

Road Memoir : libretto

EPISODE #6 : "Silence"

The Woman (sung) :

Eat.
Breath.
Sleep.

Eat.
Breath.
Sleep.

Sit.
Stand.
Read.
Think.
Eat.
Breath.
Sleep.

Weep.
Lament.
Rage.
Scream.
Grieve.
Sleep.
Dream.

Eat.
Breath.
Sleep.
Pray -
To hear a key
Turn in a lock.

Pray to hear
Familiar voices.
To hear a knock.

Climb the hill.
Watch fires burn
Across the night sky line.
Sense the earth churn
Beneath your feet.

Eat.
Breath.
Sleep.

Somewhere
Off in the distance
Rumble the cogs of war.
Nearer tonight.
And nearer.

Whilst hope
Bends itself to pray
Beside a sea of sorrows.
Deeper tonight
And deeper
And tomorrow -

Admit.
You know they
Won't come back.

Resign.
Yourself at least
To that.

And eat.
Breath.
Sleep.

Eat.
Breath.
Sleep.

The Investigator (spoken) :

General Gow was a soldier and politician. When the fighting began he resigned his governmental post and returned to the military. His reputation was such that he was welcomed with open arms and became something of a figure-head for the forces. He was also given a free hand to form his own military unit. For official purposes they operated within the military chain of command but, in reality, Gow's freelance army was a well-trained renegade force of ex-soldiers which acted with impunity across the south of the country.

The U.N's investigations had barely begun before Gow and his feared unit were being named left, right and centre in relation to events which would soon be classed and investigated as war crimes. His name had become a byword for terror, yet still the man walked free.

You see Gow was blessed with impeccable connections and an intelligence and confidence that saw him confound, charm or coerce every judge, jury and witness he encountered. He knew that in the chaos that is war, facts are difficult to prove and he had patriotism and "the country's interests", and most importantly, the establishment, on his side.

The Woman (sung) :

The power comes back, briefly,
And the radio comes to life.
The dial is empty though.
Save for public
Service broadcasts -
Stay inside,
Save water,
Wait for instruction.

I can't wait any longer.
I can't stand still.
I walk to the nearest house
But they're gone too.
Signs of struggle.
And when I return
There are soldiers
Stood, laughing,
In the yard.

Without thinking
I turn and run again.

The Investigator (spoken) :

A few months earlier we thought we had him, dead to rights, in a smart phone video of prisoner executions, but when we sent it up the chain the evidence simply disappeared. Vanished into thin air. The device and all the digital backups, the reports - as if they never existed. Maybe that experience was at the root of my decision to take this phone, I mean, I knew that the massacre at the grave site was linked to Gow's unit and piecing together what I could of this woman's journey... it all added up that she was there too. It wasn't absolute proof but maybe it was enough for me to try to find out more, try to piece things together myself. Look, the system was corrupted, if I followed the regulations, what's to say that this phone, this evidence, wouldn't disappear too?