeah, 'cause I want to die!!! I want lung cancer, so that I can get out of this hell!

95. INT. DOG PSYCHOLOGIST'S OFFICE. DAY.

Stormheart is lying on his back on the floor. Nothing seems to disturb him. Pearl is petting him. The dog psychologist glances at Stormheart, then at the parents. Mum and Dad are feeling uncomfortable. Minty is sulking.

DOG PSYCHOLOGIST

The good thing about this is that there's nothing wrong with this dog.

PEARL

There, you heard it!

DOG PSYCHOLOGIST

What's worse is that Stormheart has already claimed his position in your family hierarchy.

DAD

What hierarchy? We've always been very equal in our family.

Minty gives a scornful laugh.

DOG PSYCHOLOGIST

Equality is a nice idea. But a dog understands nothing of it. A dog is always below or above a human. And if I'm not mistaken, Stormheart only obeys Pearl?

PEARL

That's right.

DOG PSYCHOLOGIST

From Stormheart's point of view, in your pack's hierarchy, Pearl is number one and number two is Stormheart himself. After him, there's Mum and Minty, and Dad is at the bottom, is that correct?

PEARL

No, Minty's at the bottom last. Stormheart's commands her most of all.

Minty gives a glare at Pearl.

DOG PSYCHOLOGIST

So, Dad rises up one position in the hierarchy.

DAD (mumbling with dissatisfaction)

Well, we don't see it like that.

DOG PSYCHOLOGIST

But Stormheart does see it like that and acts accordingly.

DAD

I think you're exaggerating. Soon we won't be able to do anything if we have to keep thinking what Stormheart might be thinking about our "pack".

DOG PSYCHOLOGIST (sounding very serious)

No, you can't, if Stormheart is what I think he is. I'm really not exaggerating. You are Stormheart's pack. Someone has to lead the pack, and that cannot be a seven-year-old girl. And it certainly can't be a dog like Stormheart.

MUM

That's what I've been trying to say all along.

DAD (offended)

Well, what kind of dog is he then?

PEARL (alarmed)

A dog's breed doesn't matter!

DOG PSYCHOLOGIST (opening an old Russian dog book)

In fact, the dog's breed matters quite a lot. Wait... there... It's possible that Stormheart is a... I think this could be called a Caucasian mountain dog...

The dog psychologist shows the picture of a Caucasian dog.

DOG PSYCHOLOGIST

...by reputation one of the most feared dogs in the world. It has a huge instinct of guarding and protecting, especially towards children. There are legends about these dogs even attacking a bear in order to defend their family. During Stalin's reign the Red Army began training these dogs as aggressive guards.

PEARL (getting excited)

What were they guarding?

DOG PSYCHOLOGIST

Concentration camps.

Mum and Dad gulp. Minty smiles gleefully.

PEARL (puzzled)

What's Stalin?

MINTY

Stalin was one of the world's cruelest.

DAD (angrily interrupting the dog psychologist)

Minty, let's forget about Stalin. Besides, how could a dog like that have ended up in Berlin?

DOG PSYCHOLOGIST (amazed)

Berlin???

MUM (tensely)

No more mysteriously than here in Hämeenlinna, I guess.

96. INT. CLASSROOM. AFTERNOON.

The teacher is finishing up her lesson.

TEACHER

So, at home you will practice writing the big "K" and the little "k" in calligraphy. Do you have any more questions?

Pearl puts up her hand.

TEACHER

Pearl.

PEARL

What's Stalin?

TEACHER (amazed)

Stalin? Why do you ask such a thing, little child?

PEARL

'Cause we went to a dog psychologist who said that Stormheart might be "Stalin's dog".

TEACHER

Stalin's dog?

PEARL

Yes, the dog psychologist said that Stalin trained dogs that looked like Stormheart to guard those... those camps.

TEACHER

You don't say? Millions of people died at those camps.

97. EXT. SCHOOLYARD.

It's break. Pearl is standing in a corner on the schoolyard with Sandy and Rose.

Jasper, Josh and Emily are teasing Pearl about Stormheart.

PEARL (defending Stormheart fiercely)

Stormheart has a kind heart. He has never hurt anyone on purpose.

JASPER

Yes he has, 'cause he's Stalin's dog.

PEARL

Stormheart is no Stalin's dog!!!

ROSE

He's Pearl's dog!!!

EMILY

But Pearl said to the teacher that he's a Stalin's dog.

PEARL (bursting into tears)

I didn't!!! And it doesn't matter what kind of dog Stormheart is! What matters is that the dog has a kind heart!

98. INT. LIVING ROOM. AFTERNOON.

Pearl is sitting on the sofa, studying an encyclopaedia. Stormheart is lying by her side. In the book there's a big picture of a parade in Moscow, with people carrying red flags and huge half-length portraits of Stalin.

PEARL (voiceover)

Stalin ruled the Soviet Union from 1924 until 1953 as a dictator. During his reign, millions of people were sent to prison camps in Siberia, and very few came back alive.

99. INT. PEARL'S ROOM. EVENING.

Pear is wearing a nightgown. He drops the letter to Daria and Daniel into the "mailbox".

Then she hugs Stormheart who is sleeping on her bed.

PEARL (to Stormheart)

Listen, before we go to sleep, we must say good night to the angels. Good night Grandmama, good night...

100. INT. LIVING ROOM. LATE IN THE EVENING.

Dad is listening to music. Mum enters, holding Pearl's letter to Daria and Daniel in her hand.

MUM (furious, throwing the letter at Dad)

I found this in Pearl's letter box! Didn't we agree that you wouldn't write to Pearl?!

DAD (whispering in alarm)

Shush! Be quiet, Pearl may wake up! I haven't written anything to her!

Mum sits down in an armchair.

DAD (alarmed again)

Look out!!! It's Stormheart's boot!

Mum jumps up with a fright, looking with disgust at Stormheart's skull boot lying in the armchair.

DAD

I can't stop Pearl from writing to Daria and Daniel, can I?

MUM

Well, what does it say?

DAD (reading the letter to Mum in a low voice)

Dear Daria and Daniel! Although a dog's breed does not matter, could you tell me what your breed is? Or even what country you come from? I need a letter as a proof to my classmates who say that Stormheart is a Stalin's dog. I don't think you can be Stalin's dogs for you have a kind heart and Stalin doesn't. Yours truly, Pearl.

MUM (whispering)

You know what, I'm really scared of that dog. I've even started to think, maybe we should give him away.

DAD (whispering angrily)

No way! You know how much Stormheart means to Pearl! No one takes away the best friend of my child!

MUM (whispering)

Well, could you at least agree to train him?!

DAD (whispering)

Yes! Yes, if it's just that, but it's not. This is about something totally different!

MUM (whispering angrily)

This is about me wanting to do in my own home whatever I want!!!

Mum sits determinately down on the armchair where Stormheart's skull boot is. Mum stares at Dad with defiance. At that very moment, the door to Pearl's room opens. Stormheart comes to Mum, giving out a low growl. Mum obeys Stormheart and gets up from the armchair.

101. INT. PEARL'S ROOM. MORNING.

Stormheart is sleeping under Pearl's arm. One little arm is all that can be seen of Pearl.

102. INT. HALLWAY. NEXT MORNING. PEARL'S BIRTHDAY.

Dad, in his pyjamas, sneaks in to Pearl's doorway. Minty and Mum's whispering is heard from the kitchen. Mum opens Pearl's door very carefully. Stormheart raises his head.

DAD (whispering)

Stormheart! Come here, will you.

Stormheart gets up and goes to Dad, wagging his tail. Dad puts his arms around Stormheart's neck.

DAD

Listen, my furry friend. I promised Mum to set limits for you. I'm not really used to doing that, but could we agree that you stop raging around and make some room for the rest of us? You see, you're not the only one living in this house. I know you can do it if you want to, right?

Dad gives Stormheart a loving scratch. Mum and Minty enter in their nightgowns, bringing presents.

DAD (giving Stormheart an encouraging pat)

So, Stormheart, remember what we agreed. And now, let's sing!

Mum, Dad and Minty open the door to Pearl's room.

MUM, DAD, MINTY (singing)

Happy birthday to you, happy birthday to you, happy birthday to Pearl, happy birthday to you!

Pearl wakes up, smiling. Stormheart dashes happily to her and licks at her face.

103. INT. LIVING ROOM.

The living room looks beautiful, like it's from a fairytale. The furniture chewed by Stormheart is covered with colourful streamers. Dad is blowing bunny balloons as Mum comes from the kitchen, bringing a big bowl of home-made piggy cookies onto the living room table. Stormheart is bustling about, as if helping her.

Pearl, dressed as a cat, jumps on her four "legs" to Stormheart, to put some streamers around his neck and a funny paper hat on his head.

PEARL

You must look nice when our animal guests arrive.

104. EXT. THE YARD OF THE MAN NEXT DOOR.

With a smile on his face, the man next door is watching the sparrows eating seeds from a home-made bird table that has been hung up on an apple tree. Suddenly, Stormheart is heard barking. The sparrows fly away in fright. The man next door wrinkles up his brows and looks out onto his neighbour's yard to see what Stormheart is barking at.

105. EXT. BERRYSTON YARD. / FENCE.

The fence has been raised and strengthened again. Stormheart is behind the gate, barking like mad at Rose and Sandy, dressed as a bunny and a zebra. The girls are carrying huge presents in their hands.

PEARL (scolding Stormheart with a growl)

Grrrr, quiet! Haven't you learnt yet that all the animals in the world are friends!

106. EXT. THE YARD OF THE MAN NEXT DOOR.

The man next door is adding seeds onto the bird table. At that very moment, there's a horrible yelp from Stormheart. Startled, the man next door watches as two little girls (Emily and Ida), dressed as a bear and a lion, and Emily's father approach the Berryston yard.

