

Film 5: A new city

HESSA – unseen – is filming the journey.

5A EXT. MARSHLAND – DAY

An endless marshy landscape covered in mist.

REKA, MASS and VARDA are walking in a loose line through the reeds. They all wear backboxes. They carry bags.

5B EXT. MARSHLAND – DAY - CONTINUOUS

They stop as they reach the edge of a large expanse of water. They remove their backboxes and REKA sits on one.

VARDA unpacks plastic sheeting and then unfolds it. MASS explores the mud beneath the surface of the water with his staff. HESSA points the camera out across the water.

VARDA (to MASS overheard)
I still can't believe she chose us to go first.

MASS (to VARDA overheard)
It was all three of them. In any case, it proves the system. She chose her mother's district.

HESSA swings round: MASS, aware of the camera opts for silence, dips his fingers in the water. Then he starts to unpack plastic sheeting too.

REKA produces a thin metal box and pops the catch. Using tweezers she removes slices of swan meat that have been grown in vitro into pretty shapes: snowflakes, a rose, a deer. MASS holds out his portable smoker. REKA lays the slices of meat into the smoker.

MASS places a pinch of tea and cardomom into the smoker before closing the lid. He stands it on metal legs. Wisps of smoke trail from the vent.

REKA (to VARDA)
Swan?

VARDA nods.

REKA picks out slices of the swan with her tweezers and hands it around. The others take a slice with their fingers, roll it, squeeze and focus intently on the flavour as they eat. They lick their fingers. They put their bags into the plastic sheeting and wrap them with large rubber bands.

REKA talks direct to camera/HESSA
Hessa, one day you'll understand why this is so hard for us.

MASS puts a nose clip on. They wade into the water using their backboxes as rafts. They lay their wrapped bags onto the backboxes and push them in front of them as they go up to their chests in the cold water.

They wade into open water, testing their footing in the soft mud. The chill eats into them.

By the time they reach the other side they are freezing cold. They stagger out of the water and stride forward.

5C EXT. NEW CITY – DAY

They arrive at the new city being built in the shadow of an old power station. In the distance, molecular printers are creating buildings. Paths snake between the plots that have been marked out. MASS and VARDA walk off towards their plot. Then REKA heads for her plot.

5F EXT. NEW CITY EMPTY PLOT – DAY

The Mask rests against a pile of polycarbonate sheets. REKA is sat on the polycarbonate sheets on her empty plot, waiting. She turns to the camera and smiles. She reaches up for the camera and takes it. She turns it onto herself and HESSA, as she pulls HESSA in next to her. They look into the camera. REKA smiles, and, less certainly, so does HESSA.

THE END

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Notes

- the weather could also be rainy with no mist