

The Heart of the World

Written
by
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Based on the novel
"Die Mitte der Welt"
by Andreas Steinhöfel

Directed by: Vanessa Jopp

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FADE IN

**1. EXT./INT. CARGO
SHIP - DAY**

A cargo ship at sea.

It flies the US flag.

In the galley, sailors sit in front of their steaming coffee cups and whisper in unknown languages. One of them points through the window to a little figure standing on the bow of the ship. The sailors crane their necks in curiosity.

The figure is a very pregnant 17 year-old girl. She presses her enormous stomach against the railing. Her name is GLASS. A thin coat flaps around her skinny legs. The wind drives the drizzle into her pale face. She looks out across the ocean through squinting eyes and licks the cold raindrops from her lip.

INT. TRAIN COMPARTMENT - DAY

Glass sits in the compartment with her hand pressing against her back. She stares through the window at the passing snowy landscape.

2. INT. TRAIN COMPARTMENT - NIGHT

Glass is asleep. The train races through the dark night.

JUMP IN TIME:

The train draws to a halt. Glass doubles over, grimaces and sucks the air through her teeth. Then she relaxes again and looks out the window.

A little railway station with an old sign covered in snow.

3. EXT. RAILWAY STATION - NIGHT

Glass gets off the train. The snow comes up to her ankles. She holds a suitcase in one hand and her coat in the other. Her breath comes in frozen clouds. She looks around.

The station is empty except for an old railway guard. Glass walks over to him.

He stares at her belly.

GLASS
(speaking
English)
Excuse me - do
you know the
way to Visible?

She holds a faded, crumpled old photo of a Wilhelminian-style villa up to him.

GLASS
Stella.
Visible. Stella
van Veen.

The man looks at the photo and points towards a dark forest on the other side of the tracks.

GLASS
Taxi?

He points to his watch and shakes his head.

GLASS
(with a strong
American accent)
Danke schön.

She picks up her suitcase and stomps over the icy railway tracks.

4. EXT. BRIDGE OVER THE RIVER - NIGHT

Glass crosses the snow-covered bridge.