107. EXT. BERRYSTON YARD.

Stormheart is standing on his hind legs against the fence, barking with his teeth bared at Emily, Ida and Emily's father who are staring frightened at him. Pearl is trying to drag Stormheart away from the fence.

PEARL

Stormheart!!! The bear and the lion are big and fierce animals, but you must be nice to them too!

Dad rushes into the yard to see what Stormheart is barking at.

EMILY'S DAD (shouting from behind the fence)

What's that thing doing, running free at a children's birthday party!?

PEARL

He's a nice dog!!! He just thinks that Ida and Emily really are a lion and a bear and that he must protect us from them.

DAD (gently scolding Stormheart)

Stormheart, you silly dog. Don't you remember what we agreed this morning?

DAD (grinning at Emily's father)

You don't need to be afraid of him. You should rather laugh at his goings-on.

EMILY'S DAD

Yes. He looks really funny for a Stalin's dog.

DAD (startled)

Excuse me?!

108. EXT. THE YARD OF THE MAN NEXT DOOR.

EMILY'S DAD (with a louder voice from behind the Berryston fence)

That's right, a Stalin's dog.

MAN NEXT DOOR (wheezing to himself)

A Satan's dog!

109. EXT. BERRYSTON YARD.

DAD (astonished)

Stalin's dog?

EMILY'S DAD

Yes. Isn't this another souvenir from those trips of yours, doing cultural exchange with the Russkies?

DAD (offended)

He's from East Berlin.

PEARL

That's right! Stormheart can't be Stalin's dog because Dad found him in Germany among some baby chicks.

Pearl scratches Stormheart, calming him down a little.

PEARL

Look at him now. He's a nice dog. You can come to my birthday party.

At that very moment, Jessica and Vilma, dressed as a piggy and a duck, arrive accompanied by Jessica's mother. Pearl waves to them. Stormheart wags his tail with excitement.

PEARL (delighted)

Hi Jessica and Vilma!

Jessica, who is dressed as a piggy, sticks her cardboard "snout" through a gap in the fence.

JESSICA

Oink, oink!

Stormheart grabs Jessica's snout eagerly. The snout comes off, Jessica screams with fright and runs to her mother, with the cardboard pig's tail hanging behind her. Stormheart is left confused, standing with the snout in his mouth.

A station wagon pulls up in front of the house. Dressed as a leopard, Kathy jumps out of the car and roars fiercely. Stormheart throws himself against the fence, making it swing. All the birthday guests jump back with fright.

KATHY'S MUM (peeking out of the car window, shocked)

Whose dog is that?

EMILY'S DAD (drily)

Stalin's. Or that's what they taught the kids at school.

KATHY (starting to sob)

Mum, I don't dare to go there.

110. EXT. BERRYSTON YARD.

Pearl watches miserably as her guests leave with their presents. Only Rose is still standing on the other side of the fence, looking sympathetically at Pearl. Rose throws her present over the fence to Pearl.

ROSE

Happy birthday!

All excited, Stormheart pounces on Rose's present and tears the wrapper into shreds. It turns out to be a beautiful dog brush. Suddenly, Pearl grabs it in front of Stormheart's nose.

ROSE (from behind the fence)

That's for both of you. I wanted to give something to Stormheart too, to make him happy 'cause everyone's just criticizing him.

111. INT. KITCHEN.

Tear-eyed Mum looks at the "sausage hedgehog" on the table, made of sausages and mashed potatoes. Eight little animal-shaped candles decorate the huge birthday cake garnished with gummy bears. Tearful Pearl is brushing Stormheart with the brush given as a present by Rose.

PEARL

Why didn't the others throw their presents over the fence? They're all stupid. I'll never play with anyone else than Rose again.

112. INT. DAD'S STUDY. AT THE SAME TIME.

Dad rummages feverishly in his box of souvenirs and finds among the Eastern stuff a glass ball with a mountain village inside.

113. INT. KITCHEN. AT THE SAME TIME.

Mum lights up the animal-shaped candles.

MUM (trying to cheer Pearl up)

Soon you can blow out the candles.

Dad appears at the door with his hands behind his back, looking defiantly at Mum.

DAD (whispering to Mum without Pearl noticing)

Don't spoil this!

Dad takes a little packet from behind his back and shows it to Pearl.

DAD (giving the packet to Pearl)

Happy birthday, Pearl! I found this present in the yard.

Pearl opens the present with excitement. It turns out to be a glass ball with a little mountain cottage inside. Outside the cottage, little children in folk costumes are playing amongst sheep. In the yard, there's also a big dog that looks like Stormheart.

PEARL (delighted)

There's a card, too... It's from Daria and Daniel!

Mum wrinkles her brow. Dad puts a finger on his mouth, gesturing a silent "shush" to Mum.

PEARL (reading aloud Daria and Daniel's card)

Happy birthday, Pearl! Here's a present to you, from where we came from. In our country, there are lots of children and all kinds of domestic animals.

No one hurts anyone, but everyone is friends with each other, both humans and animals. Kindest regards, Daria and Daniel.

Mum watches Pearl's joy silently and finally takes the glass ball from Pearl into her own hand.

MUM

I wonder if Stormheart comes from that mountain?

DAD (bending towards Mum)

Yes, he does. And on that mountain, everyone is friends.

3. LETTER SEQUENCE BEGINS

114. EXT. BERRYSTON HOUSE. SUMMER EVENING.

Lilacs and roses are blooming in the soft twilight of the summer evening. Stormheart is on guard on the playhouse roof.

115. INT. PEARL'S ROOM.

On Pearl's desk, there's the glass ball depicting Daria and Daniel's "home country". Stormheart is lying at Pearl's feet. Pearl, wearing a nightgown, is writing a letter to Daria and Daniel.

PEARL (voiceover)

*Dear Daria and Daniel! Thank you for the birthday present. It's lovely.
I'd also like to move to live with you in your country, for here in Finland,
I have no more friends 'cause everyone's afraid of Stormheart.*

116. EXT. CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND. LATE MORNING.

Children are playing on the playground. Pearl is walking Stormheart on a leash.

PEARL

Hello!

Stormheart yelps and dashes towards the children, wagging his tail. He's dashing forward so forcefully that Pearl has no choice but to run and try to keep up with him. The children take fright and run into the playhouse, screaming.

PEARL (running after Stormheart)

Hey, you don't have to be afraid! He likes children!

Pearl ties Stormheart to a climber.

117. INT. / EXT. PLAYHOUSE.

The scared-looking children are staring from the playhouse window at Stormheart who is sitting on the ground and constantly watching Pearl, who swings in the swing, climbs on the climber and slides down the slide, all alone.

PEARL (voiceover)

Nobody understands how nice Stormheart really is.

118. EXT. YARD. EVENING.

Stormheart, now weighing almost 70 kilos, is sniffing at a baby hedgehog curled up into a spikey ball.

PEARL (voiceover)

*And nobody dares to come to our house anymore, not even Grandad or my best friend Rose.
There's just one little hedgehog that comes to see us every evening.*

Pearl and Stormheart are sitting on the stairs, watching the hedgehog eating dog crunchies from Stormheart's bowl.

119. INT. PEARL'S ROOM. LATE EVENING.

Pearl finishes her letter to Daria and Daniel.

PEARL (voiceover)

Even Mum is getting scared of Stormheart, and I'm afraid that Mum will take Stormheart away. Could you help me, please? Write to Mum that Stormheart is not dangerous. Yours truly, Pearl.

120. INT. CHIEF OF STAFF'S OFFICE / HÄMEENLINNA GARRISON.

The office of a leading officer, furnished to look very official. Everything is in military order.

The Chief of Staff, an elderly man, is glancing at a piece of paper on his desk. Mum is standing behind the desk, feeling a bit nervous. Mum is wearing a grey jacket suit, so she can't really be distinguished from the other army employees. On the radio, they hear about the Soviet Federation having been declared independent from the Soviet Union. There's a mysterious look on the chief of staff's face.

CHIEF OF STAFF

So, the Niinisalo Garrison boys are going to train their dogs to sniff out explosives. Well isn't that something!

The Chief of Staff sits quiet for a while, just listening to the radio reporter's words about the fall of the Iron Curtain.

CHIEF OF STAFF

Perhaps there'll be a need for such a skill. Bomb dogs... Right.

Then, the Chief of Staff signs the paper and stamps it to validate it.

CHIEF OF STAFF (to Mum, only glancing at her)

A good application.

Mum is still standing there motionless. The Chief of Staff commands the Office-NCO.

CHIEF OF STAFF (to the Office-NCO)

Berryston is going on a secondment to the Niinisalo Garrison. Order a car for tomorrow morning.

OFFICE-NCO

I will order a car, Lieutenant-Colonel, sir!

CHIEF OF STAFF

Attend to your duties.

The Office-NCO turns on his heels and leaves. The Chief of Staff gets up and hands the letter of secondment he has just approved to Mum.

CHIEF OF STAFF

Once again, the Armed Forces are doing valuable work in support of the civil administration. I'm expecting a very comprehensive report from you, Berryston.

Mum nods, says thank you and turns to leave.

CHIEF OF STAFF

Press officer Berryston!

Mum stops.

CHIEF OF STAFF (more convivially)

To tell you the truth, I'd forgotten that the Armed Forces dog training first started here in Hämeenlinna. That's how things often get buried in the passage of time.

121. EXT. NIINISALO GARRISON. THE KENNELS. DAY.

Mum is photographing a German Shepherd obeying every command of his trainer. The stern-looking officer who is in charge of the training is standing next to Mum. Further down on the field, a German Shepherd in protection dog training attacks the helper without hesitation.

MUM

It's incredible what they're capable of.

The officer looks distant and sad. He is going through photographs of Pearl and Stormheart.

OFFICER (absentmindedly)

In terms of man, against man.

MUM (startled)

Excuse me?

OFFICER

This is all just peace-time training. In war, these guarding and protection duties would often become harsher actions.

The officer gives the photos of Pearl and Stormheart back to Mum and starts walking past the dog cages. Mum follows him.

MUM

I was wondering... Can you say anything about our Stormheart?

OFFICER

Well, I know that Stalin already had one heck of a military dog action operation at a time when we were just starting it up here in Finland. And it was the same with Hitler in Germany. In the 1930's alone, they trained 200,000 military dogs.

MUM

Two hundred thousand?!?

OFFICER

Yes. In Germany alone. Before the War.

MUM

Why does an army need such a huge number of dogs?

OFFICER

They do for humans what humans aren't capable of doing.

122. EXT. AREA OF DETACHED HOUSES. DAY.

The sun is shining. Children are out playing with a ball. Grown-ups are barbecuing, tending to their flowerbeds and watering their lawns. An Army car drives slowly down the street. The Berryston house with its high fence looks like a bunker in the middle of the nice-looking area of detached houses.

Mum is sitting on the front seat of the car.

SOLDIER

Berryston seems to have defence matters in order even at home.

Mum says nothing. The car stops and Mum gets out. The fence has been raised again, a lot, this time with a gaudy-coloured wire mesh covered with plastic. Mum is looking at her home in disbelief, as if realising for the first time what it has become compared to the rest of the neighbourhood.

123. EXT. BERRYSTON YARD. A MOMENT LATER.

Mum walks from the gate to the house. The high fence blocks the sunlight from reaching the yard where all the flowerbeds have been levelled to the ground. The lawn has been dug full of holes and the trunks of the apple trees and lilac trees have been gnawed on. Stormheart comes walloping in, greeting Mum with a cheerful yelp.

Smoke rises from the grill. Pearl is sitting at a beautifully set garden table. Minty is lying in the lawn swing, listening to her walkman. Dad comes out carrying a big tray of sausages.

DAD (shouting cheerfully)

You're welcome to eat the first sausage of the summer!

Dad puts the tray on the serving table by the grill. Stormheart, lying near the table, raises his nose. He can smell the sausages.

Dad blows some air into the grill with an air mattress pump. The coals start to glow. Stormheart quietly moves closer to the serving table.

DAD (asking Mum)

Well, did you find out anything new about Stormheart?

MUM

Zachary. "On en parle plus tard."

MINTY (shouting from the swing)

What will you speak about later?!

PEARL (alarmed)

Every time you speak French, something terrible has happened that I mustn't know about! Are you going to do something to Stormheart?!

Mum notices that Stormheart has carefully taken hold of one of the sausages

MUM

Zachary, watch out!

DAD (giving Mum a dumbfounded look)

What?

Now Dad notices Stormheart grabbing a sausage from the serving table behind his back – and the whole chain of sausages with it.

DAD

Stormheart!!! No!!!!

Dad rushes after Stormheart. Stormheart, delighted at this new "game", is teasing Dad. He approaches Dad, shaking the chain of sausages. And just when Dad is about to grab the sausages, Stormheart bounds off to a safe distance. He has no intention of eating the sausages, he is just having fun.

MINTY (laughing with tears in her eyes)

Good, Stormheart! Good, good! That's anarchy!!!

Stormheart gets excited over the praise. He forgets about the sausages and rushes to Minty, wagging his tail. Minty pats Stormheart. Dad picks up the soggy, chewed sausages from the ground.

DAD

That dog just pulled his final stunt!

PEARL

But he didn't even eat the sausages!

MUM (suddenly frantic)

Whether he ate them or not, he's leaving!!!

PEARL (bursting into tears)

I knew you'd take Stormheart away from me!

MUM (almost crying)

Pearl darling, what if Stormheart moved to Mummy's workplace in the army? He'd be much more useful there than here.

124. EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN. A MOMENT LATER.

Pearl and Stormheart arrive on the outskirts of the town. Where the housing area ends, there's a stretch of forest behind the big road.

PEARL (pointing at the forest)

To the Army, no way! We'll move into the forest!

125. EXT. MEADOW.

Pearl watches as Stormheart tumbles about on the meadow, looking happy.

126. EXT. WOODS. SMALL BROOK.

Pearl and Stormheart drink water from the small brook. The silhouette of the town looms far away in the horizon.

PEARL

We'll be just fine. Here, we can get pure water.

127. EXT. CLEARING IN THE FOREST.

Pearl picks up some wild strawberries from the roadside and offers them to Stormheart.

PEARL

There's some real good food here in the forest. Taste these! They're really good!

Stormheart sniffs at the berries, but refuses to taste them.

PEARL

Eat! You'll soon be awfully hungry, and here you can't get sausages just like that, like at home.

Stormheart pricks up his ears. There's a cackling sound from somewhere. Next moment, Stormheart dashes towards the sound.

128. EXT. YARD OF A SMALL FARMHOUSE.

A hen-house in the yard of a small farmhouse. At the other end, there's a fenced area for the hens. The hens are pacing around there, looking happy.

Suddenly, the hens start ruffling their feathers, cackling with fear. Stormheart storms in from the forest towards the henhouse. At that very moment, the farmhouse door opens and the farmer and his wife run out, shocked.

FARMER'S WIFE

It's killing all our chickens!!!

Pearl runs into the yard, out of breath.

FARMER

Is that your dog?! What the hell is he doing here?!!!!

Stormheart sees the farmer marching furiously towards Pearl. Giving a yelp, he dashes towards the farmer.

FARMER'S WIFE (frightened)

Help!!! It's killing us!!!!

The farmer and his wife run back inside in panic.

129. INT. / EXT. FARMHOUSE.

The farmer and his wife watch from the window as Stormheart jumps over the wire-netting fence into the hennery.

130. EXT. HENNERY.

Pearl watches from behind the cage as the hens run around the cage, cackling hysterically. Stormheart steps into the henhouse curiously. Soon, there's some desperate peeping from inside.

FARMER'S WIFE (shouting hysterically from the window)

Now it's killing our baby chicks!!!!

FARMER (shouting from the window)

Where are your parents?!

131. EXT. BERRYSTONE YARD.

Dad and Minty are sitting at the garden table. Mum comes in through the gate.

MUM (very worried)

No one has seen them.

MINTY

What if some crazy stalker has snatched Pearl? There are all kinds of lunatics out there.

MUM

Look, the true fact is that Stormheart is more dangerous than those lunatics.

DAD (getting worried)

What do you mean by that?

MUM

I saw in the army dog training school a photo of a dead dog from the Caucasus that looked just like Stormheart. They didn't know its breed, but the staff sergeant said that in the Caucasus, guerrillas and soldiers have almost killed off those dogs.

DAD

So did you get some real information about Stormheart?

MUM (losing her temper)

Yes, I did. And those dogs over there will do anything for those close to them, even kill...

Phone rings inside. Mum and dad's faces turn pale.

DAD (shocked)

How could I be so stupid?

Dad goes to answer the phone.

132. EXT. FOREST ROAD AND FARMHOUSE YARD. A MOMENT LATER.

A tractor truck carrying a tank is driving slowly in front of the Berryston car.

DAD (impatient)

Now where did that come from?

MUM

This is the road to the tank brigade training area.

DAD

Damn it, you were right all along. We'll have to give up Stormheart.

The tractor truck passes the road to a farmyard and drives on towards a fenced area with warning signs saying "MILITARY AREA". Dad takes the turning to the yard road running along a fence. A short distance away, there is a farmhouse.

133. EXT. FARMHOUSE YARD. A MOMENT LATER.

The Berryston car pulls up into the farmyard. Mum, Dad and Minty get out of the car.

FARMER (shouting from the window)

Go to the henhouse and count how many chickens that dog of yours ate, and I'll write you a bill!!!

Mum, Dad and Minty walk carefully into the hennery. The hens are cackling and ruffling their feathers.

DAD (shouting at the farmer and his wife)

At least here they're all alive!

FARMER (shouting)

Look inside the henhouse! That's where the beast is, running loose among the baby chicks!!!

Mum, Dad and Minty peek into the henhouse. They see Stormheart lying peacefully in the middle of hundreds of tweeting baby chicks. Pearl is on her knees, stroking a chick that is ruffling its feathers on her palm. Some of the chicks are happily sleeping, pressed against Stormheart's warm fur. Tears rise into Dad's eyes. Mum and Minty are also looking at the almost biblical sight, deeply moved. Minty picks up a baby chick on her palm, too.

134. INT./ EXT. CAR. A MOMENT LATER.

The Berryston family are going home. Stormheart is sitting between Pearl and Minty on the backseat, panting from the heat. Minty is scratching Stormheart.

MINTY (challenging Mum and Dad)

So, what now?

PEARL

You won't give Stormheart away will you? He was so nice to those chickens.

DAD

I think we should have another try with Stormheart.

PEARL (delighted)

Yes, we should! Shouldn't we, Mum?

MUM (confused)

I don't know. We'll talk about it later. I feel so confused right now. You know, the worst thing I heard at the army dog training school was that they trained dogs to become suicide bombers by first teaching them to fetch food from under a tank. Then, in the war, they were kept hungry and explosives were tied on their back, and when they saw an enemy tank, they would go and fetch food from under it...

PEARL

What happened to the dogs then?

MINTY (furious at the injustice)

They were blown up to pieces. And you know why?! Because man is the cruellest and the most disgusting animal on this planet!

135. INT. HALLWAY. EVENING.

Dad and Pearl let Stormheart out.

PEARL

Good night, Stormheart!

Pearl steps onto the porch and waves at the stars.

PEARL

And Good night Daria and Daniel and Good night those black terriers under the tanks and Good night all dead animals of the world!

DAD (moved)

Good night all dead animals in the world!

136. EXT. YARD. NIGHT.

Stormheart is on guard on the playhouse roof.

137. EXT. STREET. NIGHT.

Rusty is walking towards the Berryston house. Only Minty's window is lit up. Rusty watches as Minty walks across the room in her pyjamas.

138. MINTY'S ROOM. NIGHT.

Minty puts up on her wall a picture of a rabbit locked up in a small laboratory cage.

139. EXT. YARD. NIGHT.

Stormheart pricks up his ears and breaks into a furious bark.

140. EXT. AREA OF DETACHED HOUSES. NIGHT.

Windows light up in the houses.

141. INT. PEARL'S ROOM. NIGHT.

Pearl wakes up.

142. INT. PARENTS' BEDROOM. NIGHT.

Mum and Dad scramble out of bed, half asleep.

143. EXT. YARD. NIGHT.

Mum and Dad dash out into the yard, where Pearl is already, in her nightgown. Windows are lit all across the neighbourhood. Stormheart is pacing towards the fence, growling.

144. EXT. STREET. NIGHT.

Ducked behind a bush, Rusty watches in fear as Stormheart bares his teeth to him through a gap in the fence.

145. EXT. YARD. NIGHT.

Mum, Dad, Minty and Pearl watch in horror as the man next door approaches them from behind the fence with a small-bore rifle under his arm.

MAN NEXT DOOR (hissing from behind the fence)

Soon that damned mutt will fly into heaven, and stop disturbing people!!!

The man next door points his rifle at Stormheart. Pearl and Minty give a scream. Giving a growl, Stormheart rushes towards the fence of the man next door. Frightened, he accidentally fires his rifle. The bullet whizzes into the air without hitting anyone.

146. EXT. STREET. NIGHT.

Taking fright, Rusty appears from his hiding place.

147. EXT. YARD. NIGHT.

To her surprise, Minty sees Rusty run away through the quiet area of detached houses. A baby is crying somewhere. The man next door lowers his gun and walks into his house.

148. INT. DAD'S STUDY. NIGHT.

Dad is sitting in his study. He takes a pen a piece of paper from the drawer. Mum comes in and leans over to see what he is writing.

Dad writes defiantly on the paper: *Dear Pearl. Sorry that we haven't written to you in a long time.*

MUM

But we agreed that you'd stop... All right then. We'll keep the dog. We need someone around here to look after us.

149. INT. PEARL'S ROOM. MORNING.

Pearl reads Daria and Daniel's letter in a quiet voice to Stormheart who is lying on the bed beside her.

PEARL (whispering)

Dear Pearl! Sorry that we haven't written to you in a long time. It's a pity that you have lost your friends, but maybe they weren't real friends. But you can always trust the friendship of us dogs. A dog never bites the hand that feeds or pets him. Kindest regards, Daria and Daniel.

150. INT. LIVING ROOM. DAY.

Stormheart is watching sternly the CHAIRMAN OF THE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION, who is sitting in an armchair. Mum brings coffee from the kitchen.

DAD (losing his temper)

Who's bothering here and whom?!!! Which one is disturbing the peace of this neighbourhood more, that dog over there or the rifle of that goddamn maniac next door?!!! Which one?!!!

CHAIRMAN OF THE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION (confused)

Well it's only a question of the fence. Besides, your neighbour does have a gun licence...

DAD (getting even angrier)

So it's okay to come out shooting in the middle of the night?!!

CHAIRMAN

I have no comment on that. But the average height of the fences in this neighbourhood is 120cm and it bothers quite a few of us that your fence, which is at least two meters high, is a blot on our landscape. Can't anything be done about it?

MUM

As long as someone's shooting here, our fence stays the way it is. And that's why we need the dog too. More coffee?

CHAIRMAN

Yes, please. Well, must you have a dog like that in this area? If you like dogs, why don't you get a cocker spaniel like everyone else?

DAD (sternly)

We can keep whatever dog we want to!

CHAIRMAN (raising his voice)

But our association has certain regulations regarding the height of the fences, to help us all enjoy living here!

Stormheart starts to growl. The chairman gives him a frightened look.

MUM

He's growling because you smell of anger. Now I advice you to be very friendly to us.

CHAIRMAN (alarmed)

But I've been really friendly to you the whole time.

Stormheart is staring the Chairman in the eye.

MUM

And don't be afraid. He thinks fear smells even worse, and he'll get even angrier.

CHAIRMAN (secretly sniffing at his armpits)

Maybe it's best that I go now.

The Chairman tries to get up from the chair, but Stormheart moves in front of him, giving out a low growl.

CHAIRMAN

Can't you forbid that dog from doing that!

Mum and Dad are trying to keep from smiling.

MUM

Pearl! Will you come here and command Stormheart!

PEARL (shouting from her room)

Why do I always have to command him?!

DAD

'Cause he won't obey anyone else.

CHAIRMAN

Let me go! That dog should be reported to the police.

PEARL (shouting from her room)

I heard that!!!

Pearl marches into the living room, looking furious.

PEARL

You're going to complain about my dog to the police!

CHAIRMAN

Keeping such aggressive dogs is forbidden in an area like this.

PEARL

Don't talk that way about my best friend!

Pearl marches back into her room.

The Chairman tries to get up from the armchair again. Stormheart bares his teeth at him. The Chairman sits back down on the chair.

151. INT. LIVING ROOM. A MOMENT LATER.

Mum and Dad are on the sofa and Stormheart is still rigidly watching the Chairman sitting in his armchair.

MUM

Pearl! We talked with this man and we agreed that the fence stays high, Stormheart will not be reported to the police, and all kinds of shooting ends here right now.

Pearl enters the living room and snaps her fingers.

PEARL

Good! Stormheart! Come here!

Stormheart goes to Pearl.

152. EXT. YARD. NIGHT. AUTUMN.

An autumn storm is shaking the branches of the trees. Stormheart is on guard on the playhouse roof. Some whispering and quiet footsteps are heard from somewhere.

153. INT. MINTY'S ROOM.

Minty is asleep. Suddenly, there's the sound of the familiar massive barking from outside. Minty wakes up, fearing the worst.

MINTY

Rusty!

Minty looks out of the window and sees the moped gang drive away from their gate.

154. EXT. YARD. / GATE. MORNING.

Dad is packing his violin into the car. Stormheart is bustling about. Mum puts Stormheart on a leash. Dad climbs into the car.

Mum opens the gate and steps out on the street with Stormheart. She is shocked when she sees the large graffiti painted all over the fence surrounding their house. Some of the graffiti are Nazi symbols. Dad drives out through the gate and sees the scrawlings.

Further off, the man next door is carrying a table into a removal van.

DAD (watching the next door man, shouting)

Why don't you fire one last shot to celebrate your leaving!

You'll miss us... but we won't miss you!

MUM

We must report this to the police. What time will you be back from the recording?

DAD

Well, the good thing about commercial gigs is that the longer they take, the more money I get.

See you.

MUM

So that sort of socialism this time...

155. EXT. STREET IN HÄMEENLINNA. AUTUMN.

The leaves are shining brightly with the autumn colours. Minty is walking home from school, with a rucksack on her back. Rusty is riding a bicycle on the other side of the street. He notices Minty and comes over to her.

RUSTY

Hey, sister.

Minty pretends not to notice him.

RUSTY

Oh, you're still like that.

Minty says nothing.

RUSTY

By the way, did you hear that Stormheart saved me?

MINTY

What do you mean?

RUSTY

Hey sister, you're talking!

MINTY

My name's Minty.

RUSTY

Minty listen, that punks' demonstration is finally coming. Wanna go there with me?

MINTY

What do you mean Stormheart saved you?

RUSTY

You haven't seen Snotty Sid's boot around your place?

MINTY (not understanding)

What? ...Yes, I have! What?!

RUSTY

I promised your little sister to shut up about it.

MINTY (offended)

Well shut up then.

RUSTY

Could we start being together again?

MINTY (scornfully)

Aren't you ashamed of hanging out with a next-door girl like me?

Rusty looks away.

MINTY

If you really like me, come and get me from our place.

RUSTY (delighted)

That's a deal.

MINTY (bursting into tears)

Hey, I said that because Stormheart won't let anyone into our house again.

RUSTY

I'm not afraid of your dog anymore.

MINTY

That's a good joke!

Rusty is offended and leaves. Minty watches after him, disappointed.

156. INT. LIVING ROOM.

Minty comes in, looking sour. Mum and Pearl are watching the TV news about the Germans celebrating the unification of the Germanies. Minty walks gloomily into her room.

The TV shows images of the Berlin Wall from the West Berlin side. The wall has been painted full of graffiti and on top of the wall, there's a barbed wire obstacle.

PEARL

Didn't anyone get to the other side of that wall?

MUM

Some did. There were some gates in the wall through which you could get to the other side with the guards' permission.

Pearl gets an idea.

157. EXT. GATE./YARD. A MOMENT LATER.

The fence surrounding the house with its barbed wire and graffiti looks strikingly like the Berlin Wall.

Pearl has turned a cardboard box into a gatekeeper's booth and put it out on the pavement. She is sitting behind it, looking official. On her head, she has a Red Army visor hat brought by Dad as a souvenir.

Stormheart is watching Pearl from behind the gate.

158. INT/EXT. MINTY'S ROOM. STREET. A MOMENT LATER.

Minty is at her desk, doing her homework. She looks out from the window and sees Rusty riding on his bicycle towards the Berryston house. Minty is delighted.

159. EXT. GATE.

Rusty stops at the "gatekeeper's booth". Pearl is arranging her "receipts", looking very official. Stormheart is watching from behind the gate.

RUSTY

Hey, little sister. And salute to you, hero dog!

Rusty salutes Stormheart with his hand upside down.

PEARL

Two marks, please.

RUSTY

What do you mean?

PEARL

You must pay two marks to get a receipt and then you can go safely through that gate, past the guard dog.

RUSTY

Hey little sister, we're pals now.

PEARL

Sorry, but I am the gatekeeper. Two marks, please.

RUSTY

I'm not in the mood for playing. If I want to go through that gate, I will.

Rusty grabs the gate handle decisively. At that very moment, Stormheart gives a warning growl and bares his teeth. Rusty draws back, frightened.

160. INT/EXT. MINTY'S ROOM. A MOMENT LATER.

Minty watches from the window, as Rusty rides away furiously on his bicycle.

161. EXT. YARD/GATE. A MOMENT LATER.

Minty dashes into the yard. Stormheart rushes to meet her. Minty opens the gate and goes out so that Stormheart can't follow her. On the street, Pearl is arranging her receipts in her "gatekeeper's booth".

MINTY

Where did Rusty go?

PEARL

I don't know.

MINTY

Was he coming to our house?

PEARL

Yes, but he had no money to get a receipt like this with which you can get in through this gate.

MINTY (alarmed)

Do you realise what you've done?!

PEARL

I've just been doing my gatekeeper's job.

MINTY (furious)

You've ruined my life!!!

Minty grabs the cardboard "gatekeeper's booth" with two hands and throws it out on the street. The "booth" falls into pieces. Pearl cries out. Stormheart gives a yelp.

Minty opens the gate in anger and runs into Stormheart who is growling behind the gate. Minty draws back onto the street, frightened. Pearl goes to Stormheart and pets him.

PEARL

That's for smashing our workplace!

Minty approaches the gate again, but Stormheart gives her another growl, baring his teeth. Frightened, Minty slams the gate closed in front Stormheart's nose. Mum comes out running.

MUM

What's going on here?

MINTY (alarmed, from behind the fence)

Stormheart won't let me back into my own home!!!!

Pearl is trying to calm down the growling Stormheart by stroking him.

PEARL

Stormheart, she's a friend.

MINTY

I'm not your friend!!!

162. INT/EXT. YARD. PLAYHOUSE. AFTERNOON.

Pearl is decorating the playhouse with Stormheart.

PEARL

We can move in here, 'cause Minty's so stupid.

163. EXT. / INT. HÄMEENLINNA. DAD'S OLD MERCEDES.

Dad is driving the car. His musician friend is sitting next to him.

DAD'S MUSICIAN FRIEND

Talk about earning your bread...

DAD (patting his belly, looking satisfied)

Art means empty pockets, commercials fill your belly.

Hey, why don't we go to our place to play some weight-losing music. You'll see Stormheart too.

DAD'S MUSICIAN FRIEND

Oh, that wonder of East Berlin. Well, why not. It fits today's theme. West Side Story meets East Side!

Dad and his musician friend start boisterously singing BERNSTEIN'S "West Side Story".

164. EXT. GATE. / YARD.

Pearl is giving Stormheart some "tea" in a doll's cup in front of the playhouse. Stormheart's huge face is leaning on the toy table. Dad comes to them.

DAD

Pearl! Tie Stormheart up, so he won't run away when I drive in.

Pearl ties Stormheart's leash onto the ridge beam of the playhouse.

PEARL

He's tied up!

Dad drives into the yard. Dad's musician friend opens the door and steps out of the car. Stormheart thinks an enemy has entered his property. He gives out a yelp and charges towards the sudden threat. Stormheart rushes forward with such a force that the playhouse roof breaks loose.

Dad's musician friend squeaks with horror. He can barely get back inside the car, when Stormheart bumps into the door, dragging the playhouse roof behind him. Stormheart stands on his hind legs against the door and bares his teeth at Dad's musician friend. Dad climbs out of the car, looking at the dent on it, speechless.

DAD'S MUSICIAN FRIEND

Close the door, quick!!!

Dad closes the car door. Mum and Minty rush out into the yard. Mum hurries to the car, worried. Pearl's head appears from the remains of the playhouse. She looks around in confusion.

MUM

You're not hurt, are you?!

PEARL

I'll get some band-aid!

Pearl runs inside the house.

MUM (scolding Dad)

Zachary, didn't we agree to keep Stormheart tied up when we have guests.

Right then, Mum sees to her astonishment that Stormheart has been tied up on the broken roof of the playhouse.

PEARL (shouting from the window)

Hey, come quick! There are dogs that look like Stormheart on TV!

Minty runs inside the house.

165. INT. LIVING ROOM.

Minty and Pearl are watching a TV footage from the Berlin Wall.

TV NARRATOR

The Berlin Wall, stretching for 155 kilometres, had 302 guard towers built on it, and it was surrounded by mine fields...

MINTY (disappointed)

There are no dogs there.

TV NARRATOR

Besides soldiers, the Wall was guarded by independent dog patrols.

On TV, dogs looking like Stormheart are lying on top of their kennels, guarding the Berlin Wall.

PEARL (delighted)

Yes there are! Look! Just like Stormheart.

TV NARRATOR

Most of the guard dogs of the Wall were Caucasian Shepherds, regarded as moresuited to this task than the more traditional police dogs, German Shepherds.

PEARL (thrilled)

Stormheart is a Caucasian Shepherd!

TV NARRATOR

In the Red Star Kennel in East Berlin, these huge guard dogs were trained to permanently stop any defector trying to cross the border.

PEARL

What's "permanently"?

MINTY

Something forbidden for children.

PEARL (alarmed)

Have Daria and Daniel hurt people?

166. EXT. YARD.

DAD'S MUSICIAN FRIEND (staring with fright as Stormheart growls behind the car window)
Wasn't that animal supposed to be a symbol of world peace?!

Not answering, Dad tries to move Stormheart away from the car, but Stormheart won't move one bit.

MUM (angrily)
Where's that skull boot of Stormheart's now?! That'd make him go away.

Pearl rushes to the door.

PEARL (alarmed)
Daria and Daniel have been lying to me!
They said on TV that they've done something bad.

DAD
Daria and Daniel? But they're in heaven.

PEARL
Something so bad that it's forbidden for children!

DAD (to his musician friend)
Wait here!

Dad strides in, followed by mum. Stormheart climbs on the hood of the car, to watch Dad's musician friend. At the doorway, Dad hears the cracking of the hood, turns back on his heels and stops to stare at the damaged car, speechless.

167. INT. LIVING ROOM.

Mum, Pearl and Minty are watching TV, shocked.

TV NARRATION

And when the Berlin Wall collapsed a year ago, as many as 7,000 dogs that had been guarding the Wall were dismissed from their duty. Most of the fully-grown dogs were put down. Puppies were given away to anyone for free or sold dirt-cheap.

PEARL

Is Stormheart a puppy of those dogs?

Mum and Minty say nothing.

At that very moment, they hear Stormheart's explosive bark, the crashing of sheet metal and tinkling of breaking glass.

DAD'S MUSICIAN FRIEND (shouting from inside the car)

Help!!!!

168. EXT. FRONT YARD.

Stormheart is barking furiously at the gate. Behind the gate, Rusty is defiantly opening the many of bolts of the gate.

Mum, Pearl and rush out in the yard.

DAD'S MUSICIAN FRIEND

Let me out of here at once!!!

MUM (commanding Dad's friend)

You stay where you are, or else the dog will finish you off.

MUM (commanding Rusty)

And you, you stay there too!

RUSTY

Nobody stops me from seeing Minty!

MINTY (starts running towards the gate)

Rusty, listen, stay there! Stormheart can be really dangerous.

PEARL (getting furious)

No, he's not dangerous! Stormheart saved Rusty's life.

RUSTY

That's right! He attacked a moped gang all by himself.

MUM (upset and angry at Dad)

Moped gang?! Zachary! You're hiding something again?!

DAD

This is no time for a family row!

At that very moment, Rusty walks in through the gate with determination. In fright, Minty pushes Rusty through the gate back onto the street.

MINTY (in panic)

Come!!!

Stormheart watches as Minty and Rusty run away, then he walks back to Dad's car and stops there to stare Dad's musician friend in the eye.

DAD'S MUSICIAN FRIEND

I'm getting a bit pissed off by this encounter of the east and the west.

PEARL

Mum, that TV programme wasn't true, was it? Aren't there lots of things on TV where they're just acting?

MUM

Listen, darling, I'm afraid the most unpleasant programmes are often true. There's no acting in the news.

PEARL (racing to her bicycle)

Daria and Daniel haven't hurt anyone! They have a kind heart!

MUM

Pearl, where are you going?!

Not answering, Pearl grabs her bicycle with determination.

MUM

Stormheart stays here! You're not going out alone with him.

Mum grabs Stormheart by the collar. Pearl opens the gate, jumps on her bicycle and rides away at full speed.

PEARL

Yes I am! Stormheart is the kindest dog in the world! Come on, Stormheart!!!

Stormheart rushes violently after Pearl. Mum falls down trying to hold Stormheart. The playhouse roof smashes against the gatepost and breaks into pieces, which does not slow Stormheart down.

MUM (shouting after Pearl)

Pearl! If you don't come back right now, Mummy will call the police!!!

Pearl does not stop but keeps riding on in a rage. Stormheart runs behind Pearl, looking happy. Still attached to the leash, the ridge beam of the playhouse bounces behind Stormheart.

Mum marches into the house with determination. Looking gloomy, dad's musician friend climbs cautiously out of the wrecked Merc, making its rear window smash down. Dad turns pale.

DAD'S MUSICIAN FRIEND (joking)

It looks like East Germany won this game 1-0.

DAD

Now, Jack. If you don't stop blabbing your mouth, I'll cut the neck off your cello.

Dad's musician friend slams the Merc's door closed, making its cracked front side window smash down.

DAD'S MUSICIAN FRIEND (still joking)

2-0.

Furious, Dad grabs his friend's cello.

DAD'S MUSICIAN FRIEND (conciliatory)

OK, I'm out of here. I don't want to get it in the neck – the cello's I mean.

169. EXT. STREET CORNER. A MOMENT LATER.

Pearl comes pedalling in from around the street corner. There's some sand on the street.

The front wheel starts to slide and Pearl falls on the ground. Stormheart stops at Pearl's side.

Pearl's knee is bleeding. Pearl bursts into tears.

A middle-aged woman walks in from behind the corner, carrying a shopping bag.

WOMAN

Poor child, what happened to you?

PEARL

I'm bleeding!

WOMAN

That dog didn't bite you, did he?

The woman hurries to Pearl. Stormheart thinks that the woman is going to do something bad and jumps in to defend Pearl. The woman takes fright and rushes into a telephone booth on the street corner. Pearl's knee is bleeding more and more. Pearl is crying louder and louder.

WOMAN (shouting to Pearl from the phone booth)

Stay there! I'll call help!

170. EXT. STREET. HÄMEENLINNA.

Dad's musician friend is walking down the street, carrying a big cello on his back and laughingly humming the James Bond tune "From Russia With Love..."

171. EXT. STREET CORNER. HÄMEENLINNA. A MOMENT LATER.

Dad's musician friend walks in from behind the corner to the "scene of the accident". Stormheart sees him and rushes towards him, growling. Dad's musician friend storms into the telephone booth in panic. The woman who had fled there from Stormheart starts to scream in horror, holding the receiver in her hand.

WOMAN

Don't let that dog in here!!!

Dad's musician friend tries to get his cello in through the phone booth door.

WOMAN

Close that door, quick!!!

Stormheart grabs the cello with his teeth. Dad's musician friend has to give it up to Stormheart.

DAD'S MUSICIAN FRIEND (joking, totally dumbfounded)

3 - 0.

172. INT. EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTRE.

OPERATOR

Emergency response centre.

173. INT. PHONE BOOTH. A MOMENT LATER.

Now there are five people and a frightened, yapping Miniature Poodle crammed into the phone booth.

Stormheart is raging outside the phone booth. Pearl is still sitting on the ground, crying.

WOMAN (on the phone)

A big dog is scaring everyone away from that child. I'm sure the dog will soon attack that child for real...

DAD'S MUSICIAN FRIEND (grabbing the phone from the woman)

It's a really dangerous dog, so one ambulance alone won't help. We need the police here, too.

174. INT. HOME. HALLWAY.

Mum is talking on the phone. Dad is standing beside her, hopeless.

MUM

...he can be very dangerous if he decides that he must protect that child...

175. INT. POLICE STATION. A MOMENT LATER.

Two German Shepherds are lying on the floor. Two policemen enter. The dogs prick up their ears.

176. EXT. STREET. A MOMENT LATER.

Pearl's knee has stopped bleeding. Pearl is no longer crying but is examining her knee and trying to bend it. Stormheart is lying next to her, chewing the neck of the old and very valuable cello into pieces. At that very moment, an ambulance and a police car arrive with their sirens on. Pearl is frightened and bursts into tears again.

The ambulance driver opens the door of his vehicle and starts walking briskly towards Pearl. In the blink of an eye, Stormheart jumps up and gives a warning growl. The ambulance driver flees into his car.

Stormheart sits down beside Pearl again.

177. EXT. POLICE CAR.

Policeman 2 steps out of the car and opens the back doors. Stormheart is sitting next to Pearl, watchfully observing the situation.

POLICEMAN 2

Out!

Two German Shepherds jump out of the car. When Stormheart sees the police dogs, he freezes, crouches into an attack position and bares his teeth.

POLICEMAN 2 (staring at Stormheart, shocked)

Into the car!

The German Shepherds follow the order without hesitation. Policeman 2 hurries after them, jumps into the back of the police car and closes the doors.

The German Shepherds are growling in a low voice in the back of the car. Stormheart jumps at the car with lightning speed. Policeman 1 winds the window up. Stormheart is raging and jumping against the back of the car. The German Shepherds start barking furiously.

POLICEMAN 2

Quiet!!

The German Shepherds stop barking.

POLICEMAN 2

We've got to stun him. My dog is not going out there.

Policeman 1 turns the megaphone on.

POLICEMAN 1

Listen, can you move and take cover behind that phone booth? We may have to use our tranquillising rifle to calm the dog down.

The metal-like sound of the megaphone is echoing from the walls of the nearby buildings. Stormheart pricks up his ears. He wonders where the sound is coming from and goes back to Pearl.

PEARL (alarmed)

You mustn't shoot Stormheart!!!

Pearl puts her arm around Stormheart's neck.

PEARL

He's my best friend!

POLICEMAN

Didn't he bite you?

PEARL

No! I fell off my bicycle, and I'm not even bleeding anymore.

Leaning on Stormheart, Pearl gets up on her feet.

POLICEMAN 1

Why don't you come here to our car? Your parents called and said that the dog can be really dangerous.

178. EXT. AVENUE.

Old leaf trees line the street on both sides. Minty and Rusty are kissing on a bench by the side of the avenue.

POLICEMAN 1 (speaking through the megaphone)

Empty the street!

Minty and Rusty take fright and stop kissing. They see a police car drive slowly from the end of the street towards them. The blue alarm light is flashing.

RUSTY

Look, a guardian of the system forbids love!

At that very moment, Minty notices that Pearl and Stormheart are walking behind the slowly approaching police car.

MINTY (alarmed)

What's happened to Pearl?

POLICEMAN 1 (through the megaphone)
Empty the street immediately. Police escort.

Minty and Rusty run away.

179. INT. PARENTS' BEDROOM. AT THE SAME TIME.

Mum is sitting at the computer. Dad comes in, looking nervous.

MUM

Why are you still here? Why aren't you looking for Pearl and Stormheart?

DAD

And you're working!

MUM

I'm sitting by the phone in case it rings.

DAD

What did they say about those dogs in that TV programme?

MUM

That Stormheart is a descendant of the Caucasian Shepherds guarding the Berlin Wall.

By the way, what are Daria and Daniel going to write to Pearl next?

At that very moment, Mum and Dad see the flashing blue light of the police car stopping at their gate.

180. EXT. GATE. / YARD.

Dumbfounded, the policemen watch as Pearl opens the gate to her home that looks like an army bunker.

Minty arrives, short of breath.

MINTY

What have you done now?!!!

PEARL (bursting into tears)

The police were trying to shoot Stormheart.

Mum and Dad come to them, running.

MUM (hugging Pearl)

Let's go inside. Let's go, darling.

181. INT/EXT. EXT/HOUSE.

Stormheart is scratching the door, trying to get out. Pearl is looking out of the window, frightened. The policemen are talking with Dad and Minty.

182. INT. HALLWAY.

Dad and Minty come in. Dad looks shocked and tears are running down Minty's cheeks. without saying a word, she rushes into her room.

PEARL

What did the police say?

DAD

We'll talk about that later.

PEARL

They're not going to fine me, are they?!

183. INT. MINTY'S ROOM. EVENING.

The music of Pelle Million is playing at full volume on Minty's cassette player. Minty is sitting on her bed, crying.

PELLE MILLION

Wild child, run, run far away, run for your life....

184. INT. PARENTS' BEDROOM. EVENING.

Mum is staring at the computer screen.

185. INT. LIVING ROOM. EVENING.

Dad is petting Stormheart on the living room sofa. Pearl is sitting tucked under Dad's arm. There's a candle burning on the table.

PEARL (depressed)

What if Daria and Daniel are not from the country where nobody harms nobody, but from Berlin where they've done lots of bad things?

DAD

I don't think they've done bad things on purpose.

PEARL

Maybe they were so hungry that they had to kill those people to get something to eat.

DAD

No. They were given food there. A dog never bites the hand that feeds him.

PEARL

That's what Daria and Daniel wrote to me! Maybe those bad people pulled Daria and Daniel's tail or nose and did all kinds of things to them, to make them do harm.

DAD

Yes, maybe. But a big courageous dog is still defenceless against humans.

Dad pets Stormheart.

PEARL

Why is that?

DAD

Animals just want to eat and to live in peace, but that's not enough for humans.

Dad feels like crying.

186. INT. HALLWAY. / PEARL'S ROOM. NIGHT.

Minty sneaks in, in her nightgown, and opens Pearl's door quietly.

MINTY (whispering)

Stormheart.

187. EXT. YARD. NIGHT. A MOMENT LATER.

Stormheart and Minty arrive at the gate. Minty opens the gate quietly.

MINTY (whispering)

Go away! Go away from here and find yourself a better home! Go! Run away! Run!

Stormheart disappears into the darkness of the night.

188. EXT. HÄMEENLINNA / AULANKO PARK. NIGHT.

Stormheart is wandering in the small-town at night. There's a low humming from the distant highway. An owl hoots somewhere. Stormheart curiously watches a mouse rustling in the blooming bushes. He becomes alert and pricks up his ears as a pheasant takes flight from the bushes. He runs at full speed after a hare on the lawns of the Aulanko park. Finally, Stormheart stops to drink water from a little pond with the autumn mist rising from its surface and where swans are sleeping, their heads tucked under the wing.

189. EXT. YARD. MORNING.

Dad and Pearl are studying Stormheart's footprints in the yard. Stunned, Mum is reading from the morning paper about a big dog spreading terror across town.

PEARL (alarmed)

What if the police took him? I'm sure the police took him. They were going to shoot Stormheart yesterday.

Minty enters, looking like she hasn't slept much.

PEARL

Minty. Do you know where Stormheart is?

Minty does not answer.

PEARL

Have you done something to him?!

Minty does not answer.

PEARL (accusing)

You've done something to him! You've made him run away so that the stupid Rusty could come here and kiss you again!

MINTY

You're right!!! I let him go free, so he could enjoy his life for a moment before he is put down!

PEARL (looking at Mum and Dad, alarmed)

Are you going to put Stormheart down?!

MINTY

Yes!!! The police said that if a dog like that isn't properly trained, he must be put down.

MUM (showing the morning paper to Minty)

How could you set him free?! Don't you have any sense of responsibility?!

MINTY (getting furious)

Who doesn't have any sense of responsibility here?! First, those dogs are trained to kill people, and when they don't have to kill anymore, they kill the dogs! And then there's this idiot who doesn't train the dog at all! But that's fine! Let's kill the dog!

190. EXT. STREET. A MOMENT LATER.

Pearl is riding on her bicycle.

PEARL (alarmed)

Stormheart!!! Stormheart!!!!

191. EXT. FOREST ROAD. A MOMENT LATER.

Pearl is riding on her bicycle.

PEARL

Stormheart!!! Stormheart!!!!

192. EXT. CHICKEN FARM. A MOMENT LATER.

Pearl is by her bicycle, trying to catch her breath. The farmer's wife is feeding the chickens.

FARMER'S WIFE

He was here, came to say hello to his old friends. Then he suddenly heard something from the woods and rushed there, growling viciously.

Pearl starts pedalling right away in the direction pointed to by the woman.

FARMER'S WIFE

You can't go there! It's a military area!

193. EXT. MILITARY AREA. A MOMENT LATER

Pearl pedals down the forest road. She approaches a barrier that cuts off the road. There's an armed sentry standing at the barrier. Defiantly, Pearl pedals on towards the soldier.

SOLDIER

Halt!

Pearl gathers speed. The soldier is confused about the little girl.

SOLDIER

Halt!

Pearl crouches down and pedals at full speed from under the barrier. The soldier grabs the radio.

SOLDIER

Post 1 to the HQ, Post 1 to the HQ, over. Attention all tanks. A little girl has penetrated the area. I repeat: a little girl has penetrated the area.

HQ

Copy that. Over and out.

SOLDIER

Over and out.

194. EXT. FOREST ROAD. A MOMENT LATER.

Panting, Pearl stops at the crossroads of the forest road and tank tracks and does not notice the tank approaching along the road from the opposite direction. On the battered tank tracks, there's a prohibition sign with a text underneath, saying: "Does not apply to tanks".

PEARL

Doesn't apply to me either! Stormheart!!!

Pearl leaves her bicycle and starts stumbling along the tank tracks deeper into the forest.

PEARL

Stormheart!!! Stormheart!!!

Metal clanking sounds and the bark of a dog are heard from the distance. Pearl breaks into a run.

195. EXT. EDGE OF FOREST CLEARING. / INT. TANK. A MOMENT LATER.

The commander of a camouflaged tank who is leading the exercise is looking through the periscope into the forest.

COMMANDER

Attention all tanks: The girl is at coordinate A6, sector 2, running towards target area 00.

196. FOREST CLEARING. AT THE SAME TIME.

Stormheart rushes towards Pearl, barking.

PEARL (delighted)

Stormheart!!!

Stormheart does not stop at Pearl but runs past her. His furious barking starts to sound desperate. Pearl realises that there's a bear at the edge of the clearing.

PEARL

Hey bear, don't be angry, we won't hurt you!

Through his binoculars, the commander of the tank sees a hair-raising sight:

At the other end of the clearing, there is a bear swaying on her hind legs. In the middle of the clearing, a little girl with her back towards the tank is waving her hands. And between the girl and the bear, all focused and ready for action, a huge dog. He has given his warning bark and is now getting ready to attack. The bear is stirring, looking uncertain.

COMMANDER (to the driver)

Tank on the move!!

The increasing noise from the tank scares the bear away into the safety of the forest. Stormheart turns towards the new threat. He crouches down, planting his feet like a huge cat.

PEARL (alarmed)

Don't shoot Stormheart!!!

The tank stops at a respectful distance from the child and the dog. The commander climbs down from the gun turret onto the deck of the tank.

PEARL

You mustn't shoot Stormheart!!!

COMMANDER

Everything's all right now. And that dog must certainly not be put down. He's a hero. He saved your life.

Tears are running down Pearl's face. She falls on her knees beside Stormheart and buries her face in his thick fur. Stormheart is standing beside Pearl, big and safe. His eyes with the death-defying look are fixed on the tank. The sun is setting at the edge of the forest.

197. INT. PEARL'S ROOM. DAY.

Pearl sits down at her desk, takes a pen and starts writing a letter to Daria and Daniel.

PEARL (voiceover)

Dear Daria and Daniel! I can't take care of your son Stormheart anymore.

198. EXT. YARD. EVENING.

Pearl and Stormheart are playing in the yard. The last rays of the sun light up the yard. Pearl puts her arm around Stormheart's neck. Stormheart licks Pearl's face.

PEARL (voiceover)

Stormheart loves me so much that he's ready to die for me, and I don't want Stormheart to die.

A little girl is standing behind the fence, quietly looking at Pearl and Stormheart.

GIRL NEXT DOOR

Is he your dog?

Pearl turns towards the voice and finds to her delight that a girl of her age has moved into the house of the scary man next door.

199. INT. KITCHEN. MORNING.

Pearl and Dad, Pearl in her Dad's lap, are sitting at the table, reading the newspaper. They have put an ad in the paper.

PEARL (voiceover)

Dad and I put an ad in the newspaper, saying "Huge Caucasian Shepherd to good home, free".

Please forgive me. Yours truly, Pearl.

Mum glances at the ad from behind Dad and Pearl's shoulders.

MUM (pretending to be scolding Dad and Pearl)

Why did you fools write "Caucasian Shepherd"? Nobody in Finland knows what kind of dog that is.

200. EXT. GATE. DAY.

A masculine-looking urban four-wheel-drive has been parked at the gate. A big man with sunglasses and blonde hair is staring, mesmerised by Stormheart, who gives a menacing growl from behind the gate.

MAN WITH SUNGLASSES

Huge jaws! Does he bite?

PEARL AND THE GIRL NEXT DOOR

Yes, and hard!

MAN WITH SUNGLASSES

That's great.

PEARL

Yes, but you're not getting him.

MAN WITH SUNGLASSES

What do you mean?

PEARL

'Cause you don't have a kind heart. Now leave, or I'll let him loose!

The girl next door giggles gleefully.

201. INT. LIVING ROOM. AFTERNOON.

Mum, Dad and the officer from the tank are sitting on the sofa, opposite Pearl who is sitting alone in an armchair. The coffee table is set with cups and serviettes. The officer is scratching Stormheart who is sitting by his side.

OFFICER

Look, Pearl, we at the garrison really like Stormheart a lot. He'd make a fine dog for the army.

Mum gives Pearl an encouraging smile. Pearl watches as Stormheart pushes his head into the officer's lap.

OFFICER

What do you say? I'd be the one taking care of him, of course.

PEARL

I know that you like him and would take good care of him, but I don't want him to end up in the army again. He's not a war dog, and besides, I think wars are just stupid human things. Animals don't need any of that.

202. INT./EXT. FARMHOUSE WITH A SHEEP PEN SHOWING FROM THE WINDOW.
MORNING.

CHRISTOPHER, a man in his forties, is standing with the phone in his hand, trying to understand the flood of words in Russian pouring from the wildly gesturing 70-year-old ARDA.

ARDA (in Russian)

An Owzarka will only drive with strangers if taken by force. They must bring him here themselves.

CHRISTOPHER (on the phone)

He won't drive with strangers. You'll have to bring him here yourselves.

203. INT. BERRYSTON HALLWAY. AT THE SAME TIME.

PEARL (on the phone)

Wait, I'll go and ask if that's all right.

Pearl covers the receiver with her hand.

PEARL (shouting into the kitchen)

Dad, can we take Stormheart to Eastern Finland?!

DAD (shouting back)

No, that's too far away!

204. EXT. YARD. AFTERNOON.

Minty is crying on the porch. Pearl is watching as Mum and Dad are desperately trying to force Stormheart into the back of a station wagon. Stormheart resists with all his might. A middle-aged couple follow Stormheart's struggle with compassion.

DAD

This is useless. I guess we'll have to bring him to you ourselves.

Stormheart frees himself and rushes to Pearl to lick her face.

MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN (looking tenderly at Pearl and Stormheart)

We can't take him by force, can we? He doesn't want to come to us, and we have to respect that.

MUM (whispering to Dad)

I guess we'll have to go to Eastern Finland, then.

205. INT. DAD'S STUDY. NIGHT.

Dad is writing a letter at his desk. Mum is standing next to him, dictating what Dad should put in the letter.

MUM

Dear Pearl. Don't worry if you can no longer take care of our son Stormheart.

We believe that you and your family will find him a good new home...

206. EXT. YARD. MORNING.

Mum and Dad are sitting on the front seat of the car, ready to leave. Pearl is sitting with Stormheart on the back.

Minty and Rusty arrive. Minty has become a punk rocker. She has dyed her hair green and is wearing black clothes. Minty, looking mysterious, is hiding something behind her back. Minty opens the back door of the car.

MINTY(to Stormheart)

Hi, we wanted to say goodbye to you.

Minty takes Stormheart's boot from behind her back. The skull on it has been covered with flowers and hearts.

MINTY

By this, you'll always remember Rusty and me out there.

Minty hugs Stormheart. Stormheart sniffs suspiciously at his boot decorated with symbols of love and peace.

MINTY

Goodbye, friend. I'd have really wanted to come and see you off to your new home.

RUSTY

But we can't, 'cause we have to go defend the rights of you animals, 'cause you can't defend yourselves.

207. EXT. PARLIAMENT HOUSE. DAY.

Minty and Rusty and a small crowd of punk rockers are at the stairs of Parliament House, demonstrating against unnecessary animal testing. Among them are dogs carrying sheets on their back with slogans against animal testing. One punk rocker girl, who looks like she's freezing, is holding a rabbit shivering with fear.

PUNK ROCKERS (shouting)

No to unnecessary animal testing!!! No to unnecessary animal testing!!!

208. EXT. FARMHOUSE YARD IN NORTHERN KARELIA.

Hens are cackling in their cage outside. Sheep are grazing in the pen. A fat country cat is licking herself on the roof of an outbuilding. Suddenly, all the animals take fright. Stormheart rushes over to them, all excited. Running behind Stormheart is a three-year-old, black-haired girl, Hannah.

Hannah pulls Stormheart's tail, shouting for joy. Pearl rushes in, angry.

PEARL

You mustn't pull a dog's tail!!!

Pearl snatches Hannah away from Stormheart. Hannah gets angry.

HANNAH

It's my doggie!

PEARL (flaring up)

No, it's not!!!

Rushing to the scene, to settle the argument, come Mum, Dad, the owners of the farm – Hannah's mother MIRIAM and her husband CHRISTOPHER – and Miriam's 70-year-old mother, ARDA.

With their darker skin, high cheekbones and brown eyes, Miriam and Arda look like foreigners compared to the blue-eyed, fair-skinned Christopher.

PEARL (challenging Mum and Dad)

Stormheart is not staying here! I don't want him to be tortured!

MUM (trying to soothe Pearl)

Look, Pearl, Hannah is just three years old. She doesn't know yet how to treat dogs.

CHRISTOPHER (picking the angry Hannah up in his arms)

We'll teach this little girl to treat Stormheart nicely.

MIRIAM

Pearl, look what I have here.

Miriam shows Pearl some old photographs. In one of them, three-year-old Arda is playing with the furry little puppy, Zara, on a shaggy rug. Zara looks just like Stormheart did when he was a puppy.

ARDA (pointing at the photo)

Zara.

MIRIAM

Her name was Zara. Mum got her when she was a little girl and she was Mum's best playmate. In that photo, Mum is trying to teach Zara to speak Russian. And when Mum went to school, Zara would always follow her and protect Mum and the other children of the village against wolves and bears.

Pearl is holding a photo where Zara is standing proudly with the Caucasus Mountains behind her. Pearl shows the photo to Dad.

PEARL (whispering)

Just like Daria and Daniel's home country.

Next, Pearl looks at a photo in which Zara, now grown huge, is sitting with a rosette attached to her collar between seven-year-old Arda and her father at a dog show.

PEARL

What's happening here?

Arda grabs the photo from Pearl's hand and says something in Russian, looking agitated.

MIRIAM (translating what Arda said)

One day, Arda's father took Zara to a dog show...

TRANSITION THROUGH THE PHOTOGRAPH INTO THE CAUCASUS.

209. EXT. CAUCASUS, 1937. DOG SHOW. DAY.

Big red flags are waving around the run-down dog show arena. The officers in the jury watch, with no expression on their faces, as mighty Caucasian Shepherds and the nomads walking them wade in the endless mud across the show ring. There are some soldiers standing aside, observing the show. The huge dogs are snarling at each other, teeth bared.

MIRIAM (voiceover)

Arda's father didn't know that there were soldiers at the dog show choosing dogs for the use of the army...

7-year-old Arda and her father are walking Zara in the ring. The ring judge's whistle blows loud and shrill. Arda starts at the sound. Zara does not even raise an eyebrow. Everyone stands still in the ring. Holding a rosette in his hand, the judge walks towards Zara. At the ringside, Arda's mother winds up her camera, looking proud.

The judge strikes a military pose and gives a salute. The Father takes a bow with pride. Arda smiles. Mother takes a picture of them. The judge hangs the prize chain around Zara's neck.

MIRIAM (voice over)

Stalin, who ruled the Soviet Union back in the 30's, ordered the fierce-natured mountain dogs of the Caucasus to be harnessed for use by the Red Army.

210. EXT. DOG SHOW RING. A MOMENT LATER.

Arda watches in horror as several soldiers try to drag Zara into a Red Star Kennel truck. Finally, the soldiers succeed. As the heavy lock bolt slams shut, Arda loses her self-control and starts to scream. Zara becomes raving mad. The whole truck sways as she tries to force her way out to save the little girl.

MIRIAM (voiceover)

The Army wanted Zara because she was the best. Grandfather had no choice but to give Zara away.

The truck starts off. Zara, growling furiously, is gnawing at the bars. Arda starts running after the truck, but Father catches her. Zara looks from behind the bars at how Arda, left behind, becomes smaller and smaller.

MIRIAM (voiceover)

Zara was taken thousands of kilometres away, to Moscow, to the Red Star Kennel....

211. INT. RED STAR KENNEL. MOSCOW.

MIRIAM (voiceover)

...and there, they made her have puppies, lots of puppies...

Zara is lying on the floor. The little puppies are romping around her. The door of the cage opens. Two soldiers step in and take the puppies away from Zara.

THE TRANSITION ENDS.

212. EXT. FARMHOUSE YARD.

MIRIAM

That's all we ever found out about Zara's fate.

MUM (shocked)

I can guess the rest. It's a much shorter way from Moscow to East Berlin than from the Caucasus to Moscow.

MIRIAM

Stalin moved almost everyone away from the Caucasus. One night, soon after Zara had left, soldiers came and took Grandfather. Grandmother and Mother were taken far away from their home in Georgia, to Estonia.

CHRISTOPHER

Miriam and I met in Tallinn.

DAD

So Stormheart really is a Stalin's dog.

MIRIAM (snapping at him)

No, he's not a Stalin's dog!

PEARL

Is he that... ovtska.

MIRIAM

Yes. He's an Owcharka. Owcharka means the protector of the herd. In the Caucasus, they have for centuries protected herdsmen against wolves and bears and robbers.

PEARL

But Stormheart protected me so much that he nearly died.

MIRIAM

Stormheart's mission in this world is to protect the ones he loves. That makes him happy.

Christopher puts little Hannah down on the ground. Stormheart goes to sniff at Hannah, who is giggling with joy.

CHRISTOPHER

Look, Pearl, if you let Stormheart stay here, we could let Hannah play out in the yard again, and our sheep could live in peace, too.

Pearl looks pensively at Hannah, Miriam, Christopher, Arda, and all the animals she can see in the yard.

PEARL

Could Stormheart save all the animals in the world?

ARDA (calling Stormheart softly in Russian)

Owcharka. Come here, Arda's own owcharca.

Stormheart pricks up his ears. Then he pads up to Arda and presses himself against her. Arda pets him.

ARDA (prattling to Stormheart in Russian)

Owcharca. Arda's fine, brave owcharca.

MUM

It's as if that dog remembered the language of his forefathers.

PEARL (with tears in her eyes)

It's as if Stormheart had finally got back home to Daria and Daniel.

213. INT. CAR. ROAD. AFTERNOON.

The sun is setting. Pearl, Mum and Dad are going home.

MUM

In Finland, too, they took dogs from the civilians by force, to war.

Suddenly, Pearl bursts into tears.

MUM (trying to comfort Pearl)

Dear Pearl, you can come and see Stormheart in the summer.

PEARL

Why haven't Daria and Daniel answered my letter? Did they leave me after I wrote to them that I couldn't take care of Stormheart anymore?

214. EXT. BERRYSTON FAMILY. NIGHT.

Snowflakes are falling softly on top of the Berryston house and garden. The car of the Berryston family stops in front of the house.

215. INT. PEARL'S ROOM. NIGHT.

Pearl notices that there's a letter from Daria and Daniel in the "mailbox". Pearl opens the letter.

The camera pans around Pearl's room. On the desk, there's a photo of Stormheart as a puppy in Pearl's arms. On the walls, there are pictures of Daria and Daniel drawn by Pearl. They are flying in the sky with wings on their back.

PEARL (reading the letter, almost whispering)

...But even though Stormheart is no longer with you, could you still continue your correspondence with us? For, you see, we dogs remain forever faithful to our friends.

And unfortunately also to those who abuse our trust. Fortunately, you're not a bad person.

You're kind towards humans and us dogs and all the animals in the world.

Kindest regards, Daria and Daniel

Pearl picks up from the table the glass ball, a present from Daria and Daniel, shakes it and looks at it, dreaming. Snowflakes fall on top of the little mountain cottage inside the glass ball. The cottage turns into a real one and the sheep outside become alive.

216. INT. SHEPHERD'S COTTAGE ON THE CAUCASUS. DAY.

Pearl is playing with a plump, fluffy Caucasian Shepherd puppy on a multi-coloured shaggy rug.

Pearl points with her little finger at herself, then at the dog.

PEARL (in Russian)

Pearl is a girl. Stormheart is an owcharka.

The puppy looks at the girl, bending his head. He looks like a little bear.

PEARL (in Russian)

Stormheart is an owcharka. Pearl is a girl.

PUPPY

Woof!

PEARL (laughing)

Njet woof. Say: Pearl is a girl, Stormheart is an owcharka.

The puppy slams Pearl with his big paw. Pearl giggles and throws the creature down on his back on the beautifully patterned rug. The camera pans in close-up on the playing puppy.

PEARL (voiceover)

Good night Zara. Good night Daria and Daniel.

Good night all the 7,000 dogs there at the Berlin Wall.

Good night all dead animals of the world!

-THE END-